



February 24, 2012

### **PROPOSED LEGAL COUNSEL REPORTING DRAWS USM CONCERN**

On Tuesday, Delegate Patrick McDonough presented testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on House Bill 696, which would require public institutions of higher education to seek the approval of the Office of the Attorney General before hiring outside legal counsel in a matter exceeding \$25,000.

The USM submitted a letter of concern on the legislation because the legislation would impede USM from responding quickly to selected legal needs and new business development initiatives in the state. As written, HB 696 could have jeopardized technology transfer efforts and the protection of intellectual property. Currently, the USM Board of Regents Rule 270.0 VIII-3.20 details procedures relating to review by the Office of the Attorney General of contractual agreements in financing real estate and capital projects.

After concerns were expressed to the Delegate before the hearing, Delegate McDonough said that he was preparing two amendments that would officially remove private and public higher education institutions, namely the USM, from the legislation.

### **INTERNET PRIVACY BILL DOESN'T RECEIVE HEARING**

On Tuesday, the University System of Maryland CIO Don Spicer and University of Maryland, College Park CIO Gerry Sneeringer geared up for another debate over student internet privacy – HB 746. On February 14, the committee heard testimony on a nearly identical bill (HB 310).

The bill's sponsor cited a need to protect the personal privacy rights of students from the ability of universities to require the disclosure of certain personal email or social networking account information or require certain software to be installed.

However, the bill would prohibit universities from requiring students to install anti-virus or other related educational software on their electronic devices. USM argued the bill was too broadly written and tried to address issues that currently exist in the acceptable use policies of each USM institutions.

### **MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION ADVOCATE SEEKING TUITION WAIVER -- HEARING CANCELLED**

On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Committee cancelled a hearing on HB 669. The Bill would grant a full tuition waiver for the employees and children of the Maryland Higher Education Commission at any Maryland community college or public university.

USM remains deeply concerned about the potential appearance of impropriety for a regulatory agency to receive, as some may view it, a personal cash benefit from a regulated entity. The possibility that the bill could raise conflict-of-interest questions was not fully explored. In addition, this could open a larger debate, both fiscally and politically, as to whether other state agencies are equally deserving of tuition waivers for their employees.

The cross-filed companion bill, Senate Bill 608, is scheduled for a hearing in Senate committee next Wednesday. USM is prepared to testify against the bill alongside the Department of Management and Budget and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges.

### **COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY SYSTEM STAFF GET ACTIVE IN ANNAPOLIS**

On Tuesday, more than a dozen individuals representing the Council of University System Staff (CUSS) made the rounds with legislators in Annapolis. After being recognized in the Senate and House Chambers by Prince George's County Senator Jim Rosapepe and Delegate Barbara Frush, the group fanned out across the capital complex to share the message of the value of USM staff. The Senator and Delegate greeted CUSS members in each respective chamber with this message:

***“The Council of University System Staff, or “CUSS” as it is familiarly known, is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year as a staff advisory council to the Board of Regents and the Chancellor. The Council was created in statute in 1995 and was partnered with the other USM Councils: the Council of University System Presidents, the Council of University System Faculty and the USM Student Council, all of which are part of the USM shared governance group.***

***CUSS represents more than 8,000 University System of Maryland staff employees not represented by collective bargaining. As an advisory council to the Board of Regents***

*and to the Chancellor, CUSS members are the professional, technically skilled and managerial group of employees of the USM. The Council represents the majority of staff within the University System. CUSS is committed to representing staff concerns by actively participating on all levels within and beyond the University System of Maryland. The Council has strived to foster respect, communication, and collaboration among staff and other members of the University community. CUSS members work diligently to maintain the integrity of the university infrastructure and play a crucial role to provide a more conducive environment for teaching and learning.”*

## **Upcoming 2012 Legislative Budget and Bill Hearing Schedule**

**February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Senate Education, Business, and Administration Committee**

**1pm**

- University System of Maryland Office/University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies Budget Hearings

### **SB 434**

Education Health and Environmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 29

1:00 p.m.

Institutions of Postsecondary Education - Electronic Account, Service, and Communications Device Privacy Protection

### **SB 592**

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 29

1:00 p.m.

State Government - Public Information Act - Public Institutions of Higher Education - Permissible Denials

### **SB 601**

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 29

1:00 p.m.

Public Institutions of Higher Education - Waiver of Tuition - Individual Exonerated After Wrongful Conviction

### **SB 608**

Education Health and Environmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 29

1:00 p.m.

Maryland Higher Education Commission - Employees and Children - Tuition Waiver

**SB 728**

Education Health and Environmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 29

1:00 p.m.

Higher Education - Tuition Waiver - Children of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

**SB 808**

Education Health and Environmental Affairs

FEBRUARY 29

1:00 p.m.

Graduate Level Education - Exemption from Paying Nonresident Tuition - Members of the United States Armed Forces

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Senate Education, Business, and Administration Committee**

**1pm**

- University of Maryland, College Park/University of Maryland, Baltimore/Coppin State University Budget Hearings

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**House Appropriations Committee**

**3pm**

- University of Maryland, College Park/University of Maryland, Baltimore/Coppin State University Budget Hearings

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Senate Budget and Tax Committee**

**1pm**

- Senate Operating Budget Decisions

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Senate Budget and Tax Committee**

**4pm**

- Senate Capital Budget Decisions

**SB 687**

Education Health and Environmental Affairs

MARCH 7

1:00 p.m.

Higher Education - Academic Program Action - Repeal of Application Fees

**SB 859**

Senate Finance

MARCH 8

1:00 p.m.

Higher Education - Collective Bargaining - Tenured Faculty, Adjunct Faculty, and Graduate Student Employees

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**

**House Appropriations Committee**

**1pm**

- House Operating Budget Decisions

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**House Appropriations Committee**

**4pm**

- House Capital Budget Decisions

**SB 809**

Senate Budget and Taxation

MARCH 14

1:00 p.m.

Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Periods - University and College Textbooks

**SB 839**

Education Health and Environmental Affairs

MARCH 14

1:00 p.m.

College Affordability and Innovation Act of 2012

**SB 675**

Budget and Taxation & EHEA

MARCH 21

1:00 p.m.

Tuition Cap and College Opportunity Act of 2012

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Joint Senate and House Committee**

**TBD**

- Budget Conference Committee Begins

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**12am**

- 2012 Session Ends