



BOARD OF REGENTS

SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION, INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

TOPIC : Report of the Coppin State University Special Review Committee & Implementation Report

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: June 21, 2013

SUMMARY: In December 2012, the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents (BOR) appointed a Special Review Committee charged with conducting a comprehensive review of CSU and recommend strategies and actions to improve the institution's overall performance, including strategies to increase student retention and graduation rates, improve administrative operations and financial stability, and build a culture focused on student success.

The 14-member committee was chaired by Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and former Vice President for Academic Affairs at CSU, and included elected officials; USM regents; representatives from the business, state elementary/secondary and national higher education communities; and Coppin State's faculty, staff, students, alumni, Board of Visitors and foundation board members. The Committee met five times and assessed demographic and societal trends impacting Coppin. Committee members also reviewed external and internal audits, relevant data and best practices. In addition, the Committee held three public hearings, received written comment, engaged a wide range of Coppin's internal and external constituencies, and solicited additional input from key stakeholders.

The Committee found that while CSU has a number of successful academic programs, an award-winning information technology infrastructure, and strong community outreach programs, the University has the lowest six-year graduation rate of freshmen among USM comprehensive universities. While new facilities built in the last decade dramatically improved the campus, student enrollment has been declining; CSU is currently under-enrolled by more than 2,000 students and has the highest expenditure per student for comprehensive USM institutions. Further, during a period in which there was no enrollment growth, CSU added 20 new academic programs, experienced a 49 percent increase in faculty, had a 92 percent and 14 percent increase in professional and staff positions respectively, and is struggling with an operating budget deficit. However, the Committee also found that many of the faculty and staff at CSU seek to reinvigorate the campus culture to improve its overall performance and fulfill the promise of the CSU mission.

Given Coppin's difficulties and opportunities, and the change in campus leadership in January 2013, the BOR determined that this was the appropriate time to address the University's challenges and to pave the way for the successful recruitment of a new president of the highest caliber.

On May 15, 2013 at a meeting held at Coppin State University, the Special Review Committee presented the report to the Board. The Board provided for an additional comment period from May 15 to June 10, 2013, and charged Chancellor Kirwan and CSU Interim President Mort Neufville, and in consultation with the Coppin community with developing an Implementation Plan for the recommendations contained in the report. That Implementation Plan is attached for the Board's consideration and approval. Comments from various members of the Coppin Community have been received by the Board, and issues raised and suggestions made will be taken into consideration as the report recommendations are implemented.

ALTERNATIVE(S): No alternative is suggested.

FISCAL IMPACT: It is anticipated that recommendations are to be accomplished within existing resources with the exception of short-term special circumstances.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: The Chancellor recommends that the Board approve the Coppin State University Special Review Committee Report and the Implementation Plan submitted by Chancellor Kirwan and President Neufville.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

DATE:

BOARD ACTION:

DATE: JUNE 21, 2013

SUBMITTED BY: P.J. Hogan, 301 445-1927, pjhogan@usmd.edu
