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**TOPIC:** Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching

**COMMITTEE:** Education Policy and Student Life

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** March 13, 2013

**SUMMARY:** At the Board of Regents meeting on November 2, 2012, the Committee of the Whole approved the establishment of the University System of Maryland Center for Academic Transformation which has since been renamed the Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CIELT). CIELT will enable an expansion of existing system-led efforts for collaboration, enhance opportunities for funding of new initiatives, provide a resource for research in determining effective redesign models, and enable the USM to secure and expand its leadership position for the benefit of its students.

USM's Office of Academic Affairs is nearing completion of a national search for the Executive Director of CIELT. A search committee consisting of administrators and academic innovation experts from USM institutions, a national academic transformation expert, and USM Academic Affairs staff have conducted the first round of interviews with four extremely strong candidates. The search committee will conduct a second round of interviews with finalists and hope to make an offer within the next month. A small permanent staff will be hired after the Executive Director is in place. The CIELT Executive Director and staff will:

- support, coordinate, and assess academic innovation activities on the campuses;
- track and assess national trends and activities in academic transformation;
- incentivize faculty, through a Fellows program, to initiate these innovations;
- apply for and raise external funds for system-wide transformation activities; and
- disseminate best practices among USM institutions and to the broader higher education community.

As with other System office based initiatives, the focus will be on campus action and System coordination of those activities. While USM campuses will continue to be engaged in institutionally-supported teaching and learning innovations, CIELT will become a valued resource for our institutions and the higher education community more generally. The Center will bring greater focus, visibility, and fund raising potential to USM's academic transformation efforts. The Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching will solidify USM's position of leadership in this important new dynamic in teaching and learning activities being incorporated by the higher education community.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** This is an information item.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This is an information item.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** This is an information item.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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