

Morgan State University University Council

November 14, 2024, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

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 [11:00-11:01 am]

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

II. Attendance and Quorum [11:01-11:02 am]

The meeting met its attendance and quorum requirements.

 UC Meeting Attendance - November 14, 2024

If your name was not recorded, please email the UC Secretary at hyeonshic.shin@morgan.edu.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes [11:03-11:05 am]

The October 2024 UC meeting minutes stand approved as read and distributed.

[UC General Body Meeting Minutes, October 17, 2024.docx](#)

IV. VP Corner [11:05-11:20 pm]

[UNIVERSITY COUNCIL -VP CORNER PRESENTATION.11.14.24 \(final\)](#)

Dr. Kara Turner gave updates on EMASS initiatives and accomplishments. EMASS supports the success of prospective, new, and continuing Morgan State University undergraduate students, focusing on 3R's: recruitment, registration, and retention to graduation. Dr. Turner highlighted three areas:

- (1) Exceptional service for students and our stakeholders: The EMASS staff considers customer service seriously, following the EMASS PATH (professionalism, accuracy, timeliness, and helpfulness). She also highlighted Bear Essentials (BE), a one-stop customer service team that assists students and parents with enrollment-related matters virtually and physically.
- (2) Innovative initiatives:

EMASS revamped the summer orientation for freshmen, emphasizing a sense of belonging, social skills, and interpersonal skills, considering the pandemic generation's circumstances, which spent many of their high school years at home alone. Additionally, EMASS introduced the Bear Promise to establish standards for student success.

(3) Historic accomplishments

The University had a record-high enrollment of over 10,000 students with the highest freshman class intake of 2,369. In addition, retention rates were over 70% for 14 years in a row.

V. Remarks: President Wilson [11:20-11:47 am]

President David Wilson remarked on Maryland's projected \$2.6 billion budget deficit, potentially reducing state funding to Morgan State University. Then, Dr. Wilson talked about the budget situation and its potential impacts on Morgan State University, and the likely scenarios of the new administration's policy directions on education. The new administration's policy directions would threaten programs like Title III, Pell Grants, and research funding. Also, there would be a possible restructuring of accreditation processes that would impact diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. President Wilson encouraged faculty and staff to remain adaptive and collaborative with unforeseen challenges. A faculty member suggested mobilizing students for advocacy on Capitol Hill.

VI. Guest Presenter: [11:47 am-12:02 pm]

[WEM Slides for BoR Presentation. for UC](#)

Dr. May highlighted progress in striving to achieve R1 research university status. Research expenditures increased from \$13 million in 2018 to \$60 million in 2023. There are investments in AI, machine learning, and urban health initiatives. The University will expand research in social sciences and behavioral sciences.

VII. Standing and Special Committees [12:02 pm-12:22 pm]

A. Academic & Student Affairs, **Drs. Olaniyi Iyiola (SCMNS) & Miguel Zuniga (SBM)**
[November_2024_UC Academic and Student Affairs_Report.docx](#)

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee focused on improving faculty evaluation instruments and enhancing student advising processes.

B. Athletic, **Prof. Edward Robinson (SGJC)**

[Athletics Committee Meeting Report November 2024 .docx](#)

The committee announced the upcoming NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) workshop for student athletes. A question was raised about the selection of student representatives for committees.

C. Budget and Finance, **Dr. Kang Cheng (SBM)**

[20241106 Meeting 2 Minutes.docx](#)

The committee provided updates on the ongoing discussions about pre-award spending accounts for grants and the automation of payroll and leave systems.

D. Physical Plant, **Ms. Chevaun Whitman (PASM)**

[November 2024 UC Physical Plant Report.pdf](#)

The Physical Plant Committee reported initiatives on safety measures: (1) enhancing lighting near the School of Global Journalism, (2) improving accessibility with proper signage and ramps, and (3) addressing pedestrian safety near Cold Spring Lane and Hillen Road.

E. Research and Creative Works, **Dr. Muhammad Sharif Uddin (SEUS)**

[Research & Creative Works Report, November 5](#)

The committee was engaged in ongoing discussions about faculty incentives and the promotion of interdisciplinary collaborations.

F. Technology and Communication Infrastructure, **Dr. Jana Duckett (SGJC)**

[November 2024 Technology and Communication Infrastructure Report](#)

The committee proposed plans to streamline communication on IT-related purchases and provide resources.

G. University Professional Welfare, **Prof. Melissa Bellamy (SCHP)**

[November 2024 University Professional Welfare Committee Report](#)

The committee discussed conducting a faculty and staff needs assessment survey and mentioned faculty unionization interest.

VIII. Fall commencement [12:022 pm-12:30 pm]

[Overview of Morgan Commencement Fall 2024](#)

Dr. Mellinger presented an overview of commencement procedures. The fall commencement is scheduled for December 13th at Hill Field House. She also outlined student requirements for ticket distribution.

IX. Provost Yu's remark [12:30 pm – 12:40 pm]

Provost Yu provided updates on recent developments and initiatives during his address to the University Council. He highlighted the successful launch of 32 new degree programs over the past three years, including 18 under the Morgan Complete You (MCY) Program. This expansion has contributed significantly to enrollment growth, particularly in the doctoral programs, where the student count has risen to over 900, with approximately 200 students enrolled in new programs. Discussing faculty appointments, Dr. Yu noted that 148 new faculty members had been hired over the past four years, including 39 in the most recent year. These hires reflect the University's commitment to supporting its growing student body and enhancing academic quality. He emphasized improving graduation rates, particularly at the doctoral level, to align with the University's aspirations for R1 institution status by 2027. To achieve this, Dr. Yu called for focused

efforts from program directors and dissertation advisors to support student success. Dr. Yu also updated the Council on the progress of the Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure (APT) policy. A task force has completed the first draft, with plans to finalize it and initiate faculty review within the following year. He mentioned that the annual evaluation instrument for faculty evaluations underwent development in 2022 and testing in 2023. Feedback from faculty and department chairs has prompted revisions targeted for completion by February 2024. The revised instrument will include evaluations for full-time instructional faculty in the following review cycle.

- X. The UC Chair, Dr. Oliver-Whitehurst, announced the convening of a special UC meeting on November 21 to discuss and vote on proposed policies.
- XI. Dr. Maxim Bushuev reminded the UC Council of the next meeting on December 12, 2024
- XII. Dr. Sharon Oliver-Whitehurst adjourned the meeting at 12:45 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 Egarievwe (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
December 12, 2024	Thursday	11:00A-1:00P	Earl Richardson Library
January 16, 2025	Thursday	11:00A-1:00P	Earl Richardson Library
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
December 9, 2024	Monday	3:30-4:30P	President's Office, Truth 400
January 13, 2025	Monday	3:30-4:30P	President's Office, Truth 400
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
Bill of Rights - Trans Africa Day Convocation	12/5/2024	Student Center Theater
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