

Questions from Faculty Senate 11/25/2025

What impact is Maryland's \$1.4 billion budget deficit expected to have on USM's budget?

- The federal government shutdown will undoubtedly have an impact on the state's revenue.
- Governor Moore has said taxes will not be increased. General Assembly leadership has indicated that they want to avoid new taxes. If there is a significant shortfall and there isn't significant revenue to close the gap, we should expect cuts to help balance the budget.
- Presidents across the USM – myself included – have reiterated that there are no “easy” cuts left, though the stated intention is that any additional cuts will not impact institutional operations.

We've heard that having Commencement at the stadium generates more revenue. Are there estimates of the net cost of each location when revenue is accounted for?

- Revenue from Spring 2025 Commencement was generated through two outlets, sales from the Bookstore and concessions.
- The Bookstore generated around \$16,000 in sales, while concession sales totaled around \$6,000.
- Information also shows that alumni giving is tied to a positive Commencement experience and holding the ceremony on campus versus to a neutral location could link to increased giving over time. However, we won't know for sure until we are several years down the road and can track historical giving.

What steps have been taken to prevent students from parking in red spaces, and is there any evidence that those steps have worked based on number of citations over time? We heard of several measures earlier in the semester, but it is unclear whether those steps have made a difference.

- Parking Services has been working to address parking enforcement throughout the semester, and we are continuing to explore other potential improvements for the spring. We also continue to look for additional spaces.
- For instance, with the Student Art House demolition on West College Avenue now completed, there is an opportunity to quickly convert the space into a temporary overflow parking area directly across from the Solar Lot.
- This would provide more relief for faculty who tend to park on the north end of main campus.
- In addition to the expanded signage at the entrance of each lot, parking enforcement has continued to serve as a deterrent to prevent students from parking in employee spaces.
- Parking Services has provided comparative citations data:
 - Fall 2025 (as of November 21): 2,479 citations so far in the Fall 2025 semester for parking in an improper space, compared to 3,293 issued in Fall 2024, 2,198 in Fall 2023, and 1,942 in Fall 2022.

Has the “Plus One” benefit for the library, performing arts, and athletics been removed from employees? It is still listed on [HR’s benefits page](#). If it has been removed, when and why?

- As best we can tell, this program was rarely used in the years leading up to the pandemic and appears to have been eliminated once we came out of it.
- I am happy to take feedback if there is renewed interest in a program like this.