MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2019

TO: Michael Lane, Ph.D.
Chair, UMES Senate

FROM: Linda Johnson, Ph.D.
Chair, UMES Senate Constitution Committee

RE: Suspending Constitutional Rule for Senator Vote

Dr. Lane,

Members of the Senate Constitution Committee met today to discuss procedural options for conducting the next meeting as it relates to the function of the Senators. Briefly, the committee entertained and agreed upon a course of action for the next meeting. To uphold the Senate constitution regarding control of the vote by Senators, the committee recommended the following:

1. Contact the leaders of the various Senate constituents to identify and assure the presence of at least 15 Senators to constitute a voting quorum (equal representation of the five constituencies is not required).
   a. By doing so, the Senate body would be in compliance and can formally conduct business.
   b. Given the expected roles of the Senators and the process by which they will operate have not been defined or widely understood by the Senate constituents, suspending the single constitutional rule for Senator vote to carry a motion may be in our best interest.

2. Discuss with the 15 Senators (or more) the idea of the Senators favorably voting for a motion to suspend the single rule for Senator vote to carry a motion for this academic year.
a. Senate leadership and Senate Constitution Committee asks for a year for assessment.

3. Discuss a plan for assessing the role of the Senators and the level to which their voting practices align with Senate constituents by monitoring and documenting:
   a. attendance
   b. voting pattern as it relates to that of the constituents
   c. timely decision making
   d. method of communication with its constituents

At the end of the assessment process, the Senators will entertain a motion to reinstate voting responsibilities, redefine the scope of the voting responsibilities, or remove the voting responsibility from constitution by-laws.

Cc: Kate Brown, Ph.D.
    Joseph Bree
    Nkem Nonyel, PharmD, MPH, BCPS