



Student Government Association

[Eighteenth Meeting of the 2012-2013](#)

[Legislative Session](#)

February 6, 2013

Margaret Brent Room, Stamp Student Union | 6:00PM

1. Student Concerns and General Announcements

a. [Guest Speaker: Dr. Wallace Loh, President](#)

- i. After a very long, boring 2 hour hearing, two students came up to speak in front, and they were so persuasive about student affordability. It was moving. Thanks also to Josh for making College Park a safer place for everybody. With that, I'm thrilled to be here, and I welcome any questions.
- ii. James: One of our big initiatives is having a presence in Annapolis. I'm sure you heard about our essay contest. I wanted to hear your take on Annapolis and if it has an impact.
- iii. You'll be happy to hear that Samantha spoke in front of everybody and used words from the essay contests. When you put students in front of them and show the compassion, and dedication that students have, that has a much bigger impact than when I speak. It is a very important day. They want to hear you guys, you guys vote, so they listen. It is absolutely important, and not just in Annapolis, but also in the city council.
- iv. Patrick: Recently, a bill came up in the Senate about mandatory sexual assault education for freshmen?
- v. We have mandatory education about the high risk of alcohol, like alcohol edu. Should education on sexual assault be mandatory? Yes! We have hired outside consultants to totally relook our policies on sexual assault. This is my third year, and you know I haven't had that training either, and that is not acceptable. There is a whole set of policies and legal requirements that the average person does not know about. Everyone should know these. I have already taken these steps to bring these consultants to campus, and my proposal is mandatory for staff and

faculty. Should we bring it to our students? I don't want to jump ahead, but it must be debated. I hope my response addresses where I stand on this issue.

- vi. Liz Pandya: We were talking about a special tax district in the city. How will it affect the students?
- vii. We're committed to hiring 5 additional police officers, and their equipment. It is not inexpensive. These are three neighborhoods where there are a large amount of students. It is the high-risers and Crystal springs. They are heavily student populated. College Park does not have a police officer. They do contract police who basically moonlight and work here. It is very different when you have police who know the students who are patrolling. I have many many priorities to work with the Mayor and county officials, to make it a top 20 college town. The number one thing is safety. Without that, you can't have anything else. I have been given the hotspots by the chief, which tell where all the crimes are occurring. Using statistics, that is what we're going to focus on. Certainly, UMD will pay their fair share of the costs.
- viii. I know the University will be considering the good samaritan policy and with drugs. What is your view on this?
- ix. We do have such a policy on drugs and alcohol. It saves lives, and the most important goal is to protect people from harm. Having said this, I am aware that there are established processes. I do want to say that i personally that safety of our students is number one priority.
- x. Josh: My question is about East Campus and the new development plan. I am curious how the university is going to work with the city to do this?
- xi. When i arrived here, the university was committed to bring up east campus, especially for graduate students. We are still absolutely committed to this, things will happen there. It is the most valuable land, we are in the midst of considering to a different vision. This vision is university in a park, rather than a city. This is what I call the 20th century vision. If you look at our master planning for the campus, vast areas of green space, flowers. We delete pictures that surround our campus. It is beautiful, but it is a buffer, it separates us. That is why they didn't want the metro to pass under stamp union. This is for your generation, I won't be here to enjoy this. We want to have you guys interact with the town, with coffeeshops, a whole foods market. We want to completely transform route 1. We want cars to slow down, and having retail development there. We live in a capitalistic economy. Real development is not done by universities. If we own this land, we can build a hotel, that will further other development. This is known as anchor development. In two months, we can unveil this. We are confident that people will invest. That is how every university town has done it. That is our vision. We have architects working with us. In 60 days, we can have specifics.

- xii. Tali: I wanted to ask you about mental health services on campus. I know a lot of students have complained that there is a long wait list.
- xiii. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of students seeking mental health. We are definitely under-staffed but I have committed to seek more staff. That is very important.
- xiv. Omer: My question is about transportation on campus, specifically green transportation. In the most recent budget, the price is increasing but is underutilized.
- xv. The first issue that I addresses was the issue of the purple line. I just had a conversation with department of transportation. When the purple line comes, it will have a dramatic impact with the number of cars coming to campus, because people will take that rather than drive. Our number of parking spaces keep going up every year, where we could use this land for other purposes. The other thing we have to do is the number of transportation services that serve CP. They are overlapping. We have to make sure that we don't have that duplication. We have to do a better job. So long as we do not have effect transit, more people will be coming by car. We should not be build more parking, it is to have more transit. That is a long-term issue and DOTS here is working hand in hand to fix this.
- xvi. Charmaine: I wanted to thank you for making a diversity a priority on campus. What else do you think can be done to bridge the achievement gap?
- xvii. We have a very diverse student body and we also have a achievement gap that is nationwide. We are making progress with this, we don't have it with our first year. We have 82% graduation rate in 6 years. That places the topmost of public schools. Of the highest are UCLA and Michigan. On average, for minority students, it is about 73% and we need to do better. A major reason is financial reasons. It is a hard economy. Something we can really do is because students come here wanting to do specific majors, but we have limited enrollment for certain programs. For example, the business school, if students don't get in, will transfer. I have argued for additional funding for high demanding fields. We will have those students and faculty and buy that equipment. We do not want to dilute the sewer. Our quality should not drop. If we get funding, we can add faculty, instead of having 300 students on the waitlist, we will be growing. That should make a dramatic impact on the achievement gap. We also are working on increasing financial aid.
- xviii. Ryan: I was wondering if you could elaborate on limited enrollment program in BSOS?
- xix. The reality is it will take one step at a time. We started with sciences and engineering. The next round will go to BSOS and business. I wish we could do everything all at once. The perfect is always the enemy of the good. That's what all politics is about. It's all about compromise.

- xx. Greg: My question is about current jurisdiction and code of conduct. Many of the people I represent, are concerned about drunk driving and enforcement broadly. My question is besides extra police is how do you see these policies be enforced?
- xxi. What really counts is not the policies, but how to enforce it. You can have the worst policies, but a really good police force, that's what makes a big deal. We have a police officer that really gets it. If i were a student, I would expect to be living in a safe environment, I would much rather have UMD patrol, instead of police from outside. Bring the police here, and ask him questions. Students have the right to live anywhere and do whatever. They must do it in a responsible way. I have students right across from me, but if they have a party, they apologize. The chief is not going to waste his resources on going knocking on doors just for a party. If you have music blasting, he will come and he will ask very politely. If he has to come back, he will cite you. You don't want to go to PG police office. If you go to graduate schools, they will ask if you've been arrested. I trust our officers. I can assure you that my priorities is to them, is not students having a beer, but protect them from excessive drinking, passing out on the street, of the consequences of unwanted sexual encounters and to intervene in those cases. We can't afford to have police coming for a couple kids drinking a beer. There is a whole era of law called the law of discretion. Bring the police chief in and ask him what his practices are, it will be very reassuring.
- xxii. Ryan: Obviously, we decided to enter the Big Ten. We've all kind of read about some of the benefits. I want to know some of the more tangible benefits of joining the CCC, and how students can benefit from them.
- xxiii. That was the second hardest decision of my life. The first was cutting teams and I vowed that would never happen again. The money that was cut is going to financial aid. I have a committee that students are on also. I don't need to have 800 angry emails from fans about going back to China. One of the biggest reasons is for the students. We have processes and groups still deciding on the teams. I want the faculty-staff student group to make that decision. Students here were invited to go to Indiana and they were talking to peers from a similar institution. This will be replicated with deans, staff, and more students. The lobbyists for the Big Ten invited us to work collaboratively to work together now. That is the impact of joining the Big Ten. Let the record show, i'm making a fearless prediction within four years of joining the Big Ten, on January 1st of 2018 will be playing in the Rose Bowl.
- xxiv. JT: Blended learning is being tested on campus. Assuming we continue we go down that route, how do you think it will shape student learning in 3 to 5 years?

xxv. I believe higher education will be transformed because of technology. When we start putting other courses on, so many students are deciding to take it. I think technology will transform how we learn. Making predictions is difficult especially about the future. Our provost is dealing with the first exclusive teaching facility, and how 9000 students will pass through this. She looks at all auditorium classrooms, and asks them to redesign because we should not be spending that much money on the future based on this type of learning. We should be focused on blending learning. There is all this incredible technology that didn't exist before. There will be round tables, students will work collaboratively on projects. I think that is the future, students working together, not solely lectures. A year ago, I went to Delhi University, they have 300,000 students. They have a 3% admission rate. What they're doing on a pilot basis. Every freshman is in a group of 150, all classes independent of their major is focused a specific theme, like transform a slum, or fix the traffic gridlock in India. Not only design this project, you have to do it. That I think is the future. When you graduate, your competition is not from Boston, its from Bangalore and Shanghai.

xxvi. Nina: With all the changes going on, and the focus on secondary education, how do you communicate with staff to make high school students more effective and prepared to come here?

xxvii. We are certainly working with community colleges so they don't have to duplicate courses. In terms of high schools, the average GPA to come in is 4.11 and the average SAT score is 1300. We also have enrichment programs that help students who have passion and may not have high enough GPA. We provide them with additional tutorial systems, intensive course in the summer before school in the fall. I can tell you their retention rate is no different than the rest of the student body. That really makes me proud of our students. Those are very expensive programs, and we give them good scholarships so they don't have to work. Where you come from, should not limit where you go in life.

Mayor, Andrew Fellows:

xxviii. Yesterday you may know we discussed new issues discussing public safety and taking code of student conduct off campus. I am really happy that we are pursuing this collaboration and it is a win-win for the county and dealing with public safety issues. It is helpful for the city since these two are closely related. We are really pleased to work the student body, and we really need your student leadership.

b. Leann, MaryPIRG:

i. We're still in our recruitment drive, we are 475 interest cards, over 900 petitions, and we've already hired 25 interns. Monday is going to be our kick off and start of all our campaigns. Monday is our kick off so you guys are all welcome to attend.

- c. Omer, RHA:
 - i. We're working on our budget presentations. Our committees are now meeting and are finalizing their recommendations to our and we will approve or disapprove. We also have our bag-to-bag event coming up. Hopefully, we'll see you all there.
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Call to Order
- 4. [Approval of the Minutes](#)
 - a. Motion to approve by Patrick, second by Ryan.
- 5. Speaker's Time
 - a. Diamondback Trivia of the Week
 - b. CEMFO Committee Report
 - i. Thanks to everyone who participated in the committee. I hope you all took the time to read the long report I sent to you. We wanted to create a more sustainable funding model for them. We explored a bunch of options. We are going to do vote on a mandatory increase in student activity fee. One that is renewable is not really sustainable. We also discussed one that is waivable but the university felt uncomfortable with that. We have other student groups that are political, so they shouldn't receive their own fee. They should campaign students to want them to be here. If you have any questions, I encourage you to approach myself or any other of us.
 - ii. [Polling](#)
 - 1. The newspaper and bag fee questions chosen.
- 6. Finance Report
 - a. Legislative reserves: \$28750
 - b. Executive reserves: \$4578
 - c. Committee reserves: \$5154
 - d. General operations: \$14259
 - e. Group Help: \$38657
 - i. Motion to approve Group Help for Help center approved by Adam, second by JT.
 - f. Appointment of Rob
 - i. Motion to approve by Niloufar, second by JT.
- 7. First Reading Calendar
 - a. [S 13-02-06 A - A Resolution Supporting the Senate Campus Affairs Committee Implementation of the Policy on Smoking at USM Institutions](#) (Administration) [Student Affairs (Primary), Health and Wellness (Secondary)]
 - b. [S 13-02-06 B - A Resolution Supporting the Fairness for All Marylanders Act of](#)

- [2013](#) (Sylvester) [Governmental Affairs (Primary), Diversity (Secondary)]
 - c. [S 13-02-06 C - A Resolution to Support Maryland House Bill 17: Elective Franchise - Registration and Voting at Polling Places](#) (Hansen) [Governmental Affairs]
 - d. [S 13-02-06 D - An Act Establishing an Alternative Funding Model for the MaryPIRG Internship Program as Recommended by the Committee for the Exploration of MaryPIRG Funding Options](#) (Marks) [Finance (Primary), Constitution and Bylaws (Secondary), Student Groups (Tertiary)]
- 8. Second Reading Calendar
 - a. [S 13-01-30 A - A Resolution to Support Physically Displaying Shuttle-UM Evening Routes on Bus Shelters](#) (Farooqi) [Student Affairs]
- i. Committee Report
 - a. We voted favorably to support this bill. Students who don't have phones with internet access are at a disadvantage here. We added that we will get student signatures of those who support it before presenting it to DOTS. We are going to table the bill for a week.
 - i. Motion to approve for second reading calendar by Adam, second by JT.
- ii. Student Concerns
- iii. Main Question
- a. [S 13-01-30 B - A Resolution Strongly Urging the University Senate to Expand the Policy of Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies](#) (Janus) [Student Affairs]
- i. Committee Report
 - a. We voted favorably also on this bill and no changes were made.
 - i. Motion to approve by Amna, second by Adam.
- ii. Student Concerns
- iii. Main Question: the body is not ready for the question.
- iv. Debate:
 - a. Adam, affirmative: We would like to thank all cosponsorships. This is for students who are abusing alcohol or drugs, that they don't get in trouble, but rather get the help needed.
 - b. Patrick, affirmative: This is a great policy for students everywhere. You can see the great improvement in student health. You see more students accessing help, instead of fearing getting in trouble.
 - c. JT, affirmative: President Loh just stated that he sees it saving lives.
 - d. Greg, affirmative: There seems to be a growing use of club drugs, while consuming alcohol. I would love to be a cosponsor on this as well.
 - i. Motion to approve by unanimous consent by Adam, second by JT.
- a. [S 13-01-30 C - A Resolution Supporting the Governor's Budget for Fiscal Year 2014](#) (Belcher) [Governmental Affairs]

- i. Committee Report
 - a. This is also gives money for STEM programs and other types of programs. It is the best possible solution for us. We changed it from a resolution to an act, we are advocating for it. It passed unanimously.
 - i. Motion to approve by Patrick, second by Tali.
- ii. Student Concerns
- iii. Main Question: The body is ready for the question.
 - a. Period of voting: passes!
- a. [S 13-01-30 - An Act Co-Sponsoring the event "Culture of Excellence"](#) (Hansen) [Finance (Primary), Diversity (Secondary)]
- i. Committee Report
 - a. This event wants us to cosponsor space rental, etc so we voted to approve.
 - i. Motion to approve by Ryan, second by Ian.
 - b. We went over this in committee, it is really important, we can bring various types of groups together.
 - i. Motion to approve by Ryan, second by Tali.
- ii. Student Concerns
- iii. Main Question: The body is not ready for the question.
- iv. Debate:
 - a. Kiese, affirmative: All the equipment was approved. This is a cultural event, a lot of different speakers, there is going to be a scholarship offered.
 - b. Brandon, negative: The bill overall is great, but i do have a question about the wording. Half of the money says it is going to advertising.
 - c. Charmaine, expert: I apologize, that is an accident.
 - d. Motion to make amendment by Brandon, second by Adam.
- v. Period of voting: passes!
- 1. Follow Up
 - a. [S 13-01-30 D - A Resolution Supporting the "Bag The Bag" Campaign](#) (Brown) [Student Sustainability]
 - i. 180,000 bags ordered last year, we'll see over the semester how that changes. On February 18, raffling off two bikes, with some fun activities.
- 2. Executive Updates
 - a. Samantha Zwerling, President
 - i. I was in Annapolis today and we spoke on behalf of the USM's half of the governor's budget. The general assembly can only make cuts for the most part. We would like them not to cut stuff from our budget, I spoke on behalf of the students on College Park. I gave two quotes from essay contest winner, and 3rd place winner. They have had facts thrown at them a lot, so I thought it would be good to get some personal stories. Today

was the house side of the bill, and tomorrow, the Senate votes. James and I are putting together a lobbying schedule. March 11, that's when we're going to Annapolis. We have a really hard target, since they gave us a lot of money, which is great.

- b. Tali Alter, Vice President of Finance
 - i. There were budget workshops earlier this week.
 - c. Ryan Heisinger, Vice President of Academic Affairs
 - d. Liz Pandya, Vice President of Student Affairs
 - i. Last night, I and Josh Ratner was at City Council. They have been working on how to make CP safer, and the main thing was expanding police jurisdiction and code of conduct. People kept asking about residents making comments, we don't want students to get in trouble unnecessarily. There was also a proposed tax and security cameras, where there are high-risers, but what kind of policies are going in for that. This money will trickle down to students. Students may benefit from security, but they can be negatively impacted on it too.
2. Cabinet Updates
- a. Governmental affairs: UMD will be given free ice-cream to people in Annapolis so you guys can interact with them. We need a big showing on March 11 in Annapolis. It will be on a Monday.
 - b. Student Groups: For the e-mail I sent out to everyone, there are groups I sent out for approval.
 - i. Motion to approve as a block by Patrick, second by JT.
3. Comments for the Good of the Council
- a. Ralph Time: goes to Cam Ross.
4. Adjourn
- a. Motion to adjourn by Amna, second by Hailey.