



**Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Columbus Center
October 15, 2013**

Minutes of the Public Session

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (EPSL) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in public session on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in the Multi-Purpose Room of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Columbus Center, Baltimore, MD. The meeting was convened at 9:35 a.m. Regents present were: Ms. Michaux Gonzales, Chair, Dr. Florestano, Mr. Kinkopf, Mr. Manizade, Rev. Reid, Mr. Slater, and Ms. Turner. Chancellor Kirwan was also present.

Also attending were: Dr. Beise, Dr. Boughman, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Chambers, Dr. Chandler, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Faulk, Ms. Fidler, Mr. Fox, Ms. Hollander, Ms. Hollman, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Jarrell, Dr. Lee, Mr. Lurie, Ms. Moultrie, Mr. Muntz, Dr. Rhodes, Ms. Ryan, Dr. Shapiro, Ms. Stokes McElveen, Mr. Thomas, Dr. Ward, Ms. Williams, Dr. Wolfe, Dr. Wood, Dr. Young, Dr. Zimmerman, and other observers.

Information Items

Role and Function of the Education Policy and Student Life Committee

The Committee discussed its role and function in order to refine the agenda for the current academic year. The goal was to reach consensus on the basic work plan of the Committee to ensure a productive year.

The following list of responsibilities were briefly discussed:

- Ensure academic programs are consistent with institutional missions and System priorities.
- Ensure that faculty personnel policies and procedures complement academic priorities.
- Ensure that each institution assesses the effectiveness of its academic programs.
- Assess the coordination of academic resources to capture the full potential of USM.
- Ensure that academic budgets reflect institutional and System academic priorities.
- Develop strategies that will enhance and support academic innovation and transformation across the USM in conjunction with discussions of the IT Work Group to be appointed.
- Ensure the full integration and prioritization of Student Affairs at institutions and the USM through:
 - (a) assessment of select student support services including, but not limited to, financial aid and mental health services;
 - (b) discussion of co-curricular services such as library and repository resources and learning support services; and
 - (c) reporting on student inclusion and success in activities such as athletics.

This list presents areas of focus for EPSL, but it is not intended to be comprehensive. This discussion of the Committee's roles and functions should be reflected in the Committee's tentative agenda for this academic year, which will also be discussed during this meeting.

Regent Kinkopf requested that child abuse, sexual assault, and alcohol and other drug use and abuse on campuses be added to the list of topics explored by the Committee. Regent Gonzales invited committee members to make additional suggestions at any time.

Tentative Agenda

The Tentative Agenda for 2013-2014 comprises anticipated action items, including new academic program proposals and new Board of Regents policies, as well as information and discussion items. Some of the information items are reported on an annual schedule to ensure that the regents are well informed about topics of general interest (e.g. enrollment projections, campus crime reporting, financial aid), while others respond to specific requests for reports and recommendations on a variety of topics of interest to the Committee. Today, the Committee reviewed the proposed annual agenda.

Regent Gonzales noted that the agenda of a given meeting may be adjusted due to topics and issues that arise throughout the year. Regent Slater asked that the Committee receive an update on the progress of the Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching. Regent Reid requested that the Committee hear more about issues related to diverse student populations and student groups designed to address those populations' issues. Regent Gonzales invited committee members to make additional suggestions at any time.

Financial Aid

Financial aid has been identified as a critical issue for the Board of Regents this academic year. During the Board retreat on October 3, 2013, Board Chairman, Jim Shea, requested that the EPSL Committee examine the full complexities of financial aid and return with recommendations as to how the Board can address financial aid in ways that will assist students in their efforts to enroll in and persist through USM institutions. During each meeting this year, the EPSL Committee will focus on various aspects of financial aid. Today, the Committee shared ideas to help define how this work will unfold.

Regents found the financial aid primer to be very helpful, but they noted the need for more specifics on Maryland including, but not limited to, more details on the effects of need versus merit aid, the types of aid and the amounts distributed in Maryland, and various MD scholarship programs. It was suggested that financial aid officers from the campuses present to the Committee in order to illustrate typical financial aid scenarios, everyday financial aid challenges on campuses, and how financial aid practices and realities differ by campus.

Chancellor Kirwan asked that the Committee hear more about how the amount of aid distributed by the System compares to national averages. He also suggested the Committee explore if the System's allocation strategies are most effective, especially considering the growing number of transfer students. Regents would also like to ensure the focus on financial aid includes graduate and professional students. Dr. Boughman noted that the USM Student Council is also examining financial literacy.

Library Consortium Resources

University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) is a consortium of 16 libraries at the public universities and colleges in Maryland (all 12 USM institutions, Morgan, St. Mary's, UB Law, and UMCP Health Sciences). The consortium's executive director, Chuck Thomas, with assistance from Lucy Hollman of the University of Baltimore, shared information about the consortium's work. USMAI's mission is to provide unified, cost effective, and creative approaches to the acquisition, sharing, and management of information and knowledge resources across the 16 libraries. The consortium supports the shared mission of its member campuses to contribute to the intellectual and cultural growth of students, faculty, and staff. The USMAI consortium is governed by the Council of Library Directors, which consists of the directors of the member libraries. This body develops policies, guidelines, and strategic directions for the consortium.

Mr. Thomas shared highlights of USMAI's new strategic plan and summarized several current initiatives that reflect emerging priorities and opportunities for the libraries. Regents were please to learn that students throughout the consortium have access to over 9.7 million items without physically having to leave their home campus. Similarly, students can get a copy of a wide range of materials without going to the library, as the electronic capabilities are immense. Mr. Thomas confirmed that books, bound journals, etc. are still important and used, but that the database of electronic materials is extraordinary and growing. He also assured the regents that measures are being taken to preserve copies of scholarly works in case of technological failures.

Dr. Boughman assured the Committee that the relationships within the consortium are strong and positive and that the library consortium will play a key role in the academic transformation and innovation work as it moves forward.

MD Open Source Textbook Initiative

Jesse Fox, acting president of the USM Student Council (USMSC), shared information about the Council's Open Source Textbook Initiative. Mr. Fox shared that students often spend up to \$1,200 on textbooks each year. In order to help defray textbook costs, USMSC came to USM with a proposal to launch activities related to the adoption of open source textbooks. USM agrees with USMSC's premise that pursuit of these options shows promise to significantly reduce students' cost of attendance. USM also recognizes, as does USMSC, that text choice for any course is the prerogative of the faculty. USM has agreed to pursue USMSC's suggestion to begin conversations about the resource infrastructure that would be required to support a repository of open source texts that could be made available to faculty for use in their courses. An informational workshop for faculty is slated for early November. USMSC will engage in a pilot project aimed at encouraging volunteer faculty to evaluate some available open source texts and consider using such texts in at least one course in the Spring 2014 semester. Data from the pilot project will help inform next steps.

The Committee was pleased that USMSC is addressing this issue and encouraged the student council to continue considering ways to address faculty concerns, including those regarding financial repercussions. Although many of the courses that would be targeted include large enrollment course where intellectual property issues may not be as significant, the Committee urged the USMSC to consider faculty interests.

Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, 2012-2013

In accordance with Board Resolution III-7.03, this report details academic program actions that are delegated to the Chancellor. Ms. Teri Hollander shared that between September 2012 and August 2013, the Chancellor approved 13 new certificates and concentrations. He also approved the suspension and discontinuance of 30 degree programs, certificates, and areas of concentration. In addition, the Board of Regents approved 21 new programs and certificates. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved was shared.

New Program 5-Year Enrollment Review Process

Academic Affairs has produced a review process and chart in response to the Committee's concerns about the success and viability of the academic programs it approves. Annually, the Committee receives the results of periodic (seven year) reviews of academic programs, but a report based on the proposed chart will allow critical information about programs' progress to be shared at the five-year mark. The first full report based on this chart will be brought before the Committee during its January 2014 meeting.

Action Items

Motion to Adjourn and Reconvene in Executive Session

Regent Gonzales stated, "The Open Meetings Act permits public bodies to close their meetings to the public under certain circumstances outlined in Subtitle 5 section 10-508(a) of the Act. On this 15th day of October 2013, the Education Policy and Student Life Committee of the USM Board of Regents will vote to reconvene in closed session following the adjournment of the public session. As required by the law, we have a written statement to become part of the record, that the reason for closing this meeting is to discuss items under #7 of Article 10-508(a). We will vote to close the meeting to "consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter". Specifically, the Committee will consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the U.S. District Court's decision issued on October 7, 2013 in the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education, et al. v. Maryland Higher Education Commission, et al."

Regent Gonzales called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in executive session. (moved by Regent Reid; seconded by Regent Florestano; unanimously approved). Regent Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.