



University System of Maryland Board of Regents  
Via Zoom  
December 18, 2020 Public Minutes

Call to Order. Chair Linda Gooden called the meeting of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order at 8:34 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020 virtually via Zoom. Those in attendance were: Chair Gooden; Regents Attman, Bartenfelder, Fish, Gonella, Gossett, Gourdine, Holzapfel, Johnson, Leggett, Malhotra, Mears, Neall, Pope, Rauch, Sansom, Schulz, and Wood; Presidents Anderson, Breaux, Goodwin, Hrabowski, Jarrell, Jenkins, Leak, Nowaczyk, Pines, Schatzel, Schmoke, and Wight; Chancellor Perman, Vice Chancellors Boughman, Herbst, Hogan, McDonough, Raley, and Sadowski; Ms. Mulqueen, Ms. Wilkerson, and AAGs Bainbridge and Langrill.

Educational Forum: *COVID-Related Learning Gap: The Higher Education Pipeline*. Dr. Jing Liu, Assistant Professor in Education Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park, discussed the impact the COVID-19 spring school closures would have on student learning to include building closures, inequalities in digital access, absenteeism, low morale, etc. He also addressed societal impacts that affected individuals' physical and mental health, racial disparities, as well as the financial impact on struggling families and a struggling economy. Dr. Liu, in an effort to address all issues, also looked at items that could not be accounted for in the projections that were made, namely, the effectiveness of remote learning, trauma due to various aspects of COVID, budget cuts, family support, etc. His concluding thoughts acknowledged that COVID is likely to continue to impact all aspects of schooling throughout 2020-2021 and addressed the need for immediate action to support those students who have fallen behind. Access to the full report is at [https://www.usmd.edu/regents/agendas/20201218\\_FullBoard\\_PublicSession.pdf](https://www.usmd.edu/regents/agendas/20201218_FullBoard_PublicSession.pdf).

Chancellor's Report. Chancellor Perman added his thanks to that of Chair Gooden to Dr. Jing Liu for his presentation on *COVID-Related Learning Gap: The Higher Education Pipeline*. He stated that Dr. Liu's presentation is a stark reminder that the pandemic will continue to challenge us well into the future and that its impact will reach far beyond our health. Chancellor Perman extended a heartfelt welcome to Dr. Gregory Fowler as the newly appointed president of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). In that same vein, he thanked Regent Malhotra and members of the search committee for the stellar work on the presidential search, Dr. Larry Leak for his service as interim president, and Javier Miyares for his eight years leading UMGC to enormous success. Chancellor Perman noted that Dr. Fowler is the sixth USM leader he has welcomed during his first year as chancellor. Next, Chancellor Perman acknowledged the many accomplishments at the various universities since the last board meeting, giving notable mention to the transformative gifts from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott

to both Bowie State University (BSU) (\$25 million) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) (\$20 million).

Chancellor Perman acknowledged that two COVID vaccines have secured FDA approval; however, there are several more difficult months ahead, as COVID cases and deaths spike. Therefore, he cautioned that we must continue our fight to end this virus and keep our people safe.

Kudos were given to University of Maryland, Baltimore County alumna Dr. Kizzmekia Corbet and her colleague Dr. Barney Graham who led the team of scientists at NIAID who helped develop the Moderna vaccine. Additionally, he made mention of University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) president, Dr. Jarrell, marking his first day by taking part in the vaccine trial to demonstrate his confidence in the vaccine and set an example for those who might be skeptical. Dr. Hrabowski and his wife Jacqueline also took part in the trial—expressly to highlight the urgent need for African Americans, Latinx, and other people of color to participate in medical studies. The USM's people—our epidemiologists; our public health and infectious disease experts; our leadership, faculty, and students—have the credibility and compassion to make the case for vaccination, and all of us will be doing just that. And once a vaccine is more widely available, our USM campuses will step up as vaccine distribution sites.

The Chancellor mentioned that both UMB and Towson University nursing schools allowed their students early exit in order to join the workforce in an effort to battle COVID. He also stated that the University System of Maryland (USM) signed an agreement with Connected DMV, a regional economic development consortium coming out of the Washington Board of Trade. The business, academic, and government leaders who make up this group are focused on developing a strategic and sustaining post-COVID economic recovery plan for the Capital Region. He is also a member of the steering committee that is focused on establishing a regional pandemic response, preparedness, and biodefense strategy that will address existing and emerging public health threats.

Chancellor Perman referenced the lessons learned document from the last board meeting, stating that the COVID project managers on each campus are synthesizing the changes they will make next spring based on how they did this fall—the biggest issue will be testing. He mentioned that an investigation into a rapid-return test that would allow for more frequent testing and easier capture of a positive result through the infection cycle is in progress.

I think we can confidently project that, with new CDC leadership under the Biden Administration—with Dr. Rochelle Walensky in charge—there will be an expectation of more robust testing at U.S. universities. I look forward to updating you on our testing plans at our next meeting.

Chancellor Perman closed out his report by stating that we have another difficult semester in front of us. But with a vaccine in mass distribution by late spring or early summer, he is optimistic for a fall that looks closer to what we know. He said we cannot let all the progress made in access and innovation languish once on-campus instruction once again becomes the norm. Instead, we should strive to integrate our strategies, platforms, and resources for both

on-campus and online learning. That is the key to emerging from this crisis stronger, more agile, and more resilient.

## I. Council Reports

- a. Council of University System Presidents (CUSP). President Breaux presented the report, stating that faculty were well-prepared for remote teaching during the fall semester. Students adapted to the “new normal” but were challenged by increased demands on their time, new learning formats, and access to technology to name a few. She also indicated that the strategies employed to reduce density in residence halls and set aside facilities for quarantining and isolating students were effective. They will continue to assess this model for the spring and refine housing operations as needed. A significant amount of attention was dedicated to cleaning protocols, along with clear communication in order to keep the campus community informed of decisions, reminders, and other pertinent information. President Breaux made note of the fact that the positivity rates on USM campuses remained lower than the surrounding communities, which was attributed to diligent monitoring, screening, social distancing, mask enforcement, and testing activities. The campuses conducted surveillance testing throughout the semester, and comprehensive testing post-Labor Day and before Thanksgiving break with a goal of ensuring students were not heading home with the virus. The collaboration of the universities with their local health departments was invaluable in the contact tracing process. Lastly, President Breaux stated that the universities are focused on the availability of vaccines. They are discussing implications for the various campuses and how they might be able to assist in the process—both logistically and in terms of educating stakeholders and the larger community.
  
- b. Council of University System Faculty (CUSF). Dr. Brunn presented the report, indicating that they have made their selections for the Board of Regents Faculty Awards and Recognition and are in the process of writing the candidates’ credentials for the Board. The Academic Integrity subcommittee under Ed Policy has met with Dr. Bishop and Dr. Lee to review details and iron out format issues, with a goal of presenting to their council on January 19, 2021. Additionally, the Interdisciplinary Professional Education subcommittee is focusing on a coordinated examination of digital badging and certificates with the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation.

She also mentioned that there are faculty concerns being addressed in the area of technology. They are scheduling a meeting with all the institutions’ CIOs and the CIO of the Maryland Judiciary to collect information on how the schools and state are approaching the privacy and liability issues related to the recent Data Act. They are starting to organize a panel discussion with the Vice Presidents’ of Diversity and Inclusion from various USM institutions; and the COVID-19 ad hoc subcommittee has prepared a survey for the faculty to try and determine what faculty feel to be the most important issues to be addressed related to COVID-19. Lastly, the Rule and Membership Committee voted to remain on Zoom through the Spring and are

considering using this medium as a way to meet in the future; and the Legislative Affairs and Policy Committee met with the Council of University System Staff to set a date for Annapolis Day.

- c. Council of University System Staff (CUSS). Dr. Shishineh presented the report, thanking Chancellor Perman and Vice-Chair Regent Gossett for joining the Joint Councils' meeting, updating them on the USM Office and the Board of Regents activities. Additionally, they received an update on Advocacy Day from Vice Chancellor of Government Relations, Patrick Hogan, and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Government Relations, Andy Clark. And the chairs of each council shared their State of the Council addresses so that each group could hear about what others were working on and explore areas for partnership. Lastly, during their December meeting, they heard budget updates from Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance, Ellen Herbst; and explored the potential for collaboration between the Council and the USM Women's Forum.
  - d. University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC). Regent Nate Sansom presented the report in the absence of Ms. Rappeport. He stated that the focus of the Council is to help gain momentum in their primary areas through cross-institutional membership and plans of action. They also focused on the student regent selection process, sending four finalists for consideration to the Chancellor. The USMSC leadership also played a helpful hand in supporting student meet ups. USMSC also worked in conjunction with the other Councils to plan for their joint advocacy endeavors for the Maryland General Assembly in the winter. They have a COVID-19 group in the works that will have representation across constituencies to develop holistic, solution-oriented recommendations for consideration across Councils, institutions and the USM. Lastly, USMSC and the MHEC Student Advisory Council are in continued conversation during this key planning term for higher education in the state of Maryland.
2. Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda was presented to the regents by Chair Gooden. She asked if there were any items on the agenda that should be removed for further discussion. There were no requests to remove any items; however, Regent Wood did request that the November 13, 2020 public minutes reflect an update to page 2, paragraph 1(b) to say, "There was also discussion of the potential to consult with the CIO of the Maryland Judiciary as they have faced many IT issues that correlate to USM security, academic integrity and other issues." He also asked that the November 23, 2021 minutes for the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life be amended to reflect his attendance at the meeting. Chair Gooden confirmed that those changes would be made, then Regent Pope moved, and Regent Gourdine seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved. The items included were:
- a. Committee of the Whole
    - i. Approval of meeting minutes from November 13, 2020 Public and Closed Session (action)

- b. Committee on Education Policy and Student Life
    - i. Approval of meeting minutes from November 23, 2020 Public Session (action)
    - ii. Proposed Amendments to Committee Bylaws and Draft Committee Charge (action)
    - iii. Notification of Awards: Regents Scholarships and Elkins Professorships (information)
    - iv. Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, 2019-2020 (information)
    - v. COVID Update (information)
  - c. Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization
    - i. Approval of meeting minutes from December 2, 2020 Public Session (action)
  - d. Committee on Governance and Compensation
    - i. Approval of meeting minutes from December 2, 2020 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
    - ii. Review of Committee Charters – Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (action)
  - e. Committee on Finance
    - i. Approval of meeting minutes from November 5, 2020 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
    - ii. Approval of meeting minutes from December 2, 2020 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
3. Review of Items Removed from Consent Agenda.
4. Committee Reports
- a. Committee on Finance
    - i. Board Statement of Values and Expectations on Collaboration and Cooperative Efforts in Acquiring and Implementing New Information Technology and Upgrading Business Processes – Long Term Plan for Collaboration on Business Process and System Modernization. Regent Attman presented the report, stating that the Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative that was pioneered over a decade ago evolved into successfully driving hundreds of millions of dollars in cost avoidance, savings, and revenue generation through the System. This was accomplished by the work of the USM-hosted Maryland Education Enterprise Consortium (MEEC), which leveraged its size to negotiate hardware and software contracts with vendors, resulting in reduced pricing for every member—large or small (e.g., K-20 public and private institutions, libraries, museums, and teaching hospitals).

*A Statement of Values and Expectations on Collaboration and Cooperative Efforts* was approved at the June 2019 board meeting with a requirement that the USM institutions prepare and submit a long-term plan for collaboration. Vice Chancellor Herbst provided a USM-wide view of the collaborative activities in-flight and planned across the institutions.

b. Committee of the Whole

- i. University of Baltimore Implementation Update. President Kurt Schmoke gave the first of regular updates regarding the implementation of the recommendations in the BOR Task Force Report on the University of Baltimore. He addressed the university community urging everyone to read the report. He also held three virtual town hall meetings to allow for further discussion to clarify the content of the Task Force Report and the requirements of the university to implement the recommendations based on the timelines set forth in the report. Additionally, discussions were held with the Faculty Senate, the Staff Senate, and the Student Government Association.

Teams were formed to lead implementation in each area of focus to include academic portfolio, financial accountability, enrollment stability, marketing and branding, student experience, physical environment, and identity. The leaders were tasked with the responsibility of creating teams reflecting representation from faculty, students, and staff. A monitoring group was also established which includes the President of the Faculty Senate who served as a Task Force member. The monitoring group developed a reporting format which they shared with the team leaders.

Finally, a major issue of focus of the Task Force report was enrollment stabilization. President Schmoke noted that following a national search, they hired a Vice President for Enrollment Management, who comes from the University of Hawaii, Manoa. It is believed that her experience and fresh eyes on the enrollment situation will help achieve the stabilization goals set forth in the Regents' report.

- ii. University of Maryland Global Campus President Search Update. Chair Gooden thanked everyone present who worked on the search committee, acknowledging the choice of Dr. Gregory Fowler as the successful candidate for the position. Regent Sam Malhotra also added his accolades and thanked those who worked so diligently on the search. He also thanked Chancellor Perman for negotiating such a great deal for the campus and the new president. Chancellor Perman added that Dr. Fowler brings prestige to the campus as a well-recognized, nationally, and internationally individual. He also made mention of his experience with the accreditation process in reference to distance and online learning. Chair Gooden asked the Board to

affirm its appointment of Dr. Fowler as the next President of UMGC. Regent Fish moved, and Regent Pope seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

- iii. BOR Nominating Committee. Regent Neall presented the slate of officers for 2021-2022 to include Linda Gooden, Board Chair, Barry Gossett, Vice Chair, Gary Attman, Treasurer, Bill Wood, Assistant Treasurer, Michelle Gourdine, Secretary, and Robert Rauch as Assistant Secretary. Regent Fish moved, and Regent Pope seconded the motion; unanimously approved.
- iv. FY 2022 BOR Committee Assignments. Chair Gooden indicated that this was an informational item and if there was anyone assigned to the wrong committee to let her know. She then thanked everyone for their hard work. Regent Leggett also thanked Chair Gooden on the marvelous job she did during the year.

c. Committee on Audit Update

- i. USM IT Security Environment. Regent Fish indicated that since the start of the pandemic, the Committee on Audit has been receiving regular reports from USM management regarding IT security risks as they relate to increased teleworking and other emerging risks, such as ransomware. She then provided an overview of some of the activities and programs that are in place (e.g., a professional IT Security department at each USM institution, regular monthly meetings, training programs, regular audits, etc.).

- 5. Reconvene to Closed Session Reconvene to Closed Session. Chair Gooden read the “convene to close” statement citing the topics for the closed session and the relevant statutory authority for closing the meeting under 3-305(b) and 3-103(a)(1)(i). (Moved by Regent Neall, seconded by Regent Attman; unanimously approved.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.