



Congress Agenda

February 1st, 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, Nam seconded.
 - i. Vote: Approved
 1. 0 Nay's
 2. 0 Abstentions
4. **Approval of the Minutes** 6:05-6:07
 - a. [Minutes 1.25.21](#)
 - i. Bob motioned, Michael seconded.
 1. Vote: Approved
 - a. 0 Nay's
 - b. 0 Abstentions
5. **Introduction of Guests** 6:07-6:10
 - a. Loretta Perry: I am from health services.
 - b. Jeff Romano: Retired director of UMD Stores former SA Advisor.
6. **Dr. Erwin** 6:10-6:15
 - a. Dr. Erwin: The big budget news is that the president has submitted the budget to the state. Government-relations.umn.edu. The proposal to the regents will most likely be in June and it is contingent on what the state offers the U of M System. This year's state request is the lowest in 20 years. The governor has signaled that they fully support the University's request. We are working on some fiscal cuts for 2022. We have a lot of vacancies at UMD due to a retirement program that led to 94 retirements. Less SSF fees, tuition, and housing and dining fees have been collected recently. This is why we are looking into making some cuts for the upcoming fiscal year. We don't publicize positions

we are cutting without talking to the people in those positions first, I know that that can be frustrating. We are only replacing vacant positions in a deliberate and thoughtful manner. COVID testing is available at health services and the DECC and we still have the mail in testing through the state. Vaccine progress is being made throughout the state, First responders have been vaccinated.

- b. Riley: Are the vaccines for health care workers highly encouraged? Or required?
- c. Dr. Erwin: Because these are still experimental no one can be required to take them. The state of MN wanted to work with those who are most vulnerable first. This is why they are focusing on health care workers and first responders. The next group are child care workers and those over the age of 65.

7. Speaker's Spotlight 6:15-6:20

- a. [Proposal for Office Hours Spring 2021](#)
 - i. Alex: Shane, Hannah, and I went over ideas for office hours this semester and this document is our proposal. Please look over it. We want to focus on going to other clubs or events and spreading awareness about UMDSA. Regular office hours are also going to be a thing along with tabling, committee assignments, and other substitutes.
 - 1. Vote: Approved
 - a. 28 Yes
 - b. 0 No
 - c. 0 Abstain

8. Open Positions

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

9. Old Business 6:20-6:22

10. New Business 6:22-6:37

- a. [Recognition of Jeff Romano's Service to UMD](#) (5min)
 - i. Neal motioned, Nam seconded.
 - 1. Jeff Romano: I am a UMD graduate and former student bookstore employee. The university offered me a job as a manager of the bookstore post graduation. I was then asked to be the advisor for UMDSA. I was on the chancellor's leadership council. I loved my time advising for UMDSA. UMDSA is about putting students at the forefront and thinking what would be best for the students. To me this is the best recognition I could receive, from the students.
 - 2. *Neal read whereases and therefore.*
 - 3. Jeff Romano: Thank you, it is an honor and a privilege to work with all of you over the years.

4. Dr. Smyth: I learned how to be an advisor for this group from Jeff, so thank you for that. There could've been 100 whereases for Jeff but we couldn't get all of it. Every year UMDSA students recognize Jeff as an important member of campus governance.
 5. Emma: I knew your mom Barb and loved working with her and spending time with her, thank you for everything you have done for UMD.
 6. Jeff Romano: My mom would come work in the bookstore from time to time when I needed help. Someone was concerned that I was my mom's boss so I had to fire her (*everyone chuckles*). That was one of the hardest things I had to do in my 37 years so not too bad.
 7. *Abdi called the question, Annie seconded.*
 - a. Vote: Approved
 - i. 0 Nay's
 - ii. 0 Abstentions
- b. [Resolution to Support CHAC Letter](#) (10min)
- i. [Letter](#)
 1. Bob motioned, Elizabeth seconded.
 - a. Bob: CHAC has drafted a letter of concern for the upcoming resolution regarding the Universities alcohol policy being proposed to the regent's. CHAC is advising the policy not be changed as it could promote the use of alcohol.
 - b. Abdi: There were a number of regents that shared the same concern that CHAC is putting forth. Especially the use of mascots to market alcohol.
 - c. *Bob read whereases and therefore.*
 - d. *Bob called the question, Annie seconded.*
 - e. Dr. Erwin: Just to be clear the letter from CHAC was already sent to the regents. Where would this letter go if this resolution is approved?
 - f. Abdi: There would be a follow up letter stating that UMDSA supports the letter put forth by CHAC.
 - i. Vote: Approved
 1. 19 Yes
 2. 1 No
 3. 1 Abstain
 - ii. Dr. Erwin: I would request that a copy of your support letter also be sent to Chancellor Black.

11. Discussion 6:37-6:52

- a. [Preamble Amendments](#) (15min)

- i. Abdi: Me and a few other SA members met this weekend and brought some preamble amendments for discussion. The proposed amendments to the preamble are typed into this document. *Read the amended preamble.*
- ii. Dr. Erwin: Would you consider adding staff to that list of faculty, administrators, and community?
- iii. Abdi: noted.
- iv. Dannah: We are considering replacing members with students. I would also like some feedback on the second sentence in terms of clarity.
- v. Annie: Every highlighted section with a comment requires some feedback from you all.
 - 1. *Informal Vote:*
 - a. Changing we the members to we the students: Approved
- vi. Abdi: Please edit/comment on the document at any time.

12. Governance Reports 6:52-6:55

- 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)
- i. University Coordinating Council (UCC)

13. Executive Reports 6:55-7:08

- a. Chief Student Life Officer - Riley Tuft
- b. Chief Academic Affairs Officer - Parker Schultz
- c. Chief External Affairs Officer
- d. Chief Financial Officer - Jonathan Wolenec
- e. Rep. to the Board of Regents - Abdi Ali (1min)
 - i. Renaming of the College of Liberal Arts
 - 1. Abdi: After various surveys and consultation with various stakeholders in the campus community, the College of Liberal Arts is being renamed to the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. The Recommended name change will be brought forward to the Board of Regents for approval and if approved will be implemented at the start of the new Academic Calendar.
- f. Vice President - Annie Counihan (5min)
 - i. Senate updates
 - 1. Annie: Testified to the MN Senate higher ed committee to advocate for the universities budget request. Had a meeting with Emily

Norenberg to move forward with the professional development modules. Senators please use me as a resource for anything you may need. *From Katy Jackson:* The BOR student conduct code is going up for formal review. I would like to meet with UMDSA to collect feedback on the conduct code and talk about the review process.

- g. President - Neal Bhakta (7min)
 - i. Open Cabinet Hours
 - 1. Neal: It's been difficult to schedule cabinet meetings so I'm going to be on zoom every friday from 11-12 if you need to speak to me.
 - ii. BLD Ideas
 - 1. Neal: The monday after spring break we could schedule phone calls with legislators. Members who have lobbied before could schedule zoom meetings with legislators. I am looking for other ideas if you have any.
 - iii. Transition Binders!
 - 1. Neal: There are 11 meetings after this before the new congress takes over. Please start working on your transition binders.

14. Director and Student Personnel Reports 7:08-7:10

- a. Public Relations - Mahjur Ahmed
 - i. Alex: When will the fall retreat photos be in the drive?
 - ii. Mahjur: I was going to handle that this week.
- b. Bulldog Lyft - Delaney Anderson (2min)
 - i. HAPPY LAUNCH DAY!! If you haven't already, please help spread the word of the new updates to the Bulldog Lyft program. Shane sent out posters in our minutes last week, otherwise there is currently stuff up on all of our social media
 - 1. Delaney: Thank you for sharing all those posts on social media and thank you to Mahjur for designing all of those posts.
 - 2. Eli: Mahjur, Delaney, and Emma, I suggest that we update the SA bulletin as it hasn't been updated in two years. With all of our upcoming events we should update that bulletin. I am available to help out with this.
 - 3. Riley: Last time we tried we had a very difficult time trying to track down the key.
- c. Diversity & Inclusion - Elizabeth Rypa
- d. Rules and Elections - Emma Neidviecky
- e. Systems Administrator - Jordan Watts
- f. Sustainability - Gabbie Raymond
- g. Chief of Staff - Shane Gullikson

15. Advisor's Minute 7:10-7:15

- a. Dr. Smyth: SSF process is underway, we have 28 proposals under review. We are asking the groups questions based on their proposals and relying on projected enrollment numbers. An announcement just came out that Dr. Delgado has taken a job as a president at an institution in New York and will be leaving his role at UMD. (Link to announcement: <https://rb.gy/xopsjt>).

16. Open Announcements 7:15-7:20

- a. Jonathan: Cabinet members look for an email from me so we can discuss budgets for the spring semester.
- b. Emma: Cabinet members please fill out that position description form.
- c. Shane: Office hours start next week.
- d. Jonathan: Strategic Planning and Budget Committee has a meeting on Wednesday about the direction of that group.

17. Balla Award 7:20-7:25

- a. Delaney: I am giving the Balla award to Jonathan because he does a ton of work with SSF and helped me a lot with the Bulldog Lyft program.

18. Adjourn 7:25

- a. Abdi motioned, Eli seconded.
 - i. Vote: Approved
 - 1. 0 Nay's
 - 2. 0 Abstentions