

Second Annual Joint USM Councils Meeting
University System of Maryland Student Council
Council of System Faculty
Council of System Staff
November 13, 2011

During the Second Annual Joint USM Councils Meeting at the University of Maryland, College Park, students, faculty, and staff discussed three topics: the proposed UMB-UMCP merger, the

economy, and the fact that resources are already scarce given today's economic situation. Furthermore, there were some concerns about the potential negative impacts on smaller institutions and the loss of resources and support from Annapolis. Given a larger and more prominent merged institution with greater research standings in Baltimore, members questioned how this merger might impact institutions like Johns Hopkins, renowned for its research capabilities. With a \$1 billion deficit, members also questioned where the cost of this proposed merger will come from.

Dr. Neerchal of University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a member of the Council of System Faculty, requested that an opinion piece submitted by David Salkever, a professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County be included in the summary:

ÓFlawed thinking in push for UM merger.Ó David Salkever. , Nov 8, 2011.

link: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-11-08/news/bs-ed-um-merger-20111108_1_rankings-research-funding-campuses

This article suggests that even if College Park and UMB merged, their research funding data might still be treated separately in the Center for Measuring University Performance's national rankings. The center's research director, Craig Abbey, told me that factors such as geographic distance between units, a tradition of separate reporting, separate faculty groupings, and governance arrangements are all considered. He illustrated this with examples of "flagship campus-medical institutions" combinations that are each treated in the rankings as two distinct universities. These were the University of Oklahoma (22 miles between the Norman campus and the Oklahoma City medical campus), the University of Kansas (40 miles between the Lawrence campus and the Kansas City medical campus), and the University of Nebraska (56 miles between the Lincoln campus and the Omaha medical campus). In all three examples, a single president was CEO for both campuses combined, but each of the two constituent campuses also had its own CEO serving under the single president.

USM Budget

Members were asked to make recommendations of areas to cut in the budget and came up with the following items to cut: remedial education, legal fees, and finances in budgets for institution administration. Members also indicated that they would prefer cuts be made outside academic areas, financial aid, and capital projects. Members also indicated that they would prefer that cuts

possibility of consolidating the academic week to 4 days instead of 5 and streamline programs to save money. In regards to tuition and fees, members indicated that raising tuition and fees would