

Press Release

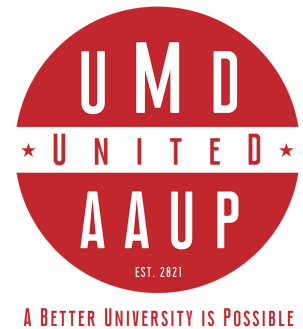
April 21, 2022

Join us for a press conference on the UMD financial analysis on Monday, April 25th at 10am. Please register [here](#) if you wish to attend.

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UMD invests in athletics and higher management salaries, over teachers and staff

A recent independent financial analysis of UMD, College Park reveals that, despite frequent claims of austerity, from 2013 to 2022 UMD upper administration increased the number of management and financial employees while reducing workers in other categories. Salaries of top administrators rose disproportionately, while all other salaries stagnated. The university increased student enrollment and tuition without hiring a corresponding number of faculty to provide instruction. It replaced stable tenure-track professorial positions with precarious and lower paid non-tenure track jobs and hired more graduate teaching assistants. The report suggests that reducing administrative bloat is necessary if the university is to fulfill its mission of public service and education.



“It is tragic that the University of Maryland has historically and continues to neglect the 68.6% non-tenure track members of faculty on our campus (according to the University’s accounting), who carry a huge part of the teaching load, have no job security or protections, nor are they for the most part paid adequate wages. This financial analysis shows where the funds in the University’s budget actually goes. As the saying goes: ‘Show me your budget, and I will show you your priorities’,” Sabrina Alcorn Baron, UMD principal lecturer and AAUP member, said.

In addition, the report shows that UMD, College Park, has one of the largest athletics subsidies among its Big 10 peers, only comparable to Rutgers. UMD administration has had to subsidize the athletic program to cover its significant deficits, for a combined total of \$132.5 million in 2013-2020 alone. These subsidies come from a combination of direct institutional funds and a mandatory \$399 athletic fee charged to all students. Athletic administrative and staff salaries increased 62 percent and coaches’ by over 49 percent from 2013-2020. In 2020, those same administrators and coaches comprised 42.5 percent of the entire athletics budget.

“This report is alarming,” said Fatemeh Keshavarz, the Roshan Chair in Persian Studies and former director of the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of

Maryland. “It shows a continued erosion in the instructional apparatus of the university and a systematic trend toward hiring poorly paid precariously employed contingent faculty with expanded teaching loads. In my seven years of directing the School of Languages, Literatures and cultures, we lost 13 senior and 2 junior professors and got approval for 8 searches only. Neither was I able to address the chronic salary compression of my faculty in any meaningful way despite multiple attempts. The rhetoric was that there were not enough funds available. The report shows there were funds but salary compression was not a priority of the university.”

UMD’s [ten-year strategic plan](#), released this year, fails to include any long-term goals to address athletics’ financial deficit. Yet, university staff still do not have a living wage, academic work is increasingly reliant on precarious positions, and graduate student needs are regularly ignored by the university. We call on UMD leadership to begin fulfilling their lofty calls to “invest in people and communities” and solve “humanity’s grand challenges” by addressing these historic injustices at UMD.

Fearless Student Employees (FSE) president Greg Kramida replied to the report by saying, “The actions of our administrators reflected in this sound fiscal analysis clearly demonstrate that their true priorities lie in conflict with the rosy picture they are selling to the public, faculty, and students. Our administration seems less concerned with research and education than with retaining their wealth, status, and power, while marketing their enterprise with alluring tangential programs and pretty words.” FSE member Nate Beard added, “This report—and other organizing efforts—gives me hope. Faculty, staff, students and grad workers are coming together to collectively show that the university can better support us. We don’t have to struggle in precarity and poverty if the university invests material resources in the people who teach and research on a daily basis.”

This independent budget analysis was conducted by Howard Bunsis, a professor of accounting at Eastern Michigan University. Bunsis was commissioned by the UMD chapter of the American Association of University Professors, with the support of its [members](#), the UMD staff union, [AFSCME Local 1072](#), and the [Fearless Student Employees](#). Dr. Bunsis will make a public presentation of his findings on **Friday, April 22nd, at 2pm**. If you wish to attend this detailed presentation of the report, please register [here](#). It will also be recorded and will be available upon request.