



USM BOARD OF REGENTS
Special BOR Meeting
February 24, 2106

MINUTES FOR PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order. Chairman Shea called the meeting of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order at 1:35 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 via conference call. Those on the call were: Chairman Shea; Regents Attman, Brady, Gooden, Gossett, Gourdine, Johnson, Kelly, Kinkopf, Neall, Pevenstein, Rauch, Reid and Slater; Chancellor Caret, Vice Chancellor Hogan and AAG Bainbridge. Public access to the meeting was provided in the USM office, 2nd floor conference room, Elkins building. Also, in attendance were Vice Chancellors Boughman, Raley, Vivona, Ms. Doyle, and other USM staff.

1. Committee of the Whole. Chairman Shea introduced the discussion topic for the special meeting and asked the regents to provide their perspective on the key provisions of SB 1052 which proposes a strategic partnership between University of Maryland, College Park and University of Maryland, Baltimore. The regents voiced varying opinions on the provisions of the bill with some in favor of the bill, others expressing concerns, and others supporting the bill with changes and/or clarifications. The regents all agreed that MPower has been very successful and they supported efforts that build on this success and strengthen the alliance between UMCP and UMB. They agreed that there are a number of recommendations in the bill that will advance this initiative, creating a stronger, broader and more strategic alliance and enhance ranking, marketing efforts and economic impact of the two institutions. Other opinions/concerns expressed included: questions whether the goal of the bill is really a merger of the two institutions; noting that the BOR study in 2011 on the pros and cons of a merger between UMCP and UMB concluded that a merger would not be successful, questions regarding the true impact on rankings with two campus presidents; concern about the impact on UMB's critical role in Baltimore City, concern about the impact of the change on UMBC and the other USM institutions.

Many of the the regents concluded that they would support the overall concept of the bill but would like a delay of one year for the implementation so the BOR can work through a number of provisions in the bill to ensure this new entity is successful.

Chairman Shea said that he was not available to testify on the bill, but asked Chancellor Caret and Vice Chairman Gossett to testify on behalf of the BOR. Chancellor Caret agreed to circulate the USM analysis to the regents for further input and feedback.

2. Adjourn. Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.