University System of Maryland
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 met in public session on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at Towson University. The meeting was convened at 9:33 a.m. Committee members present were: Regent Brady (chair) and Regents Comitz, Gonzales, Gourdine, Kinkopf, and Slater. Chancellor Caret was also present.

Also attending were: Dr. Allen, Ms. Baker, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Boughman, Dr. Bryant, Dr. Buss, Dr. Butler, Dr. Cini, Dr. DeSousa, Ms. Doyle, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Foust, Dr. Gregory, Mr. Hedgeman, Ms. Hollander, Dr. Houde, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Jamison, Dr. Krause, Mr. Laurie, Dr. Lee, Mr. Lily, Mr. Lowery, Dr. McCartney, Mr. Miyares, Dr. Moriarty, Ms. Moultrie, Ms. Murray, Ms. O'Neil, Dr. Prineas, Dr. Rashaw, Dr. Reitz, Dr. Rous, Ms. Ryan, Dr. Shapiro, Ms. Smith, Mr. Wallace, Dr. Wolfe, Dr. Wood, Mr. Young, and other guests.

Regent Brady convened the meeting and gave thanks to Regent Gonzales, outgoing chair, for her years of service and guidance to the Committee. Regent Brady turned the presentation of agenda items to Dr. Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Action Items
New Academic Program Proposal

University of Maryland, College Park: Bachelor of Science in Information Science
Dr. Boughman outlined the proposed program, and Dr. Betsy Beise, Associate Provost, and Dr. Brian Butler, Interim Dean of the iSchool, offered additional comments and answered questions. The proposed BS in Information Science stems from the growth of data generation and storage, which has created a pressing need for individuals to be educated in leveraging "big data" to create new opportunities for controlled digital experiments, supporting decision-making, and encouraging innovation. The proposed program will have a specialization in Data Science, which is not offered as an undergraduate specialization at any iSchool or research university in the country. Graduates of this program would be prepared to work in scientific data management, digital content companies, and website design, among other fields. Regent Slater inquired about the possibility of program duplication. Dr. Boughman explained that prior to the program being presented to EPSL, institutions across the state had the opportunity to object to the creation of this program. There were no objections, and it is highly unlikely that any would come forth at this time. Furthermore, the presenters described the program as unique in Maryland because:
- There is a focus on the confluence of people, data, and science, and

- The focus on data management and enhancing the accessibility and usability of data and systems differs from programs within business schools where there is more focus on process.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, College Park for the Bachelor of Science in Information Science. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Slater, and unanimously approved.

Amendments: Board of Regents Student Social Media Privacy Policy (V-1.20)
In November 2013, the Board of Regents approved a policy on Student Social Media Privacy. Shortly after the policy was passed, members of the Academic Transformation Advisory Council and other stakeholders noted that restrictive language in the policy prevented even legitimate academic uses of social media both inside and outside the classroom. In an effort to accommodate the use of social media within the academic context—while also preserving the privacy of students—the original policy was amended by the Board on September 19, 2014. In 2015, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 934 (SB 210) - *Educational Institutions – Personal Electronic Account – Privacy Protection*. The intent of the legislation and policy is to protect the privacy of students' non-institutional online accounts (email, social media, etc.) and to prohibit institutions from compelling a student to allow employees access to their personal electronic accounts for the purpose of observing or monitoring the student's activity *without* precluding the use of social media for academic/mentoring purposes and without preventing the institution's ability to investigate serious health and/or safety threats. Although HB 934 is similar to the USM's policy, some of the language of that bill necessitates further amendment to assure compliance with the new law, such as adding "prospective students" and "applicants" to the protected class. The Office of the Attorney General took part in drafting the proposed revisions and confirms that the proposed policy is in compliance with state law.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve amendments to the Board of Regents Student Social Media Privacy Policy (V-1.20). The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Kinkopf, and unanimously approved.

Salisbury University: Creation of an Honors College
Dr. Boughman outlined the proposal, and Salisbury's Dr. Diane Allen, Provost, and Dr. Jim Buss, Director of the Honors Program, offered additional comments and answered questions. The Salisbury University Faculty Senate Honors Program Committee recommended the shift from an honors program to an honors college. The current honors program is extremely popular, long-standing, and meets most of the standards of an honors college. It does not, however, meet the needs of, and to a large extent creates barriers for, students majoring in the Sciences, Pre-Professional Studies, and Business. The proposed Honors College would house three honors programs – Liberal Arts, Sciences & Pre-Professional Studies, and Business – that would meet the more diverse needs of students enrolled in the existing honors program. Moreover, by proposing three distinct honors programs, students will be able to take classes within their majors and conduct more undergraduate research or internship experiences as part of their honors

requirements. This move would broaden honors opportunities for students in different disciplines, and it would increase opportunities for faculty to be innovative in their instruction.

In response to questions from the regents, the presenters confirmed that the expansion from a program to a college would not decrease the rigor of the honors work. The creation of more pathways will yield multiple curricula to allow more students in different disciplines the ability to complete the honors curricula without confusion. Drs. Allen and Buss also shared that moving to an honors college is well aligned with national standards and best practices. Chancellor Caret noted his support for the proposal, and shared that such smaller communities, within a larger college or university, often enhance the recruitment and retention of students.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the request from Salisbury University to create an Honors College. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Gourdine, and unanimously approved.

Proposal: University of Maryland University College: New Academic Governance Policy
UMUC is requesting approval to modify its 2001 shared governance Accountability Plan. The proposed changes include deleting references to the Faculty Advisory Council and the University Advisory Council. The Faculty Advisory Council will be replaced by an Academic Advisory Board comprised primarily of full-time faculty based in Maryland. The proposed academic governance model is intended for faculty only. During the process of developing of the proposal, UMUC hosted focus group meetings, a town hall meeting, and other opportunities for review by the entire UMUC community, including an open website for comments, to give feedback on proposed academic governance changes. The proposed new structure is based on recommendations developed by a team comprised of Maryland-based full-time faculty and academic administrators and then presented to the President. President Javier Miyares and his colleagues (Dr. Marie Cini, Provost; Dr. Aric Krause, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School; and Dr. Matt Prineas, Vice Provost and Dean of the Undergraduate School) provided comments to give context to and elaborate on the proposal as outlined in the white paper, "Building the University of the Future" and the proposed policy for academic governance.

Dr. Virletta Bryant, Chair of the Council of University System Faculty, shared that a number of faculty have raised concerns about the implementation and content of the proposed changes. Dr. Bryant described the limited amount of time faculty had to give feedback and concerns faculty have about not being listened to throughout the process. She requested more time for the faculty to review the proposed changes. Regent Brady noted time between now and the October full Board of Regents meeting for concerns to be brought forth.

The regents raised questions about the vagueness of the policy, the inclusiveness of the process to propose and gather feedback on changes, and effects on accreditation. The presenters described how they were as inclusive as possible, but noted that the large number and diversity of faculty makes it difficult to get feedback from all faculty and challenging to achieving consensus from the disparate points of view. Additionally, they acknowledged groups of faculty who are not supportive of the proposal, as this signals a shift to clarifying that full-time faculty, rather than adjunct faculty should be responsible for programmatic development and oversight of

full curricula. The changes will not affect accreditation, as UMUC will still be in compliance with Middle States. Regents are in favor of moving the topic to the full Board, but recognize that more questions may arise.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the request from the University of Maryland University College to enact a New Academic Governance Policy. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Slater, and unanimously approved.

Information Items

E&E 2.0, Analytics, and Student Success
Dr. MJ Bishop, Director of the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, shared information about academic aspects of E&E 2.0, which will examine ways our campuses can be more effective and efficient, with a primary focus on how improved access to and analyses of data from academic and student services sources might inform our student success initiatives. Gathering data, providing analytics frameworks, and analyzing data in ways that will be useful in decision making will be new challenges for our institutions. However, these data and their use will be critical to enhancing student success while also reducing the high costs often associated with such interventions. Dr. Bishop described the System's relationship with a non-profit organization called the Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework. Our institutions will work with PAR at varying levels to analyze their Closing the Achievement Gap initiatives and/or to have access to data collection and analysis in order to explore questions around retention and college completion. Dr. Bishop also described challenges to this work, strategies for dealing with those challenges, and the many activities that have been planned to fully engage our institutions. Regent Brady noted that change management is difficult and requested that faculty be included in this work to help ensure success.

Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, 2014-2015
In accordance with Board Resolution III-7.03, an annual report is submitted to the Board of Regents of program actions delegated to the Chancellor. The report indicates that between September 2014 and August 2015, former Chancellor Brit Kirwan approved 27 new certificates and concentrations and 10 title changes. He also approved the suspension of 2 degrees and 3 areas of concentration. In addition, the Board of Regents approved 16 new degree programs. Regents were presented with a chart detailing these actions.

Tentative Annual Agenda, 2015-2016
The Tentative Agenda for 2015-2016 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. Regent Kinkopf asked that the Committee also get updates on differential tuition and alcohol use and abuse on campuses. Regent Brady reminded the regents that they may make agenda suggestions at any time.

<u>Action Item</u>

Adjournment
Regent Brady called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Comitz, and unanimously approved. Regent Brady adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Regent James Brady