

THE RED BRICKS

"From The BRICKERS of UMBC"

Vol 1
No 1

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TROUBLE AHEAD?

OPEN LETTER TO THE CHANCELLOR, DEAN OF FACULTY, AND DIVISION CHAIRMEN OF UMBC

SINCE THE FORMATION OF UMBC, THE STUDENT POPULATION HAS EXPERIENCED CONTINUOUS FRUSTRATION IN ITS EFFORTS TO HAVE THE UNIVERSITY MACHINERY RESPOND TO STUDENT NEEDS. INSTEAD, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND FACULTY COMMITTEES, WHETHER THROUGH DELIBERATE INTENT OR BUREAUCRATIC PARALYSIS, SEEM TO EXIST ONLY TO DAMPEN AND SUPPRESS STUDENT REQUESTS.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THOSE, BOTH IN THE FACULTY AND THE ADMINISTRATION, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF UMBC ARE CONCERNED MORE ABOUT BUILDING NEW BUILDINGS, PUBLISHING ARTICLES, ATTAINING TENURE, AND OTHER PURSUITS DEVOID OF RELEVANCE TO STUDENT WELFARE.

NOW, COUNTLESS REAMS OF COMMITTEE REPORTS, LETTERS, MEMOS, AND THREE YEARS LATER, A TIME FOR ACTION IS LONG OVERDUE. THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN PUT OFF WITH RED TAPE AND TRIVIAL CONCESSIONS LONG ENOUGH.

WHILE A GUISE OF DEMOCRACY EXISTS AT UMBC, IN REALITY ALL IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE ARBITRARILY BY A FEW OFFICIALS AT HILLCREST. THE FACULTY HAS SHUNNED ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS STUDENTS AND TO ITSELF TO INSURE A DEMOCRATIC BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY. THE FACULTY PERMITTED OUTRAGEOUS INFRINGEMENTS ON THE RIGHTS OF FREE EXPRESSION AND FREE PRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR AND DEAN OF FACULTY. BY DEFAULT, THE ADMINISTRATION, UN CHALLENGED, ALMOST SINGLEHANDEDLY RULES UMBC.

DUE TO CONSISTANT VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE STUDENTS AND FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THEIR WELFARE, WE DEMAND AN OPEN MEETING IN THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING WITH THE CHANCELLOR, DEAN OF FACULTY AND DIVISION CHAIRMEN, WITHIN A ONE WEEK PERIOD, TO PUBLICLY PRESENT THE FOLLOWING GRIEVANCES:

- 1) WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENT FUNDS BY THE CHANCELLOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF CENSORING STUDENT PUBLICATIONS, DIALOGUE, AND CENSORING OF THE GILCHRIST EXHIBIT LAST SPRING BY THE DEAN OF FACULTY.
- 2) a) THE MACKIE COMPANY'S EXPLOITATION OF STUDENTS THROUGH HIGH PRICES AND INFERIOR FOODS. b) THE LOCKING OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS PRESENTS A SEVERE INCONVENIENCE TO MANY STUDENTS. (EX.: THE 3:00 CLOSING TIME OF THE CAFETERIA) c) THE LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF FOOD IN MORNING AND EVENING HOURS. (EX.: THE CAFETERIA HOT LINE IS OPEN ONLY FROM 11 TO 2)
- 3) LACK OF COOPERATION AND COURTESY BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IN RESPONDING TO STUDENT NEEDS AND REQUESTS. STUDENTS ARE SHUFFLED FROM OFFICE TO OFFICE AND MADE TO WAIT IN ORDER TO RECTIFY SOME SITUATION, SEEK INFORMATION OR FILL OUT SOME FORM. IT SEEMS THAT UMBC'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH CONFERENCES, PAPERWORK, LUNCH BREAKS, ETC. TO THE POINT WHERE STUDENTS OFTEN HAVE TO WAIT DAYS FOR AN APPOINTMENT. (EXAMPLES: a) THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR ONE HOUR EVERY DAY AT LUNCHTIME JUST WHEN MOST STUDENTS ARE FREE AND MIGHT NEED ASSISTANCE. b) ANY INTERACTION WITH THE BUSINESS OFFICE INVARIABLY INVOLVES RED TAPE, DELAYS AND DISCOURTESY c) PHYSICAL PLANT OFFICE HAS BEEN GENERALLY NON-COOPERATIVE WITH STUDENTS. d) PLACEMENT WAS NON-EXISTENT EXCEPT FOR A FEW LEAFLETS IN THE LIBRARY. REGISTRATION AND ADMISSION INVOLVES LONG LINES, SHORT OFFICE HOURS, AND OTHER INCONVENIENCES.
- 4) NO STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON FACULTY COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH PROMOTION AND TENURE. THUS, TEACHING ABILITY AND STUDENT OPINIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED WITH OTHER CRITERIA IN HIRING AND PROMOTING.

SUPPORT YOUR S. G. A.

THE UMBC EXECUTIVE BOARD: DARRYL HAGY, PRESIDENT SGA; JAMES SCHWARTZ, VICE-PRESIDENT SGA, HARVEY PATS, TREASURER SGA, EDUARD BERLIN, SEC. OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES, ANDRIS SKUJA, SEC. OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION, MICHAEL WOODWARD SEC. OF INTERCOLLEGIATE AFFAIRS, DANA LEVITZ, SEC. OF UMBC AFFAIRS.