



### Congress Agenda

January 25th, 2021 | 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, Megan seconded.
    - i. Vote: Approved
      1. 20 Yes
      2. 0 No
      3. 0 Abstain
4. **Approval of the Minutes** 6:05-6:07
  - a. [Minutes 12.7.20](#)
    - i. Bob motioned, Hannah seconded.
      1. Vote: Approved
        - a. 20 Yes
        - b. 0 No
        - c. 0 Abstain
5. **Introduction of Guests** 6:07-6:22
  - a. Lynne Williams- Overview of the [UMN Legislative request](#) and advocacy (15min)
    - i. Lynne: I am the marketing and PR director at UMD. I also do legislative work for UMD and will be going over two things tonight. One is an update on outreach advocacy efforts and the other is the current legislative request. The university is asking for two things this year, the budget request is the first one. The total budget request is \$46.5 million. This is the lowest request in 20 years. We are trying to be a little more conservative due to COVID. Our budget request is aligned with our University's strategic plan. The capital request is money for our facilities. As usual we will be asking for HEAPR to

help renovate our buildings, especially AB Anderson and Heller Hall. UMD is also asking for funding to help design what we are going to do with our old chemistry building. The most important thing for students to know is the broad overview of what we are asking and to advocate for UMD using your own stories. There are a few opportunities to tell your stories. The first is Support the U Day, it is scheduled for March 4th this year. We also have Bulldog Lobby Day; the date has yet to be determined but it will be online over zoom. We could recreate some sort of event like the pep rally in the rotunda virtually. At any point you can call, email, or tweet at legislators to advocate for the University.

- ii. Abdi: Last year we did a letter to the editor for your home newspaper on why investing in the U is investing in Minnesota. These letters are usually forwarded to legislators as well.
- iii. Lynne: That sounds like a great idea, letters to the editor are very powerful.
- iv. Dr. Smyth: Could you put some of those numbers in perspective for us?
- v. Lynne: Yes those requests are for new, additional funding across all 5 system campuses. Only a certain percentage would be allocated to UMD.

**6. Dr. Erwin 6:22-6:27**

- a. Dr. Erwin: We have the results from the fall student survey to share with you if you would like to take a look at it. Students' familiarity with how to support their wellbeing increased since spring 2020. Based on the results of this survey, we have created a campaign to help students become more familiar with strategies for supporting their wellbeing. Testing is going well as MN has a lot of testing available. We have increased testing capacity in Health Services, and with one test it is possible to get rapid results. Vaccines are in short supply nationwide and in Minnesota. UMD health services is a registered provider, but has not gotten notice of when we will be able to receive and offer vaccines. MDH working through priority vaccination groups 1A,1B, and 1C. MN is currently in 1A (health care providers and first responders). 1B and 1C will be essential workers and then we will see more mass vaccinations. You may see some blue lights around UMD to honor people who have been working on the front lines throughout the pandemic.
- b. Riley: Are we keeping students updated on vaccine rollout and testing.
- c. Dr. Erwin: I believe that information was sent out in the last chancellor email.  
(<http://umdchancellor.blogspot.com/2021/01/welcome-to-spring-semester.html>)

**7. Speaker's Spotlight 6:27-6:32**

- a. Meetings for the Semester
  - i. Alex: We are going to vote vocally for non contentious votes. When voting on resolutions we will use a poll. I would like to take a quick informal poll to determine how many of you are in Duluth. Minutes for committee meetings should be posted in the UMDSA team drive under the proper folder.

**1. Rep. to the Board of Regents - Abdi Ali 6:32 6:37**

- a. Abdi: We have begun drafting our report to the regents that will take place in March. The first topic is the impact of U of M health, the second topic is discriminatory policies, the third topic is the impact of student advocacy.
- b. January Special Session
  - i. Abdi: I was not able to attend but it took place on January 8th, no resolution was related to the UMD campus.
- c. December Meeting Recap
  - i. Abdi: I would like to highlight some things from the finance and operations committee. Our budget model for UMD was built in 08 and 09 when our university was growing. However, today, we are decreasing in numbers. The board approved the AB Anderson Hall project and they are looking to secure funding for a new design for our old chemistry building. I requested a detailed breakdown of our budget shortfalls and that was sent to me recently. Unfortunately this document does not address how UMD is dealing with these shortfalls. There are budget cuts coming. Dr. Erwin: That information cannot be given to you yet because it is not yet finalized.
  - ii. Abdi: That would make sense. I will share this document with you so you can look at it in more detail on your own time. Alumni who had engaged in activities such as greek life or student government showed more satisfaction with how UMD prepared them for their careers. The 5 most common health issues among students at U of M are stress, too much computer use, sleep difficulties, mental health difficulties, and financial difficulties. The university is applying for a liquor license to be able to serve on campus and there is the potential to be able to brew on campus for educational purposes.

## 8. Open Positions

- a. **CLA Senator**
- b. **CEHSP Senator**
- c. **Chief External Affairs Officer**

## 9. Old Business 6:37-6:47

- a. [Office Hours & Attendance Resolution](#) (10min)
  - i. Emma motioned, Alex seconded.
    - 1. Hannah: We went over this resolution last time. *Read whereases and therefore.*
    - 2. Emma: This is the same as how we went over it last time except for one amendment made during Congress last time.
      - a. Vote: Approved
        - i. 20 Yes
        - ii. 0 No
        - iii. 0 Abstain

## 10. New Business 6:47-6:50

## **11. Discussion 6:50-7:00**

- a. Constitution Amendments (10min)
  - i. Abdi: These amendments are about being more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. I have had many conversations with various groups within the MC and outside of the MC regarding our constitution. I would like to gather any of your input into how we can work inclusivity, diversity, and equitability within our constitutions and preamble.
  - ii. Annie: I think we should say “in student life” instead of “in the role of the student.” I feel that we should also create an ad hoc committee to discuss solely this and then it can be brought up to congress later as this is important work that will take some time.
  - iii. Dannah: I would like to see more language that mentions religion and cultural backgrounds as well.
  - iv. Annie: I think if the ad hoc is the route we want to go I don’t think that we need Neal to establish an ad hoc. We could do some sort of informal work group.
  - v. Abdi: If you are interested in joining the committee please drop your email in the chat.

## **12. Governance Reports 7:00-7:05**

- a. Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM)
- b. Assessment
- c. Facilities
- d. Liberal Education
- e. Athletics
- f. Strategic Planning and Budget
- g. Student Experiences (SE)
- h. Teaching and Learning (TLC) (4min)
  - i. Meeting on December 9th
    - 1. Parker: Spoke about feedback from the fall survey and spoke about class notes policy that will be discussed more in the future.  
Academic integrity work group gave our report on the honor code.
  - ii. New member needed Wednesdays 3-4:30pm
    - 1. Jan 27 , 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom
    - 2. Feb 24 , 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom
    - 3. Mar 24 , 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom
    - 4. April 21 , 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom
- i. University Coordinating Council (UCC)

## **13. Executive Reports 7:05-7:25**

- a. Chief Student Life Officer - Riley Tuft
- b. Chief Academic Affairs Officer - Parker Schultz (5min)
  - i. Updated Library Hours

1. Parker: 38% of staff positions are vacant, due to this the library is now closed on weekends.
  - ii. AA Meeting this week
    1. Parker: Please respond to the when2meet.
- c. Chief External Affairs Officer
- d. Chief Financial Officer - Jonathan Wolenec
- e. Vice President - Annie Counihan (15min)
  - i. MN House Higher Ed Committee update
    1. Annie: I gave my story for why the state should invest in UMD to the MN House and I will be doing the same for the MN Senate soon.
  - ii. Legislative Breakfast update
    1. Annie: Spoke with Governor Walz and President Gable regarding the upcoming budget request.
  - iii. SSCC updates
    1. Annie: It was proposed that Twin Cities CLA was to get 11 seats and instead they took 10 and the remaining seat was added to UMD Labovitz. It hasn't been approved yet but in the proposal Twin Cities CLA is gaining a seat and that seat is coming from UMD Labovitz, meaning in the proposal we are losing a seat in SSCC. If we are able to gain that seat back should it be allocated to labovitz or UMD CLA which recently merged with fine arts. On another note Briggs is presenting graduation options for this semester. Briggs is also bringing his demilitarization resolution to be voted on in February. There is still emergency funding available for students and we need to be publicizing this.
  - iv. Senate Disability Committee updates
    1. Annie: We spoke about how to make our meetings more accessible. This included changing our meeting names to "professional development" instead of "training." I am going to make an anonymous google form to send out in the slack. If you have had any disability accommodations please fill it out. We also want to make our professional development more than just a module and are brainstorming ways to accomplish that. Please send me photos of past SA events by Wednesday. Check your emails for an application for a senate committee anyone can do this.
- f. President - Neal Bhakta
  - i. Bulldog Lobby Day -- Been working on something to do remotely. Right now I'm thinking of a phone bank type thing. Would love to hear if anyone has ideas. We will for sure not be doing anything in person. In the spreadsheet please fill out your name and hometown ASAP.
  - ii. Tuition Reimbursement -- As many of you have probably seen the TC Student Association passed a resolution asking for a 3.3% tuition reimbursement.

The main reason for this is because of the changes that had to take place because of the Pandemic. I personally believe that if we are to get a reimbursement of any sort it should be systemwide. Unfortunately, this approach was not taken right away. I will be presenting a resolution in these coming weeks asking for the same reimbursement for UMD students.

- iii. Price Per Credit -- The price per credit for a resident of MN is \$469. For me a lot of conversations about these covid adjusted semesters has been that online learning and zoom classes are not nearly the same as being in person. It's a very unique experience that so many of us are taking classes in an online format. However, for some students online classes are a reality even when we're not in the middle of a pandemic. This semester, I intend to explore how we can discount credits for classes that are being taken in an online format.

#### **14. Director and Student Personnel Reports 7:25-7:37**

- a. Public Relations - Mahjur Ahmed
- b. Bulldog Lyft - Delaney Anderson (5min)
  - i. We are having a big roll out for the new semester! For this semester ONLY we are giving students an extra discount of \$8 off three rides per month anywhere in the US. In order to make this roll out successful, I need everyone's help with advertising. So when the roll out day comes around (February 1st), PLEASE repost things on your insta/twitter/snap stories. This is the easiest/best way to reach tons of students. If you are apart of any clubs ask them if they would be willing to repost this on their social media as well!
    1. Eli: At the end of the semester we're going back to the normal program?
    2. Delaney: That is correct.
    3. Abdi: How does this work with the new SSF parameters?
    4. Delaney: We are giving money back so we do not have an insanely large carryover for SSF.
  - ii. I am currently having notifications sent out through our own social media, Bulldog Update, MyU popups, Bulldog Mobile push notifications, Dorms virtual posting and physical posters. If anyone has any other advertisement outlets that they know of that I missed please reach out ASAP!
- c. Diversity & Inclusion - Elizabeth Rypa
- d. Rules and Elections - Emma Neidviecky (7min)
  - i. [Sign up](#) to speak in your classes about SA
  - ii. Apply early
  - iii. Cabinet members fill out this [form](#) about your position
  - iv. Apply for External Affairs
- e. Systems Administrator - Jordan Watts
- f. Sustainability - Gabbie Raymond

g. Chief of Staff - Shane Gullikson

**15. Advisor's Minute 7:37-7:42**

- a. Dr. Smyth: Director of UMD stores search is still ongoing. We were given permission to hire a new Director recently. Committee was formed including faculty, staff, students, and UMD Stores student workers. Coffee shop is open through grubhub during daytime hours. Extended hours in the dining center are now in effect. No dining related outbreaks from the fall semester. Every other wednesday dining services is sponsoring a cultural food night with different student orgs. The SSF committee is underway right now. The big 3 have submitted their proposals. There will be no presentations for student orgs this semester.

**16. Open Announcements 7:42-7:47**

- a. Hannah: Send me a chat if you need to leave or if your internet is cut out. This spring we could do a CLA reconnection event and I would like help planning this virtual event. I also need someone to cover my assessment committee meetings if possible.
- b. Dannah: Since we are in phase 2 of our sunrise plan, certain sports including indoor track and field, baseball, softball, and tennis are restarting.

**17. Balla Award 7:47-7:50**

- a. Annie: I am giving this Balla Award to Delaney. Bulldog Lyft is a new position and she is crushing it!

**18. Adjourn 7:50**

- a. Eli motioned, Dannah seconded.
  - i. Vote: Approved
    - 1. 20 Yes
    - 2. 0 No
    - 3. 0 Abstain