

Morgan State University University Council

January 16, 2025, 11 am–1 pm.

Face-to-face: Earl S. Richardson Board Room, 4th Floor

Virtual Option: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://morganstate.zoom.us/j/99635617584>

AGENDA

I. Call to Order [11:00-11:02 am]

Dr. Sharon Oliver-Whitehurst, UC chair, welcomed attendees, and the meeting was called to order at 11 am.

II. Attendance and Quorum [11:02-11:04 am]

The meeting met its attendance and quorum requirements.

 UC Meeting Attendance, January 16, 2025 (Responses)

If your name was not recorded, please email Dr. Hyeon-Shic Shin, UC secretary, at hyeonshic.shin@morgan.edu.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes [11:04-11:06 am]

The December 2024 UC general meeting minutes were approved as read and distributed.

[December 2024 UC meeting minutes.docx](#)

IV. Standing and Special Committees [11:06 am-12:06 pm]

A. Academic and Student Affairs

Dr. Iyiola updated on the Academic Affairs Committee activities on behalf of Dr. Zúñiga, the committee chair. The committee meeting was convened on January 6, 2025. The ongoing initiatives and progress were discussed. Significant discussions occurred regarding the chair initiatives. The committee aims to present a report on the chair initiatives at the February General Council meeting.

Dr. Oliver-Whitehurst inquired about a clarification regarding the third section of the committee report. The section is about student advising issues. The committee member, Dr. Berliner, explained that as the university has transitioned to professional advising, some students have been enrolling in incorrect courses that do not count toward their degrees. The committee will identify gaps and improve communication between professional advisors and departments.

Provost Yu emphasized that student advising should focus on student well-being, not other aspects. Professional advisors in EMASS advise freshmen and sophomores are transitioned to the departmental faculty. In addition, EMASS is piloting an advising program for second-year students with 10-12 departments. Dr. Yu suggested inviting Dr. Turner or Dr. Maltese to give the exact plan and how it works.

[2025-Jan-6-UC Academic and Student Affairs Report](#)

B. Athletic

Professor Robinson reported on the committee activities. AVP Freeman-Patton reported the completion of the NIL education workshop in December. The committee collected surveys from students and will have some reports back. In addition, the committee discussed student involvement on the Athletic committee in 2025 and additional new initiatives. The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 4 at 4 pm.

[Athletics Committee Meeting Report January 14, 2025 .docx](#)

C. Budget and Finance

The Budget and Finance Committee did not meet due to members being on leave or traveling. But, the committee chair, Dr. Cheng initiated a discussion on a future agenda item regarding the concern that all the payroll, the timesheet submission system, and the leave requests will be automated in March. He pointed out that the staff and faculty need to be trained. The committee will consider inviting an HR representative to give a presentation to UC.

In response, Dr. LaChina noted that the transition is a state mandate. He continued that the new system will also impact contract processing, making retroactive payments more difficult. Additionally, he reminded faculty members with summer contracts or grants that they must comply with the new process to ensure timely compensation. The implementation phase is expected to begin in March, with the exact date yet to be confirmed.

D. Physical Plant

The committee met on January 8 and discussed signage updates for individuals with disabilities, ensuring clear guidance on ramps, elevators, and alternative routes. Additionally, efforts to improve communication about service outages through the university map and app were highlighted.

Baltimore City's provision of no-parking signs within 15 feet of entrances was confirmed, and committee members will audit signage placement along Argonne Drive and Parent Parkway. A student safety pledge was proposed to enhance awareness, along with student patrols encouraging safer campus navigation. Dr. Zúñiga offered to assist in marketing safety initiatives.

The committee also discussed safety and risk prevention with Dr. Banks and Keith Hatcher. MSU PD has prioritized panic buttons and silent alarms, with ongoing discussions to clarify their implementation timeline. VP McCalla is working with the Northwood Commons management company to address persistent elevator issues. The elevator repair in Holmes Hall is expected to be completed by March 2025. Additionally, students requiring ADA accommodations can contact Student Disability Support Services.

Finally, the heating issue in Carnegie Hall was reviewed, with updates from Dwayne Jackson confirming significant temperature disparities on the third floor. Efforts are underway to resolve the issue.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2025.

[UC Physical Plant Committee Monthly Report as of 1.15.2025 \(1\).pdf](#)

E. Research and Creative Works

The committee decided to survey faculty members who had received grants over the past four to five years to better understand their challenges and opportunities in implementing grants at Morgan. A draft survey was developed and shared with committee members for feedback. The survey will be piloted before an official survey.

The research clusters initiative meeting is scheduled for January 21 in Tyler Hall 101, with 60 faculty members registered to attend in person and a Zoom link available for virtual participation. ORA will provide lunch for attendees.

Dr. Reimer's faculty research incentives survey analysis was uploaded to the committee folder. Members agreed to review his analysis and provide feedback.

The committee's next meeting is on February 4 at 10 am.

[Research Committee Report 1:7:25.pdf](#)

F. Technology and Communication Infrastructure

Dr. Duckett reported ongoing efforts to improve IT software and hardware integration. The committee has worked closely with VP Mendoza and Director of Procurement, Mr. Nehemiah Israel, to streamline the technology procurement process. Discussions focused on establishing clearer communication between IT and procurement, particularly regarding pre-approval processes for technology purchases. It was clarified that a pre-approval process is already in place, facilitated through a Google Group of IT managers who review requisitions forwarded by procurement. Simple hardware purchases can be approved in 1-2 business days, while more complex tech services requiring security assessments may take 1-2 weeks.

Dr. Kirkner, UC Vice Chair, expressed concern that faculty were not adequately consulted in selecting software packages, which could lead to tools that may not fully meet instructional needs. President Wilson emphasized that technology procurement should follow a bottom-up process. Faculty and departments identify their needs, which are then communicated to the administration for funding and IT review. Dr. Mendoza pointed out that the role of IT is to ensure security and avoid duplication. Still, faculty input is crucial for selecting the right tools.

Dr. Dorsey-Elson highlighted that the Instructional Excellence Center recently launched a faculty assessment to identify training and resource needs, including preferred teaching tools. This feedback will guide future technology decisions.

G. University Professional Welfare

The committee did not meet in January. However, Professor Bellamy updated on unionization efforts for faculty and staff, examining the pros and cons and considering a needs assessment related to professional welfare across campus. The committee also explored phased retirement options, discovering that such a program is not currently offered at Morgan State University after consulting with Human Resources. The committee is reviewing policies related to sick leave, noting that it primarily applies to extended absences rather than single-day sick leave.

A faculty member raised concerns about recent changes in the State's prescription management system, which caused confusion and delays in accessing necessary medications. The issue arose because healthcare providers were unaware of the change, requiring patients to provide updated ID information from MedImpact for prescriptions to be processed.

It was suggested that the university's HR department implement an email campaign to inform employees of the prescription coverage change, outline the necessary steps for updating information with healthcare providers, and ensure timely access to medications. Kym Wilson from HR acknowledged the concern and committed to sharing the issue with the Chief Human Resources Officer to explore campus-wide communication strategies.

V. Remarks

A. UC Chair [12:06-12:09 pm]

Dr. Oliver-Whitehurst announced that elections for new UC representatives and UC officers will be held this spring in each school. One faculty member will be elected from each school/college since it's an odd year. The staff elections will also take place this spring. Two new professional staff and one classified staff will be elected. She also reminded Dr. Banks and Dr. Garrison to submit the names of the Graduate Student Association and Student Government Association.

B. Provost [12:09-12:40 pm]

Provost Yu presented several updates, celebrating the School of Business's recent national and state rankings. The school was ranked 60th in the country by Bloomberg Newsweek, placing it above institutions like Syracuse University and the University of Kentucky and just below schools like the University of Maryland and North Carolina State. Notably, no other HBCUs were included in this ranking. At the state level, the school ranked number one in Ph.D. production for African Americans in business and hospitality management, project management, marketing, entrepreneurship, and hospitality at the bachelor's level.

Dr. Yu also shared news about the nursing program. The National Council Licensure Examination results showed a 90.63% pass rate for the 29 students who took the exam last year, exceeding the national average of 90.17%. This year, all 13 students passed the exam. The nursing program now ranks 5th among the ten BSN programs in Maryland.

Next, Dr. Yu reported on the implementation of the new course evaluation system, Watermark, which significantly improved student response rates. Since its introduction last year, response rates increased by 54%—the highest post-COVID-19 participation rate.

Finally, Dr. Yu discussed efforts to revitalize and reimagine the university's master's programs. With 46 master's programs enrolling 781 students in Fall 2024, the top four programs (MSW, MBA, Master of Computing) accounted for 413 students, while the remaining 42 programs averaged just 8.7 students each. To maintain sustainability, programs need 20 to 40 students each. He outlined plans for a series of presentations and discussions focused on comparing Morgan's programs to national benchmarks, enhancing curriculum alignment with job markets and Ph.D. programs, updating websites, improving student advisement, and evaluating program coordinators' performance. These initiatives aim to increase enrollment and ensure the long-term viability of the master's programs.

Dr. Iyiola suggested adding one or two online class-specific questions to the current course evaluation instrument. President Wilson supported this idea, emphasizing the importance of capturing best practices directly from student feedback. He proposed codifying positive responses and sharing them with Dr. Dorsey-Elson to identify effective teaching strategies unique to Morgan. Provost Yu acknowledged the importance of these suggestions and proposed collaborating with Dr. Alao to revise the evaluation questions. Additionally, Provost Yu noted that the Board of Regents is interested in understanding the university's approach to online learning, including enrollment, offerings, and student outcomes.

In response to the question about the faculty evaluation results' contribution to promotion and tenure, Dr. Yu confirmed that student course evaluations are already a component of the faculty evaluation. President Wilson emphasized that faculty should perform exceptionally in one area—teaching, research, or service—while maintaining acceptable performance in the others.

[Academic Affair Update for UC Jan 2025 \(1\)](#)

C. President [12:40-1:01 pm]

President Wilson shared several key updates. First, he highlighted that the Board of Trustees from Excelsior University, headquartered in Albany, NY, held their winter retreat at Morgan. This marked the first visit to an HBCU for most of the board members, and they were highly impressed by the university's work. Next, he discussed significant budgetary developments following Governor Moore's unveiling of the FY26 State budget. Morgan secured the largest capital investment in its 158-year history, including \$337 million for a new science building and \$87 million for a new electrical substation. Additional funds were allocated for deferred maintenance, fire alarm upgrades, and improvements to Murphy Fine Arts, among other projects. However, operating budget cuts of 5.5%, amounting to \$10–12 million, will require the university to reassess its spending without compromising its momentum. Dr. Wilson will testify before state legislators on both capital and operating budgets, emphasizing transparency and urging faculty and staff to stay informed. Lastly, he announced the appointment of Dr. Timothy Summers as the new Vice President and CIO.

VI. Dr. Maxim Bushuev reminded the participants that the next UC meeting is on February 13, 2025. [1:01-1:02 pm]

VII. Dr. Oliver-Whitehurst adjourned the meeting at 1:02 pm.

University Council 2024-2025 Committees, Chairs and Liaisons

- I. Executive
Chair: Dr. Sharon Oliver-Whitehurst
Liaisons: Ex-Officio Members: President, Provost
Members: Standing and Special Committee Chairs

- II. Academic and Student Affairs
Chair: Dr. Miguel Zuniga (SBM)
Co-Chair: Dr. Olaniyi Iyiola (SCMNS)
Liaison: UC Parliamentarian Dr. Maxim Bushuev
Ex-Officio Members: Provost, AVP Dockery, VP Banks, SVP Turner
Members: Ms. Tasha Benn (PASM), Dr. Brett Berliner (CLA), Dr. Yuejin Li (SCMNS), Dr. Jiangnan Peng (SCMNS), Dr. Belinda Smith (SSW)

- III. Athletics
Chair: Prof. Edward Robinson (SGJC)
Liaison: UC V Chair Dr. Samia Kirchner
Ex Officio Member: VP Freeman-Patton
Members: Dr. Jocelyn Taliaferro (SSW), Dr. Willie Thompson (SOE), Dr. Dawn Thurman (SSW)

- IV. Budget and Finance
Chair: Dr. Kang Cheng (SBM)
Liaison: UC Parliamentarian Dr. Maxim Bushuev
Ex Officio Members: EVP LaChina, AVP Flavin
Members: Prof. Melissa Bellamy (SCHP), Mr. Alan Holcomb (Classified), Ms. Katie Talton (Classified), Miss MarKayla Wilson (Student)

- V. Physical Plant
Chair: **Ms.** Chevaun Whitman (PASM)
Liaison: UC V Chair Dr. Samia Kirchner
Ex Officio Members: EVP LaChina, VP McCalla
Members: Mr. Alan Holcomb (Classified), Dr. Mackessa Holt (SCHP), Ms. Shamon Shine-Lee (PASM), TBD (Student)

- VI. Research and Creative Works
Chair: Dr. Muhammad Sharif Uddin (SEUS)
Liaisons: UC Secretary Dr. Hyeon-Shic Shin
Ex Officio Member: VP May
Members: Dr. Stephen Egariyewe (SOE), Dr. Olaniyi Iyiola (SCMNS), Dr. Yi Liu (SOE), Dr. Carlos Reimers (SAP), Dr. Tyrone Stanley (CLA), Mr. Albert Sweets (PASM)

- VII. Technology and Communications Infrastructure
Chair: Dr. Jana Duckett (SGJC)
Liaison: UC Chair Dr. Sharon Oliver-Whitehurst
Ex Officio Member: Interim VP Mendoza

Members: Dr. Jocelyn Taliaferro (SSW), Dr. Dawn Thurman (SSW), Dr. Seth Vannatta (CLA), Miss Tamera Trimuel (Student)

VIII. University Professional Welfare

Chair: Prof. Melissa Bellamy (SCHP)

Liaison: UC Secretary Dr. Hyeon-Shic Shin

Ex Officio Members: EVP LaChina, AVP Oyegoke

Members: Dr. Robin Butler (SCHP), Dr. Niah Grimes (SEUS), Dr. Joonwoo Moon (SGJC), Dr. Jeff Rhodes (SEUS), Dr. Miguel Zuniga (SBM), Ms. Katie Talton (Classified)

IX. University Council By-laws and Constitution

Chair: UC Chair Dr. Sharon Oliver-Whitehurst

Members: TBD

2024 -2025 UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
February 13, 2025	Thursday	11:00A-1:00P	Earl Richardson Library
March 20, 2025	Thursday	11:00A-1:00P	Earl Richardson Library
April 24, 2025	Thursday	11:00A-1:00P	Earl Richardson Library
May 8, 2025	Thursday	11:00A-1:00P	Earl Richardson Library

2024 -2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
February 10, 2025	Monday	3:30-4:30P	President's Office, Truth 400
March 17, 2025	Monday	3:30-4:30P	President's Office, Truth 400
April 21, 2025	Monday	11:00A-1:00P	President's Office, Truth 400
May 5, 2025	Monday	11:00A-1:00P	President's Office, Truth 400

2024-2025 UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION DATES

CONVOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
African American Flag Rededication Convocation	2/6/2025	Murphy Fine Arts Center
MLK - Malcolm X Black History Month Convocation	2/13/2025	Student Center Theater
Mitchell - Quarles Black History Month Convocation	2/20/2025	Student Center Theater
Douglass - Tubman - Wells Black History Month Convocation	2/27/2025	Student Center Theater
Terborg-Penn Women's History Month Convocation	3/6/2025	Student Center Theater
Honors Convocation <i>(Mandatory for faculty with full academic regalia)</i>	4/17/2025	Murphy Fine Arts Center