



TOPIC: USM Strategic Plan Implementation: Transforming the Academic Model to Meet the Higher Education and Leadership Needs of Maryland's 21st Century Students, Citizens, and Businesses

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: March 13, 2013

SUMMARY: The University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents approved in December 2010 the USM Strategic Plan 2010-2020, a document that will guide USM's mission to power Maryland as an economic and educational leader. The plan was developed with substantial involvement of Board of Regents members, USM presidents, system-wide councils of faculty, students and staff, USM Foundation board members, and business and community leaders.

Five primary themes anchor the 2020 Strategic Plan and are being implemented throughout the USM. One of the strategies to implement the goals of the "Transforming the Academic Model to Meet the Higher Education and Leadership Needs of Maryland's 21st Century Students, Citizens, and Businesses" theme calls for the establishment of "...a framework for the system-wide development, articulation, and promotion of a core set of learning goals, leadership development, and civic engagement outcomes."

In an effort to summarize the important work going on in the areas of leadership development and civic engagement, the Vice Presidents for Student Affairs conducted a survey. The summary report is presented today for information and discussion.

ALTERNATIVE(S): This is an information item.

FISCAL IMPACT: This is an information item.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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Leadership and Civic Engagement Survey

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In an effort to summarize the important work going on in the areas of leadership and civic engagement, the Vice Presidents for Student Affairs conducted a survey with all of the USM schools. Ten schools responded to the electronic survey: Bowie State University (Bowie), Coppin State University (Coppin), Frostburg University (Frostburg), Salisbury University (Salisbury), Towson University (Towson), University of Baltimore (UB), University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). A broad overview of each category is listed below, followed by a short list of specific examples. This list is intended to be representative of what types of activities are offered, but it does not include all survey responses and is not exhaustive.

Leadership

Formal Curricular Offerings – Most campuses offer some curricular leadership courses ranging from a few offerings to minors, living-learning communities, Bachelors, Masters, Post-Baccalaureate certificates, and Doctoral programs all focused on leadership.

Examples:

- Coppin – BS in Nonprofit Leadership
- Frostburg – “Experiencing Leadership” learning community for freshmen interested in leadership and the outdoors
- UMBC – BreakingGround – campus wide initiative fostering changes in the academic curriculum, co-curricular activities and campus culture – 15 courses focused on building students’ civic agency and engaging them in solving social issues
- UMCP – Special topic leadership courses focused on different ethnic and cultural groups (e.g., APA, Black, Latino, LGBT, Jewish, Women)
- UMES – Education Leadership Doctorate – cohort, weekend, mid-career program

Formal Co-curricular Programs – Most campuses offer intensive immersion leadership retreats or institutes, either self-organized or LeaderShape; leadership symposiums or conferences; or population focused-activities (e.g., freshmen, transfers, men).

Examples:

- Bowie – Students participate annually in the Leadership Conference sponsored by the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP). For thirteen years, the weeklong conference was sponsored by and hosted at Bowie State University.
- Coppin – Charles B. Wright Leadership Institute provides leadership training and opportunity to develop a co-curricular transcript
- Frostburg – President’s Leadership Circle engages a small, elite cohort of senior students in leadership discussions and ambassador opportunities with the President; study tours of Ecuador and Uganda are included

- UB – “Be More” leadership and service program offers a series of leadership workshops, individual and group skill-building, and service opportunities

Mentorships/Peer Education Programs – Most campuses provide mentorship and peer education through Resident Assistants, Orientation Advisors, Greek Leadership groups such as IFC, PHA, PHC, and peer educators in the counseling and health areas.

Examples:

- Salisbury – “Powerful Connections” peer mentoring program for students of color
- Towson – Peer educators in the areas of mentoring historically underrepresented students, sexual assault, wellness and self-care, alcohol, eating disorders, student conduct and civility, and career issues
- UMCP – Peer Leadership Council – group of trained students who provide leadership experiences to other students; Alternative Break Trip Leaders serve as the primary planners and coordinators for each AB trip of their peers
- UMES – Connections campus-wide peer mentoring program pairing incoming students with mentors; Men of Distinction and Corporate Men Inc. male peer mentoring groups for African-American men; Women of Worth empowerment program

Honorary Societies – All campuses have some honor societies focused on leadership and academic success.

Examples:

- Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society
- National Residence Hall Honorary
- Mortar Board Senior Honor Society
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Primannum/Alpha Lambda Delta Freshmen Honor Society
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Others:

- UMBC – 30 day Leadership Challenge to engage students not typically involved in leadership programming
- Bowie State, Towson, and UMCP – Student Affairs Leadership Awards

Civic Engagement

Political – Campuses engage in a variety of activities ranging from voter registration to advocacy days in Annapolis.

Examples:

- Salisbury – Public Affairs and Civic Engagement program – connects students to the community through voter registration, campus forums, and discussions

- Towson – National Voter Registration Day, Election Viewing Party, and Tiger Pride Day in Annapolis
- UB – Multiple voter registration drives across campus
- UMB – Advocacy groups for nursing and pharmacy students
- UMCP – TerpsVote coalition of student groups, faculty and staff focused on empowering and educating student voters; online voter registration

Environmental – Most campuses engage in a wide variety of environmental efforts. Some focus their efforts on a sustainability day or conference while others provide sustainable, refillable bags and bottles. A few campuses have Climate Action Plans, Sustainability Councils, or Climate Change groups. Some efforts are coupled with community service activities.

Examples:

- Bowie – SGA and RHA partnered with the Bowie State Green Initiative, sponsored Recycling Competition in the Residence Halls. SGA to assess students a fee to support sustainability on campus starting in the fall 2013
- Coppin – Center for Sustainability and Environmental Justice - sustainability through the academic curriculum and promotion of environmental education and research
- Frostburg – Only student-written and student-edited magazine in the country on sustainability, E=(LG)2
- Salisbury – “Green” living learning community for students interested in living in sustainable ways
- UMCP – Zipcar, bikeshare, and electric car charging stations. Promotes recycling and use of recycled materials in all buildings and residence halls. Offers a Trash to Treasure swap at the end of the academic year for students to donate, recycle and reuse items. SGA offers sustainability grants for cutting-edge projects.

Service Learning – Several campuses engage in service learning efforts in partnership with academic coursework and outside the classroom. Some engage faculty in these programs as well. Service learning offers an excellent opportunity for academic and student affairs partnerships.

Examples:

- Coppin – Service learning as a component of living-learning experience
- Towson – Monthly workshops for service learning faculty fellows on infusing service learning into the curriculum
- UMB – Clinical, practicum, and field hours in the community
- UMBC – Shriver Center – infrastructure for service learning for UMBC students; participants provide 30-50 hours each semester to working with a community agency
- UMCP – 25 Alternative Break trips per year; hundreds of students in the local schools through America Reads, America Counts

Community Service – Many campuses engage in Alternative Break programs and community service in their local communities. Some campuses have a community service office or center that centralizes community service efforts on behalf of the campus.

Examples:

- Bowie – Each year Mr. Bowie and Ms. Bowie are required to establish a community outreach program during their terms. The NPHC organizations all are required to do community outreach and Service as part of their charters.
- Frostburg – ECHOSTARS Volunteer Program – living, learning and serving experience for freshmen interested in making a change in their communities; participants complete over 300 hours of service per year in the Western Maryland region
- Salisbury – SU Volunteer Center coordinates 4000 volunteers, 200 community partners, and 500 current volunteer opportunities.
- Towson – AmeriCorps VISTA programs in their local community offering after-school youth programs, pre-orientation service program, local community clean-up efforts, community service days each month in Towson and Baltimore
- UB – Three group community service days each year and hundreds of individual service opportunities
- UMES – Registered student organizations required to complete 70 service hours each year

Other:

- Towson – Collegiate readership program with the *New York Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, and *USA Today* where faculty incorporate newspaper reading into their syllabi
- UB – Truancy Court Program – an innovative, holistic approach to addressing truancy in the local schools
- UMB – Number of local health promotion activities for the campus and local communities