



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

**Conference Call
Wednesday, May 21, 2014**

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 Wednesday, May 21, 2014 by conference call. The meeting was convened at 2:00 p.m. Committee members present were: Ms. Michaux Gonzales (Chair), Dr. Florestano, Mr. Slater, and Ms. Turner. Chancellor Kirwan was also present.

Also attending were: Dr. Boughman, Dr. Bowman, Ms. Boyd, Dr. Chambers, Dr. Childs, Ms. Doyle, Mr. Hogan, Ms. Hollander, Ms. Jamison, Dr. Jarrell, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Lee, Ms. Massey-Burrell, Ms. Moultrie, Mr. Muntz, Dr. Nykiel, Dr. Rhodes, Ms. Ross, Ms. Scott, Ms. Seabrook, Mr. Vivona, Dr. Wolfe, and Ms. Zimmerman

Information Items

Student Financial Assistance Report

Regent Gonzales reminded the Committee of its charge to explore financial aid and of the work that has been done up to this point. Today, the Committee will receive the draft Student Financial Assistance Report. To help ensure that the report is as close to finalized as possible at the June 3rd EPSL meeting, today, regents will review, discuss, and offer feedback on the initial draft. This report is the culmination of this year's work and incorporates the thinking, expertise, and suggestions of institutional financial aid directors, USM staff, and the regents.

Teri Hollander and Chad Muntz presented the report. They highlighted the four areas of recommendations: undergraduate student loan debt, strategic use of institutional aid for undergraduate students, strengthen graduate and professional school student aid, and enhance financial literacy programs for undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students.

Regent Florestano made the following suggestions and recommendations:

- Strengthen the recommendations. They are substantive and important, but make them more direct. The other regents and Chancellor Kirwan agreed.
- Make note of specific graduate and professional student aid programs that can be targeted. We should be more specific about how we will advocate for graduate and professional students. Chancellor Kirwan agreed and noted that the System should use its influence with and connections to associations concerned about graduate/professional students (APLU, Council of Grad Schools, AAU) to bring pressure or advocacy to Congress regarding aid for those groups.

- Consider including reference to the need to improve administrative processes if that is still an issue.
- The report should clearly reference the importance of increasing financial aid funding.

Regents agreed that the recommendations associated with financial literacy are strong. Regents also made other suggestions regarding the clarity and placement of charts in order to ensure the recommendations and associated metrics are clear. Finally, Regent Slater suggested that we include a statement noting that institutions should make financial aid literacy modules available to their students.

The revised report will be presented during the June 3, 2014 EPSL meeting. Regents will then vote on whether to recommend that the Board of Regents adopt the report during its June 27, 2014 meeting.

Annual Progress Report: Institutional Programs of Cultural Diversity

Dr. John Wolfe shared that since 2008, institutions of higher education have been required to develop and implement a plan for a program of cultural diversity among its students, faculty, and staff. He notes that the reports highlight progress on institutional standing nationally and institutional efforts to:

- Increase the numerical representation of traditionally underrepresented groups among students, faculty, and staff and
- Create positive interactions and cultural awareness among students, faculty, and staff.

Highlights include:

- Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine's 2014 recognition of Bowie; Coppin; Towson; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; and University of Maryland University College among the top 100 producers of master's doctoral, and first professional degrees for African American, Native American, and Asians.
- UMCP's recognition as second in the production of African American doctoral recipients in physical science and third in the production of African American master's degree recipients in engineering.

Many other highlights were shared by Dr. Wolfe, Chancellor Kirwan, and Regent Slater and can also be found in the USM Overview.

Finally, regents asked the USM staff to explore the possibility of having institutions complete this report every two or three years to ensure sufficient time to recognize growth and progress.

Action Item

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gonzales called for a motion to adjourn. (Moved by Regent Florestano; seconded by Regent Turner; unanimously approved). Regent Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Regent Louise Michaux Gonzales