Actions Taken By Faculty Senate:

**MOTION:** The English Department proposes that undergraduate students be required to take English 100 (or its equivalent) within their first 30 credits of study at UMBC.

Undergraduate students will be advised of the English 100 requirement upon admission to UMBC and new course catalogs will subsequently reflect this change. This rule will begin with students matriculating at UMBC in Fall 2013.

Undergraduate students will receive a warning when they have completed 30 credits without enrollment in or successful completion of English 100, another warning after the completion of 45 credits and their ability to register will be restricted when they reach 60 credits without having completed English 100 (or its equivalent).

A vote of 28 FOR and 1 AGAINST passed the motion.

Minutes:

The Faculty Senate President called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. Dr. Hrabowski was delayed and will give the President’s Report when he arrives. Provost Rous began his report by offering President Hrabowski’s apologies.

In response to the motion passed last spring to replace the SCEQ with another course evaluation instrument, a committee consisting of Vice Provost Moreira, Vice President Jack Suess, Director of Institutional Research, Michael Dillon, and faculty representatives has been constituted. A budget line of $25,000 has been allocated in FY2013 for the purpose of piloting the new instrument, possibly the SIR II, and an additional $25,000 has been allocated in the event this new instrument is more costly than the current SCEQ. As a campus we want to be certain that we select the best instrument and the best mode of delivery. The provost will continue to work with the committee to move the process forward.

Enrollment is up for freshmen and transfer students. SAT scores are also up. Over the last five years the proportion of seniors has gotten larger while, proportionately, freshmen have decreased in numbers. This is due to the cyclical nature of admissions. About four years ago we admitted a large group of freshmen that are now moving through. It is necessary to adjust freshmen admissions to balance the cycle so that overall enrollment does not drop. We had nearly 9000 applications this year, an increase of 50% in the last two years. Yield is also up. This is unusual but clearly the culmination of efforts over the last twenty years. We are reaping the benefits of promoting excellence and this is a good position to be in.

The first deadline for applications to the Innovation Fund just passed. There were a lot of applications and a committee has been appointed to review them and make awards. We have $100,000 to distribute this year. There was a gala fundraising event held at the Marriott Waterfront last weekend in honor of Dr. Hrabowski’s twenty years as President. A substantial
A sum of money was raised and we should be able to award at least $100,000 a year going forward. The staff that worked on this event are to be commended.

The student success initiatives continue. We are working with community colleges through the Gates Foundation grant to understand and solve issues that impede the progress of transfer students.

In response to a question about retention Dr. Rous commented that we are doing better in this area but there is still a great deal of work to be done. This effort began in 2005-2006 and we are just beginning to see positive results. The reasons for lower retention are complex and include variables like the high number of students who transfer into professional programs (2+2) and do not count toward our retention or graduation rates. This will become more critical as we enter an era of performance-based metrics in which funding relates directly to success.

Senator Rada suggested that a faculty member from IS be placed on the new student evaluation committee because the department has used online course evaluations for a number of years and has some expertise. IS has also seen a sharp increase in newly admitted students recently. Provost Rous noted that if we look at the trend over multiple years, many departments have increased enrollment successfully. The question becomes how can we support student success in the short- and long-term?

The minutes from September 11, 2012 were approved without additions or corrections.

Tim Nohe began the Faculty Senate President’s report by inviting senators to participate in Homecoming scheduled for this weekend.

Last Saturday President Nohe represented the Faculty Senate at the celebration honoring Dr. Hrabowski’s twenty years as President of UMBC and launching the Hrabowski Fund for Innovation. Startup funding came from the Carnegie Corporation’s Academic Leadership Award to Dr. Hrabowski in 2011. The fund was established to support faculty, staff and student innovation in such areas as course design, development of unique classroom learning environments, peer-learning initiatives and faculty fellowships. Fundraising efforts have significantly increased the initial $500,000 of seed money. The celebration was well attended by members of the academic, public and business communities.

President’s Council attendees were briefed on the SUCCESS Program. The acronym stands for Students United for Campus Community Engagement for Post-Secondary Success. The program is hosted through the Shriver Center and works in partnership with UMBC faculty, Peacemaker Fellows and the Maryland Department of Disabilities. It is the first 4-year college experience for young adults with intellectual disabilities in Maryland and offers opportunities for students and faculty that are unique to the state. A representative from the program will be invited to present to the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.

Faculty members of the newly appointed working group to implement the new student course evaluation instrument, the SIR II, include Nancy Shelton, Denise Meringolo, David Schultz, and Matt Baker, Chairman of the Faculty Affairs Committee.
Vacancies remain on several shared governance committees. These include the Faculty Development Steering Committee, Nominating Committee, Organization & University Operations and Research Council. Senators are asked to urge colleagues who are willing to serve on any of these committees to contact Tom Beck or Lynn Knazik.

There were no questions from the floor. President Nohe moved on to the Executive Committee report.

The Executive Committee will take a “Good, Bad and Ugly” tour of campus facilities in November.

A robust discussion of faculty handbook sections on promotion and tenure proceedings related to the DP&TC reports, specifically related to the “overall” section was had at the Executive Tea. This matter has been referred to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

The old business of differential tuition was briefly discussed. It is clear that this issue has been relegated to the back burner.

Numerous faculty emailed President Nohe concerning Chik-Fil-A. Concerns ran the gamut from the advisability of supporting the business on campus to the plight of workers contracted through Chartwells. The family that owns Chik-Fil-A has decided to cease funding external political causes and focus on the restaurant business. Given this change there will be no further discussion at this time.

This concluded the Executive Committee report.

Bruce Walz provided the APB report. At its October meeting, APB reviewed the History Department APR. The chair expressed some concern about salary compression, a campus wide issue. APB also reviewed the APR for Public Policy. The chair reported that the department would like to become a school. This action would require little in expenditures and would put the program in line with its peers. This brought up the larger, ongoing discussion of naming academic departments, like Education, as schools. APB accepted both APRs.

Matt Baker reported for the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC). The committee is concerned about maintaining continuity in the effort to adopt a new course evaluation instrument and members agreed that someone who had been part of the discussion last year should serve on the recently constituted committee. Matt Baker is the only teaching faculty member who served last year and remains on the FAC this year. This year the FAC will resume its review of departmental promotion and tenure policies, review language in the faculty handbook concerning promotion and tenure at the request of the UFRC, and review guidelines for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor for clarity. The committee will also look at the composition of its members. Chairman Baker noted that there is currently no full professor on the committee and solicited senators for volunteers. Senator Rada expressed an interest in serving and will contact the chair.

Terrance Worchesky provided the Undergraduate Council (UGC) report. In addition to the usual run of routine approvals, the UGC wished to bring the following two issues to the attention of the Faculty Senate:
1. Passing a class with a “D” is acceptable for fulfilling pre-requisites unless the department specifies otherwise in the undergraduate catalog. Currently passing with a “C” is necessary only to fulfill GEP requirements. Although this requirement may appear in a program or major description, if it is not part of the course description, it is not part of SA. The deans will be asked to remind chairs of this.

2. It is widely assumed that many courses, particularly internships, research and special topics, may be repeated for credit when this only holds true if the provision is included in the course construction in SA. The UGC has requested a printout of all courses repeatable for credit in SA and will forward that information to academic departments. In turn, the departments will have to submit additional courses they want repeatable for credit to the UGC. Currently, a student may repeat a course for credit only to find that the second time cancels out the first time as if the student had difficulty the first time and repeated the course. The administration is looking for a way to fix this so that students and advisors can view this information in SA.

If a grade of “C” or better is required in courses taken for the major, this requirement also must be included in the course makeup for SA.

Kathleen Carroll presented the University Steering Committee report. The revised Plan of Organization has been distributed to the senates on campus for review. Faculty Senators were sent an electronic copy of the plan prior to the meeting. Copies also will be sent to committee chairs for review. Senators were asked to read the document and bring questions and concerns to the next senate meeting. Senator Pitts asked if the General Education Committee (GEC) should be included. Additions, changes and corrections to the plan will be discussed in November.

Joe Rexing presented a report on Forest Conservation and Library Pond Maintenance. On-campus stewardship is not only vital to UMBC but is a capital requirement. Both the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) require that we preserve or retain (add) trees. There are several ways to accomplish this, including planting a forest, preserving or retaining an existing forest, or buying forested land offsite to offset forested area lost on campus. At UMBC we have chosen to preserve existing forest because it reduces soil erosion, runoff and greenhouse gases, creates microclimates and wildlife sanctuaries, and because it enhances the water quality in local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Due to construction on the new PAHB, we need to preserve just over an acre of forest. We can use steep slopes that are prone to erosion and not amenable to development. The area cannot be non-tidal wetland and the forest must meet criteria. We are proposing an 11.64-acre area off of Wilkens Avenue, just before 695. The Board of Regents must approve this proposal.

PAHB Phase II construction stormwater management measures will include the library pond. The PAHB straddles two drainage areas and the 40+ year-old pond is one. The pond is not in good health. The pond will be dredged to remove several feet of silt and an aeration system will be installed. There will be a safety edge of boulders and water plants to naturalize it and make it safer. This edge will also serve as a natural filter for runoff. There will be a rock weir to manage runoff and control the velocity of the flow from the stream. A structure to better manage water quality will be in place and invasive species will be cleaned up. There will be drainage improvements and landscape repair and reclamation. This is a large project and there will be some traffic disruption. The path up the hill and the service drive will also be improved. The
project will begin next summer after the spawning season that runs mid-March through June. A concerted effort will be made to save as many mature trees as possible.

Next on the agenda was the English Department’s motion to require that students take composition within their first 30 credits. Robin Farabaugh, Senator from English, read the motion aloud. The course in question is ENGL 100 (100A & 100Y). Students in this course are required to write at least three papers and the course also focuses on reading, critical thinking and digital literacy. The English Department received funds to redesign the course. After a brief discussion a vote was taken. The motion passed by a show of hands with 28 FOR and 1 AGAINST.

Rick Bissel, a guest from EHS, presented the final agenda item. He is concerned about current billing practices that rely on students remaining at their original address of record. A graduate student in EHS completed his coursework and received his diploma in the spring of 2010. A year later as he reviewed a credit report he was surprised to see an outstanding debt to UMBC that had been referred to Central Collections. Apparently the bill had been posted to MyUMBC, which he no longer used, and then mailed to his original address of record. At the time the bill was generated the university was in possession of his new email address and an updated mailing address, but did not attempt to use either. When the former student failed to pay the bill it was referred to Central Collections. He subsequently contacted the billing offices and was told he should pay the bill, but that payment would not remove this negative item from his credit report. The student is willing to pay and has asked that UMBC withdraw the item from Central Collections and mail a new bill to his current address. This is apparently not an isolated incident. Two motions are proposed to resolve this matter. The first is a motion to ask that this individual case be resolved and the detrimental item on the former student’s credit rating be removed. The second would involve fixing the procedure so that this did not happen in the future. Diane Flint, Senator from EHS, will write the motions and submit them at a future Faculty Senate meeting. Senators will be sent a copy of the case report electronically so that they may share it with their departments.

Dr. Hrabowski arrived and presented the President’s Report. He apologized for arriving late but had been in New York meeting with the president of the Verizon Foundation. They discussed jobs for graduates and the possibility of people from Verizon visiting campus.

Phil Farabaugh and Cynthia Wagner have both been named National Academies Education Fellows in the Life Sciences for the 2012-2013 academic year.

We are very proud of Rebecca Boehling who has been named Director of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, beginning this January. Dr. Boehling is the founding director of the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Dr. Beverly Bickel will direct the Center in 2013 and Dr. Jessica Berman will become its Director as of 2014.

Marv Mandell and Tim Gindling just co-authored an article with a cost-benefit analysis of the Maryland Dream Act. It is important for the future of our country that we give opportunities to all.
Congratulations to our Dance Department for gaining Associate Membership in the National Association of Schools of Dance. Thanks to Dean Jeffries for his support of the department and his decades of service to UMBC.

The Gates Foundation will fund an implementation grant over the next three years to support our collaboration with local community colleges. This will build on our planning grant and help us increase the success rates of transfer students who come to UMBC not quite prepared to succeed at a university.

For the first time ever we have more freshman than UMCP. Fifty-five graduates from Centennial High School in Howard County are enrolled. Total headcount is 13,637, up 438 from last fall. Total undergraduate students number 10,953, up 380 from last fall and we have 2,684 graduate students, up 58. New out-of-state freshmen are up 27% and new transfers are up 24%. For the first time, six-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshmen entering UMBC in 2006 is 60.6%, up from 57.9% for the Fall 2005 cohort.

Students do not generally leave UMBC because they are failing. They leave for many different reasons. One of these is that we don’t offer the programs they want. We are the only institution in the state with no business program. We offer M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Electrical Engineering but no B.S. We also lose students who come to UMBC to fulfill their general education requirements and then transfer downtown into professional programs. There is a new national report, voluntary student accountability, which allows us to see if students who started here graduate from another institution. If you add in those numbers of students who graduate elsewhere, we are up near 90%.

Homecoming is this weekend, beginning tomorrow.

The Maryland Charity Campaign has just begun. Along with UM,B, only UMBC takes this seriously. Last year we were at 70% participation. Every member of the campus community is encouraged to give.

Thanks to everyone who has been supportive of the new fund for Academic Innovation. The effort is gaining momentum and showing strength across disciplines. Grants from this fund will support those who teach and do research.

President Hrabowski was asked about our collaborative efforts with UM,B. He replied that UM,B really wants to work with us and commented that UMCP has found a way to get credit for enrollment at both institutions for joint programs. Senator Rada commented on the issue of programs not offered by UMBC, specifically business. He noted that many of the majors on campus have large business/management components and suggested that there was a way to market these programs to prospective students who were interested in business as a major. President Hrabowski agreed and noted that we emphasize to families that a broader degree can be a good foundation for a career in business. For example, Economics is a more rigorous major than Business and students majoring in Theatre learn to present, a critical business skill. Dr. Hrabowski concluded his report by thanking everyone for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Lynn Knazik.