

CUSF Report to the Faculty Senate
CUSF Meeting @ Frostburg, 11 October 2013
by Dave Parker

From the Associate Vice Chancellor:

- 1) The USM hasn't forgotten CUSF's request to "fix" the tuition-remission policies. These policies are controlled by the Regents, not the Legislature, but the issue is extremely political. Rather than take care of it during the Legislative session, they'll address it after mid-April. She noted that in years past there has been legislation introduced to extend tuition-remission to ALL state employees, ALL state employees involved in higher education, etc. "Fixing" the policy for USM employees doesn't really cost much, but the other proposals would really carry a high cost to most institutions.
- 2) The institutions have been asked to put together budgets with a 1% cut for this year's budget, and it could be greater than this unless revenues increase. More worrisome, this came prior to the federal partial shutdown which really cut into MD revenues because so many MD residents are federal employees.
- 3) Are the campuses using IT as effectively as they could - and should? A task force is being appointed to look into this question. Stay tuned.
- 4) There is a legislative initiative to look into Performance-Based Funding for the USM. MHEC made a proposals to do this which were not necessarily agreed upon by anyone else. The MHEC report could put 1% of base funding at risk, although who knows how high the percentage could go (5%, 20%, etc.)? PBF is used by several other states, involving 70% - 100% of base funding in some cases. This policy will pit USM institutions against each other for slices of the budget pie. Who knows what will happen during the 2014 legislative session? This year the idea will be tested with no budgets affected, but next year it will probably be implemented.
- 5) The Judge's decision in the suit against Maryland and MHEC (but NOT the USM) charging racial discrimination found 1) no discrimination in funding (i.e. found for the state), 2) no discrimination in mission statements (i.e. for the state; no evidence of racism), but program duplication is still related to the effects of segregation. Accordingly the four Historically Black Institutions (HBIs) are being held back by the HWIs. One expert witness was consulted. The judge decided that each institution should teach the "core" curricula, but "niche" majors (such as environmental studies, health care management, and computer science) were duplicated in HBIs and HWIs to the detriment of the HBIs. The President of one USM HBI was quoted (though not identified) as saying, in reference to the institutions of the USM, ". . . now we must fight among ourselves." The state won most of the lawsuit, but we (the USM) lost. The SU/UMES cooperation was cited positively.

The President of the FSU faculty senate reported two particularly interesting things:

- 1) there are two designated seats on the faculty senate (29 members) for full-time contractual faculty, and 2) he has met with and discussed issues with every academic department, thereby making the senate more responsive to faculty concerns.