Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life

Minutes
Public Session

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (EPSL) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents (BOR) met virtually (via Zoom) in public session on Monday, June 5, 2023. The meeting was convened at 12:01 p.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Helal, Oludayo, Leggett, Peters, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Bittinger, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Bowman, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Evans, Ms. Herbst, Dr. Joshi, Dr. Kaza, Dr. Lee, Dr. Moore, Dr. Moreira, Dr. Muhoro, Dr. Salice, and Ms. Wilkerson.

Guests also participated via the public, listen-only line.

Chair Gourdine welcomed all to the meeting. She thanked the committee for being flexible and for making time for this special meeting. She noted that in most cases, the timing and sequence of the statewide academic program proposal process works in sync with our EPSL and BOR meetings. Occasionally, there are timing issues. Chancellor Perman and Chair Gourdine talked to the USM staff and deemed it reasonable and ideal for these two programs, which experienced timing complications, to be brought forth in a special session as opposed to waiting until this committee's next regular meeting in September.

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals
Towson University: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sustainability and Environmental Change
Dr. Cynthia Cooper, Acting Provost; Dr. Chris Salice, Interim Dean of the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics; and Dr. Joel Moore, Program Director, Environmental Science and Studies presented the proposal for Towson University to create a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sustainability and Environmental Change (SEC). The Ph.D. in SEC is an interdisciplinary, research-focused program that will strengthen students' research skills and deepen their understanding of sustainability issues and novel solutions to environmental challenges. The addition of this program will also support TU's effort to achieve R2 Carnegie classification. The program will leverage existing environmental-related programs, and students in those programs can feed into the proposed program. Students pursuing the Ph.D. will become proficient in research methods and analyses relevant to their dissertation topics while also gaining exposure to diverse perspectives pertinent to addressing complex environmental problems. Steady job growth is expected nationally, but it's likely to be higher in Maryland due to the Chesapeake Bay. Students will engage with faculty and environmental professionals in identifying and pursuing research projects aimed at understanding how anthropogenic environmental change and sustainability practices are

impacting both human and ecological/scientific systems.

Regent Helal thanked the University for discussing (in the proposal) possible partnerships with UMES, and she looks forward to that work. Chancellor Perman noted that this program would materially add to USM's goal of being premier in addressing environmental and sustainability concerns. In response to a question from Regent Wood, the presenters noted that no duplication concerns have been raised and that the program's unique focus on the scientific and human elements of sustainability and environmental change would make the TU program unique. Also, Towson has partnered with Morgan State University on aspects of this work. The proposal has gone through the standard review and approval processes with USM institutions having time to submit objections. Via the USM process, there were no objections. It is noted that, via the process conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, other institutions in the state will have the opportunity to object to the establishment of this program. However, the USM staff believes the institution has done its due diligence regarding a state-wide examination of programs to try to ensure there is no duplication.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to offer the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sustainability and Environmental Change.

The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Master of Science (MS) in Cybersecurity
Dr. Antonio Moreira, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Dr. Keith Bowman, Dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology; and Dr. Anupam Joshi, Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering presented the proposal for UMBC to create a Master of Science in Cybersecurity. After a short transition period, the proposed M.S. in Cybersecurity will replace the existing M.P.S. in Professional Studies: Cybersecurity track as UMBC's primary graduate degree in the cybersecurity domain. The Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering and College of Engineering and Information Technology work closely with their respective advisory boards to build external relations to make sure that UMBC is responsive to the regional and national needs of industry stakeholders in providing affordable, accessible ways to effectively enhance the professionalism and diversity of Maryland's cybersecurity workforce. The M.S. in Cybersecurity will be a non-thesis program with core courses focusing on the operational and theoretical aspects of cybersecurity. Elective courses will allow students to dive deeper or specialize on more granular topics that are relevant to their personal interests or professional needs. A subsequent submission will propose offering the program at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Maryland remains a global hub of cybersecurity employment. A total of 31,000 unique job postings for cyber/information security engineers or analysts were posted in the Baltimore and Washington, DC metropolitan areas between July 2021 and July 2022. This region is expected to add 130,000 jobs that require digital skills in the next five years. By launching this new graduate degree program, UMBC will continue directly contributing to USM's strategic priorities to help meet these critical needs in the State and region. This program would meet a demonstrated need and is unique

with its focus on both technical and non-technical aspects of the field. Regent Gooden reaffirmed the wealth of job opportunities. Chair Gourdine suggested that the USM team and the committee explore if there is more USM institutions can do or should be doing to help prepare students for jobs in this field. Regent Gooden agreed and offered that we should consider artificial intelligence in the discussion too.

The proposal has gone through the standard review and approval processes with USM institutions having time to submit objections. Via the USM process, there were no objections. It is noted that, via the process conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, other institutions in the state will have the opportunity to object to the establishment of this program. However, the USM staff believes the institution has done its due diligence regarding a state-wide examination of programs to try to ensure there is no duplication.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to offer the Master of Science (MS) in Cybersecurity.

The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Gooden, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

Final Comments
Regent Wood shared that he understands that laws regarding duplication may have changed. He asked Katherine Bainbridge if the regents could be updated accordingly.

Motion to Adjourn
Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair