



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES Senate Minutes

April 21, 2026

In-person Frederick Douglass Library Auditorium
Virtually through Microsoft Teams

I. Welcome and Call to Order

- Meeting started at 11:04 am
- Meeting was called to order by Dr. Erin Tucker-Oluwole
- Approximately 16 people in-person, 83 people on-line

Welcome and Greetings to Participants (Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole, Senate Chair)

Welcome and greetings to participants. We appreciate your participation and look forward to a productive discussion. Please feel free to engage and share your thoughts throughout the meeting.

- National Library Week is being celebrated with activities such as an escape room and story time sessions for children.
- Spring Fest includes various events and activities aimed at engaging students and promoting community spirit on campus.
- Both events highlight the importance of community involvement and the celebration of educational resources and student life.

Senate Nominations and Elections

- Nominations for the 2026-2027 academic year are currently open until April 24th.
- Four positions are available: chair, vice chair, secretary, and parliamentarian.
 - Chair: Responsible for leading meetings, setting agendas, and representing the Senate in official capacities.
 - Vice Chair: Assists the Chair in their duties and steps in when the Chair is unavailable.
 - Secretary: Manages meeting minutes, official correspondence, and documentation for the Senate.
 - Parliamentarian: Ensures that meetings adhere to established rules and procedures, providing guidance on parliamentary matters.
- Nominations can be made through the weekly UMES news or by contacting Senate officers directly.
- The deadline for submitting nominations is April 24, 2026.
- A link for elections will be released on April 30, 2026, and will go to May 7, 2026.

- The new Senate Board will be announced at the final May meeting, which is our joint meeting with Faculty Assembly.
- Volunteer committee chairs for this academic year are being recommended to be retained as committee chair.

II. Approval of February 17, 2025, and March 10, 2026, UMES Senate Minutes – Motion to Approve Minutes (Ms. Veronica Fosque, Senate Secretary)

- Malkia Johnson moved to approve both minutes; seconded by Dr. Grace Nawamba
- All in favor of approving minutes – None Opposed, No abstention.
- February 17, 2026, and March 10, 2026, Senate Minutes were Approved.

III. Today's Business

1. Updates from the Office of President (Dr. Heidi Anderson)

- Thank you to Dr. Tarah Owens, her search committee, and Academic Search for their hard work appointing a Vice President for Enrollment and Management.
- Dr. Brian Clemens appointed as Vice President for Enrollment Management, starting June 1, after a robust search involving 68 applicants and multiple interview rounds.
- Clemens brings over 20 years of experience across enrollment, student affairs, and financial aid, with a mathematics background supporting data-driven management.
- The swift hire ensures leadership stability and allows VP Jenkins to focus on her Chief of Staff and Presidential Strategy roles.

Stacey Abrams'

- Stacey Abrams' visit as part of the presidential lecture series enhanced UMES visibility, facilitated by VP Vickers and AVP Charmaine Hilton leveraging alumni networks.
- The event generated strong student engagement and media attention, with recordings to be shared via PAC 14.

Legislative Session

- FY27 state budget secured an additional \$1 million for veterinary building planning and \$4.5 million pre-authorized for FY28 capital funding.
- Legislative advocacy led by Director of Government Affairs Jim Matthias and others ensured these allocations.
- Amendments now permit demolition of Nuttle Hall, enabling timely housing facility updates.
- MHEC will be offering professional and graduate scholarship programs were legislated, benefiting UMES students.
- Thank you to Senator Caroza and to Delegate Smith both for working very hard on those two bills.
- No direct budget cuts for FY27, but COLA reduced from 2.5% to 1.5%, with caution advised for FY28 due to election-year fiscal tightening.

- President Anderson urged fiscal prudence and proactive planning to mitigate potential future cuts.
- Capital funds are restricted to infrastructure and cannot be diverted to personnel or operations, framing budget flexibility.

2. Updates on National Library Week Activities (Joseph Bree, Senate Parliamentarian)

- National Library Week featured interactive activities like a library escape room and storytelling for local youth, coordinated by Joseph Bree and the library committee.
- Participants can book sessions for the escape room at the library, which features a series of puzzles to solve.
- Volunteers are encouraged to assist with reading sessions for children, promoting literacy and engagement.
- The activities aim to foster community involvement and create enjoyable learning experiences for all ages.
- Open invitations extend to students, faculty, staff, and departments to engage in puzzles and literacy events.

3. Updates from Counseling Services (Dr. Malkia Johnson, Director)

- Mental Health Awareness Month in May will be marked by “UMES Goes Green” initiatives and the Out of the Darkness Walk on April 30.
- Dr. Malkia Johnson detailed a week-long schedule including suicide awareness, wellness tents with destressing activities, and community partner involvement.
- The Out of the Darkness Walk focuses on awareness and resource sharing over fundraising, with optional team competitions.
- Go Green Week activities include educational events on alcohol awareness, yoga, hip hop aerobics, and financial wellness workshops.
- Communication and branding for these events are being finalized to maximize campus participation and impact.
- Branding efforts will focus on creating visually appealing materials, such as flyers and digital graphics, that resonate with the university's identity and promote engagement.
- Collaboration with student organizations and departments will enhance outreach and encourage participation through co-hosted activities and shared resources.

4. Updates from the Office of Administration and Finance (Mr. Wade Henley, Vice President for Administration and Finance)

The Office of Administration and Finance provided critical reminders on budget discipline and contract management amid ongoing fiscal vigilance.

- Strict procurement protocols reinforced: only authorized procurement staff may sign contracts, protecting UMES from unfavorable terms and ensuring compliance with Maryland state law.
 - Contracts involve commitments to pay for goods or services; unauthorized signings risk financial and legal exposure.
 - All contracts must be routed through procurement, not individuals, including no submissions to Mr. Matt Taylor.
- Fiscal year-end spending controls established with a May 31 deadline for requisitions, excluding grants and major events.
- Travel is limited to essential trips only, with discretionary spending curtailed to preserve budget strength through June 30.
- Revenue trends remain positive with tuition and auxiliary income exceeding last year, while personnel expenses have increased and contracting costs have decreased.
- Travel expenses have reduced month-over-month but remain 27% above last year, prompting travel restrictions.
- McKinsey Scott funds review ongoing, with an initial project funding list expected in May.
- Project evaluations are thorough; lack of immediate contact does not indicate exclusion.
- EV charging station feasibility committee seeking additional volunteers to assess cost, placement, and pricing strategies.
- Mrs. Sherrell McBride is collecting volunteer names for the EV Charging Station Committee. Volunteers will play a key role in shaping sustainable initiatives that align with the university's commitment to environmental responsibility. If you are interested in serving on the EV Committee, email your name to Ms. McBride
- Ms. Jicola Sturgis will lead this committee; costs and user fees will be evaluated before any implementation.
- Any questions specific questions concerning contracts or budget, can be answered by AVP Wright or me.

5. Updates from Campus Police (Chief Mark A. Tyler)

The Office of the Registrar plays a central role in academic program management and student success through improved systems integration and communication.

- Scooter use poses safety risks due to reckless operation and lack of helmets; a campus policy is planned for fall implementation.
- Chief Tyler and Student Experience are collaborating on a policy modeled on other universities, balancing regulation with usability.

- Options range from permissive speed and liability rules to outright bans, as seen in University of Maryland College Park.
- Parking citations have increased sharply, surpassing last year's total early in the year, driven by unclear or missing signage.
- Signage replacement is underway, targeting problem areas like the pharmacy building, bus circle, and library parking lot. Improved signage aims to reduce violations by clarifying parking rules to students and visitors.
- Enforcement includes citations, booting, and towing, with escalating fines up to \$600 for severe or repeated violations. Parents often discover outstanding fines during vehicle registration renewals, adding external pressure to resolve citations.
- Chief Tyler emphasized the importance of clear communication and signage to reduce unintentional violations and improve parking compliance. Clear and visible signage can help inform students and staff about parking regulations, reducing confusion and potential violations. Regular updates and maintenance of signage are essential to ensure that all information is current and easily understood by the campus community. Engaging with students to gather feedback on signage effectiveness can lead to improvements and foster a culture of compliance.

IV. Comments & Announcements

- The School of Agriculture and Natural Sciences center for Student Excellence presents the Dean's Award for Student Leadership event. The Dean's Award for Student Leadership event is scheduled for today from 11 AM to 2 PM in the SSC courtyard. It's an outdoor extravaganza for driving change, innovation and celebrating student clubs and initiatives. The event will feature free food, music, and activities. It includes a full agenda with highlights such as the North Bay education and DASL Expo, award ceremony, along with opportunities for student club exploration.
- Encouragement for participation in upcoming activities. Join the Out of the Darkness Walk on April 30 to raise awareness for mental health and support those affected by suicide. Participate in National Library Week activities, including the escape room and storytime sessions, to celebrate the importance of libraries. Engage in Spring Fest events to foster community spirit and enjoy various activities planned throughout the week.

V. Adjournment

- Meeting Adjourned at 11:52 am.