



Congress Agenda

November 8th, 2020 | 6:00 pm

[Zoom](#)

1. **Call to Order** 6:00pm
2. **Roll Call** 6:00-6:02
3. **Approval of the Agenda** 6:02-6:05
 - a. Eli motioned, Dannah seconded.
 - i. Vote: Approved
 1. 18 Yes
 2. 0 No
 3. 0 Abstain
4. **Approval of the Minutes** 6:05-6:07
 - a. [11.2.20](#)
 - i. Jonathan motioned, Bob seconded.
 1. Vote: Approved
 - a. 18 Yes
 - b. 0 No
 - c. 0 Abstain
5. **Introduction of Guests** 6:07-6:12
6. **Dr. Erwin** 6:12-6:42
 - a. Dr. Erwin: Tonight I am going to give you an overview of UMD's budget. There are 3 major buckets: Tuition & State, Auxiliaries, and Student Fees. UMD makes total determinations when allocating tuition money. Auxiliaries generate money and then that money is used to fund that program the next year. Fees are usually restricted to the purpose that they are collected for. There are other money sources that don't come from students such as research grants. Tuition and state dollars come in and are allocated to the Chancellor (6%), EVCAA (76%), VCFO (16%) (the backbone of the institution), and VCSL (2%). Each year we start with a base budget and then add or

subtract based on tuition and state revenues. Auxiliaries are things like meal plans, housing, retail sales, and parking permits. Fees are things like SSF, the academic records fee, and the athletics fee. Some issues with our budget are lower enrollment, decline in state support, Uncertainty related to the pandemic, and effectiveness of available tools. Some of these tools are pay cuts and furloughs, as well as a new retirement program and a hiring freeze. Here is how we are thinking about moving forward. FY21 cover tuition and state deficit with cash reserves and tools, cover fee deficit with cash reserves and tools, cover auxiliary deficit with cash reserves and tools. FY22 tuition and state: base cuts between 3 and 6%. Fees: base cuts and auxiliaries: base cuts. In terms of my department we are looking at cutting between \$90,000 and \$180,000. At the top end of these cuts that would be about 3 positions, which is a major cut for some student life departments such as counseling. Programs that are funded through SSF are factoring in cuts between 3 and 6% for FY22 in their budgets. I would love to get feedback from this group to find out what is really important for you guys as students and for your constituents. This will help us decide what is cut.

- b. Dannah: I think it is important to keep mental health services, I don't want that to be touched, if anything we need more of that. I also think that student activities that have to do with physical wellness are very important.
- c. Dr. Erwin: I am right with you there, athletics and counseling are in different buckets, what is a lower priority than mental health.
- d. Dannah: I think that there are a lot of activities that could be prioritized over others, I do not know what could be cut specifically.
- e. Annie: Are health services and counseling being separated?
- f. Dr. Erwin: They are separate financially and together structurally.
- g. Annie: I would like to advocate for us to not touch ODI funding, ODI funding should not be cut. I am curious as to where all the money is going, we have less resources and tuition is not down. Could not having SA stipends help fund programs?
- h. Dr. Erwin: I don't believe we should look at taking SA stipends to fund University programs. I am not sure that would help.
- i. Eli: This is a crucial semester to look at the data and determine what facilities are being used most. Do you have any data that you could use to determine potential cuts?
- j. Dr. Erwin: I do not want to use data from this semester because this semester is atypical. But we are looking at data regarding facility usage.
- k. Lily: If we are going to use any of the data from this year how can the freshman representatives help best find an answer.
- l. Dr. Erwin: I think you can help this body help me by describing what was useful and utilized by you and your peers this year.
- m. Riley: When do decisions need to be final.
- n. Dr. Erwin: In the early stages of spring semester we put together a budget plan for the following year. We have time, not a lot, but we have time.

- o. Griffin: Have there been any recommendations by faculty and staff yet?
- p. Dr. Erwin: Not that I am aware of.
- q. Dannah: Could we do a poll and ask students what they prioritize? Or would you rather have data come from us?
- r. Dr. Erwin: I love that idea. I think this body should always be gathering information from their constituents.
- s. Dr. Erwin: We have seen an uptick in COVID cases be safe.
- t. Eli: Do we see a point in time where health services will be giving COVID testing regardless of symptoms? I can go downtown to the DECC but it is less accessible.
- u. Dr. Erwin: That is why you should use your vault test which is free and available to you now.

7. Speaker's Spotlight 6:42-6:47

8. Open Positions 6:47-6:57

a. CEHSP Senator

b. SCSE Senator (10min)

i. [Candidate Nam Nguyen](#)

1. Emma nominated Nam Nguyen, Parker seconded.

a. Nam: I'm a biochemistry major and I want to become an SCSE senator. I've seen this position open for a while and the students need proper representation.

b. Vote: Approved

1. 17 Yes

2. 0 No

3. 0 Abstain

c. Nam: I renounce my position as representative at large.

d. CONGRATS NAM!

c. LSBE Senator

9. Old Business 6:57-7:00

10. New Business 7:00-7:10

a. [Life After the Dorms Resolution](#) (10min)

i. Rohan motioned, Nam seconded.

1. Rohan: Life after the dorms is this thursday from 4:30 to 5:30. It is a panel of 6 students with a kahoot at the end. We decided in order to gain attendance we made prizes available. Prizes are airpods, an apple watch, and a JBL Speaker. PR would pay for \$150 and EA would pay for \$285.

2. Dr. Smyth: I believe we can only give prizes that are \$10 or less.

3. Lily: How does KPB give away large items?

4. Dr. Smyth: These guidelines came out on October 28.

5. Rohan: How should we be spending our budgets?

6. Dr. Smyth: I don't have an answer right now unfortunately. The push for these guidelines is so that we are not wasteful when money is tight.
7. Dr. Erwin: This is part of the effort to make sure UMD's budget turns out ok.
8. Eli motioned to table, Annie seconded.
 - a. Vote to table: Approved
 - i. 18 Yes
 - ii. 0 No
 - iii. 0 Abstain

11. Discussion 7:10-7:25

- a. [Spring Elections Timeline](#) (15min)
 - i. Emma: We need to have elections by the 14th week and applications are due a week before. We have tentatively decided on March 1st and 2nd for the elections. This would allow us 4 "shadow" Congress sessions. The public forum would be Feb 25th. I'll bring this in as a resolution after we get some feedback.

12. Governance Reports 7:25-7:30

- a. Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM)
- b. Assessment
- c. Facilities
- d. Liberal Education
- e. Athletics
- f. Strategic Planning and Budget (5min)
 - i. [Motion](#)
 1. Jonathan: This resolution is similar to the one that we are voting on on Wednesday, I wanted to make Congress aware of this. If you have any input email me before Wednesday.
- g. Student Experiences (SE)
- h. Teaching and Learning (TLC)
- i. University Coordinating Council (UCC)

13. Executive Reports 7:30-8:00

- a. Chief Student Life Officer - Riley Tuft (5min)
 - i. Oral Report
 1. Riley: Shatter the Silence meeting upcoming, email or text me if you would like to be involved. COVID care packages are being put together tomorrow. We got permission to hand out prepackaged food and we are working this into a study group event we are trying to get off the ground.
 2. Dr. Smyth: Who did you get permission from?
 3. Riley: Kirby and Catering.
- b. Chief Academic Affairs Officer - Parker Schultz

- c. Chief External Affairs Officer - Rohan Rokkam (10min)
 - i. Oral Report
 - 1. Rohan: Congrats to Biden and Harris for winning the election. With that I would like to remind everyone now that the election is over that we should respect others political opinions and that we are a non partisan organization. I have decided to resign after life after the dorms finishes. This semester has been very difficult for me.
 - 2. Alex: Thank you for all you have done for us.
- d. Chief Financial Officer - Jonathan Wolenech (5min)
 - i. SOG Applications are live, and six organizations have applied so far. Currently only one is ineligible to apply and I have reached out to them to explain why.
 - ii. Applications are due Monday, November 16th at 12pm.
 - iii. Please take time out to sign up for slots for interviews. Ideally, I will have three people with me to interview student groups. If you sign up for a slot, and no interviews occur, you will not have to show up for your slot.
 - iv. [Sign-up sheet here!](#)
- e. Rep. to the Board of Regents - Abdi Ali
- f. Vice President - Annie Counihan (10min)
 - i. Student Senate Updates
 - 1. Annie: Met last Thursday. We passed the tuition protection resolution. We also passed some principles for Student Senate, we committed to examining ourselves in regards to racism and pursuing antiracism, we committed to supporting LGBTQ+ communities as well as a few more principles. We then consulted on a mental health resolution, which proposes things like 15 minute online mini-lectures and being more lenient with attendance policies. 2 of the proposed amendments that Gunnar Frahm presented two weeks ago have passed.
 - 2. Annie: Nominated 6 reps to committee regarding grievance policies and sexual assault policies.
 - ii. [Proposed Resolution](#) (consultation)
 - 1. Annie: This resolution proposes that students that were arrested in protests have their academic records expunged and to make sure that students have legal assistance should they need it.
 - iii. Meeting with Tina Marisam
 - 1. Annie: Met about new online education module regarding sexual misconduct and discrimination. Some changes are that it focuses on bystander intervention and microaggressions as well as intersectionality. One critique I have of this module are that the only mention I could find of transgender and non binary individuals was in an optional digging deeper article.
- g. President - Neal Bhakta

14. Director and Student Personnel Reports 8:00-8:08

- a. Public Relations - Mahjur Ahmed
- b. Bulldog Lyft - Delaney Anderson
- c. Diversity & Inclusion - Elizabeth Rypa
- d. Rules and Elections - Emma Neidviecky (5min)
 - i. Spring Elections Discussions
 - 1. Evaluate the ratio of Representatives at Large to Senators
 - 2. Requirement of Signature Petitions
 - 3. Implementation of a requirement for Congress Elect to attend during the shadow period
 - a. Emma: If anyone wants to attend any of these committee discussions please reach out to me.
- e. Systems Administrator - Jordan Watts (3min)
 - i. UMDSA Website Photo Capture
- f. Sustainability - Gabbie Raymond
- g. Chief of Staff - Shane Gullikson

15. Advisor's Minute 8:08-8:15

- a. Dr. Smyth: Rohan I feel for you, I don't know what your situation is, but I think very highly of you and I'm going to miss you in SA. If anyone is going through something and I can be a resource please let me know, even if it isn't SA related, I can guide you to appropriate resources.

16. Open Announcements 8:15-8:20

- a. Annie: Shoutout to Rohan and to Parker. The S/N grading policy is now extended to December 10.
- b. Parker: Thank you to Annie, Neal, and everyone in SA for helping out.
- c. Hannah: Could the senators stay back after the meeting.
- d. Rohan: Could EA, Mahjur and freshman stay back as well.
- e. Parker: This Wednesday is advising on the go from 10 AM to noon. Secondly, Rohan, you've been a great friend to me in SA, thank you for everything you've done.

17. Balla Award 8:20-8:25

- a. Hannah: I am giving the Balla award to Rohan, you did an excellent job transitioning to your new role and have done a great job, you will be missed.
- b. Rohan: Thank you Hannah!

18. Adjourn 8:25

- a. Annie motioned, Eli seconded.
 - i. 17 Yes
 - ii. 0 No
 - iii. 0 Abstain