

Faculty Senate Meeting
January 18, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
President's Boardroom,
14th floor, Saratoga Building from 12:00 p.m.-1:00pm

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

There was no discussion of the minutes and Vinny motioned to approve and Laurie seconded. Minutes were approved as is.

Update from Dr Ward

President Jarrell was unable to attend as he was at the inauguration of the Moore administration.

There are currently searches for Deans of the Graduate School, Nursing School, and Library - there is also an ongoing search for General counsel.

Planning has begun for convocation in the Fall. The Deans have been asked to provide names of people who can do TED type talks as part of the event.

Middle States re-accreditation self study process is beginning. Of all the re-accreditations the Middle States accreditation is the one that deals with the ability to get funds and provide financial aid.

Dean Reynolds and Dr. Ward are co-chairing the steering committees.

Question: Governor Hogan issued an emergency directive to not use TikTok or other China based apps. Is that something that the campus is discussing?

Dr. Ward: It is a Directive from the outgoing Governor to all state agencies - although not all directives apply to the UM System. General Counsel has been examining the impacts of such a ban before moving forward. Initially the inclination is to follow the directive, but feedback is needed to understand and make a complete and thorough rational decision.

Q: is there any information that can be shared.

Dr. Ward asked us to share the notice from Dr. Murray related to TikTok - see below.

Happy New Year!

I apologize for sending you a long email, but I wanted to make sure that you knew of Governor Hogan's Emergency Directive that was announced in December to prohibit the use of China and Russia-based products and platforms in state government, including TikTok. So far, at least twenty-one other states have taken official action against TikTok. At the federal level, President Biden has signed legislation to ban TikTok from being used on federal government-issued devices, and FBI Director Christopher Wray recently stated that TikTok is a

threat to national security with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr concurring and supporting its ban due to safety concerns.

We have been put on notice that there are operational and reputational risks to continuing to use products by companies on the state and federal ban lists. These entities and products present an unacceptable level of cybersecurity risk to Federal, State, Local Government, Education institutions, and individual consumers. They are known to engage in cyber-espionage, surveillance of government entities and institutions, and inappropriate collection of sensitive information. TikTok's privacy policy reveals the type of information that is collected by their platform and shared with third parties. The excessive data collected includes: browsing history, location data, file names and types, stored data including text, images, and videos, device ID, device settings, and keystroke patterns. By collecting keystrokes, TikTok can acquire user passwords, passcodes, pins, and communications that include personal information.

While the governor's directive is not binding on USM institutions, we are planning on moving forward with blocking access to TikTok from the University network, as well as blocking the following other banned applications included in the Governor's Directive that currently show a small amount of usage at UMB (Riot Games, Taobao, QQ, Alibaba, Alibaba Cloud, WeChat, League of Legends, Cainiao, and Sogou). The emergency directive underscores the importance of cybersecurity awareness and remaining vigilant in our continuing efforts to ensure the security of University data and protection of private information.

Before proceeding to block TikTok and the other banned applications, we feel it is prudent to perform due diligence and ask for input and feedback regarding the impact of doing so. The feedback we have received from the Deans of the UMB Schools has been consistent, i.e., they don't anticipate any major issue or impact to business and/or academic operations in their respective school if these applications were blocked.

I wanted to let you know of about this pending action and seek your thoughts and perspective as the President of the UMB Faculty Senate. I welcome your feedback and if you would like to, I would be happy to discuss this with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter

Comment related to possible ban: the banning of TikTok has led to students using the device on their data plan which ends up costing our students money.

CUSF updates

There will be a research committee added to the CUSF agenda. This committee will be formed soon and we will be able to provide updates as we move forward.

Awards committee met in December and the recommendations have been sent forward.

There were lots of good candidates and the decision was difficult.

There was a conversation about getting more data on faculty within the system.

There are several bills related to scholarship that have not yet dropped.

To be on the newsletter distribution list please let Susan know.

We should work through our state relations personnel on any comments/concerns on bills

Shared governance survey will be forthcoming.

Annapolis day will be 2/15 - David Gray is chairing that from the CUSF level - the sessions will be primarily in person although there will be one that is done through zoom.

Want to encourage all the committees to meet prior to the next meeting.

Lunch and Mingle

Adjourn at 1pm