

Council of University System Staff (CUSS) Meeting - MINUTES

Sept. 22, 2009

University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute (UMBI)
Baltimore, MD

In attendance:

Members

Linda Parker-Ford	BSU
Chris Thomas	CSU
Absent	FSU
Jackie Eberts	SU
Brenda Yarema	TU, Member at Large
Karyn Schulz	UB, CUSS Co-Secretary
Giordana Segneri	UB, CUSS Co-Secretary
Colette Becker	UMB, CUSS Vice Chair
Dave DeLooze	UMB
Deb Geare	UMBC
Joe Hill	UMBC
Lori Smith-Watson	UMBC, Member at Large
Mary Stapleton	UMBI
Absent	UMCES
Willie Brown	UMCP, CUSS Chair
Larry Lauer	UMCP, CUSS Past Chair
Sister Maureen Schrimpe	UMCP
Absent	UMES
Ayman Abdo	UMUC
Mary Reed	USMO

Alternates/Guests

Ronald Kasl	UMB
Joel DeWyer	UMBC
Kathy Miller	UMBC
Chenita Reddick	UMES
Shelia Murray	SU
Renee Burrell	UMBI

Chancellor's Liaison to CUSS:	
Rosario I. van Daalen	USMO

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Mary Stapleton welcomed CUSS to UMBI and introduced Candace Rettie, Vice President of Education, Professional Advancement and Training. Ms. Rettie talked about the structure of UMBI and about how the Institution is being "disaggregated". She said there are about 40 central Staff employees who will no longer have positions at UMBI; Kathy DeShong, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources at UMBI, will be joining us at lunch.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- August minutes, taken by Larry Lauer in the absence of the co-secretaries, will be approved via e-mail

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Chancellor's Council convened Sept. 14; nothing to report
- b. Board of Regents meeting held Sept. 18

- Willie Brown, CUSS Chair, summarized his written report regarding CUSS'

- Sister Maureen Schrimpe: Suggested one of two At-Large Members should chair the ad hoc committee: CUSS Members agreed that both, Brenda Yarema and Lori Smith-Watson, will chair the committee; they will brainstorm and share ideas via e-mail
- Goal is not so much communication but how do we increase the prestige/awareness of CUSS?
- Mary Reed: Circulated a hard copy of CUSS' membership list at the meeting and asked that information be verified and corrected
- Jackie Eberts: Benefits and Compensation Committee has

established communication path for access and dialogue without unnecessary barriers

- Budget for CUSS expenses comes from the President's Office budget
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- With only one exception, Institutions will be closing for one or more days, clustered around holidays primarily in December and during Spring Break
- Board of Regents passed the furlough resolution on Friday, Sept. 18; now Institutions are free to finalize their plans with input from Shared Governance and Unions; the plans will then be approved by the Chancellor, who has approved about half of the Institutions' plans so far
- FAQs need (as revisions):
 - Explanation of combination of furlough and temporary salary reduction; Joanne Goedert: the USM is unaware of any Institution that plans to do a combination
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- Staff Councils should ask their Presidents about how the Institutions are cutting costs; the Chancellor should suggest to Presidents that they make a statement (via Web or e-mail) on how the Institution has reduced expenses
- Larry Lauer: How can USM eliminate Faculty employee related expenses and positions?
It cannot continue to balance the budget on the backs of Staff employees.
 - Value of Staff employees is not being recognized
 - Transparency of expenditures and savings is needed
 - Examine travel expenses

NEXT MONTH'S CUSS MEETING: Oct. 27, 2009, Frostburg State University

Respectfully submitted by Karyn Schulz and Giordana Segneri, CUSS Co-Secretaries