By Gil Klein

President Javier Miyares and Provost Marie Cini launched a process to improve academic governance at University of Maryland University College at a Town Hall-11.

Speaking to 12-

the Board of Regents for approval in September, with the new system expected to be ready for implementation in October.

Miyares emphasized that academicgovernance at UMUC has always been advisory and that will continue in the new model.

Interactions with the present Faculty Advisory Council have been

longstanding confusion about faculty roles at UMUC and the scope of academic governance. The current Faculty Advisory Council comprises a majority of part-time faculty.

In the future, the president said, governance will be led by the airs, 12-month collegiate, as well as librarians holding permanent status

Miyares said that two questions will guide the series of forums this summer: First, who has stewardship of the curriculum and its delivery, and how is that stewardship exercised? Second, in what other ways should the core faculty be involved in providing advice and feedback?

The goal is

-inspecial emphasis placed on treating all faculty and staff with respect and
offering them input into the criteria used for their evaluations, he said. It
will be managed with transparency with the president and senior
leadership team communicating regularly with the entire university
community.

The new governance structure, the president said, must recognize that the Board of Regents approved a faculty body that was advisory in nature the Faculty Advisory Council instead of a more traditional faculty senate. At the same time, it must maintain the integrity of UMUC leadership structure, which gives the president the responsibility of making strategic decisions and gives the provost final academic accountability.

With competition so fierce in the online adult education market, the governing structure must also allow for some information to remain confidential, he said.

Miyares said his assumption is that design of the curriculum and the assessment of student learning experiences should be the responsibility of the core faculty.

But, he added, that still leaves several questions to be answered in determining how the university is governed: What is the stateside core How should the roles and responsibilities for these faculty be defined in ways that foster coordination, cooperation and productivity? How should the stewardship of the curriculum be structured? And how can adjunct faculty provide input and feedback on their courses?

In streamlining titles, he asked, should be reserved for core (stateside 12-month) faculty only? What should be appropriate titles for overseas full-time traveling faculty?

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your participation. We value your perspectives, and thank you for your

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