



BOARD OF REGENTS

SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION,
INFORMATION, OR DISCUSSION

TOPIC: Update on the Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: March 11, 2014

SUMMARY: Massive change is occurring in the way technology and online learning will transform the nature of many classrooms at colleges and universities. Established universities, non-profit entities, for-profit publishers, and technology companies alike are developing a wide range of new approaches for delivering instruction and supporting learning. The many new alternative models are welcomed, but institutions of higher education need to determine the actual value of these new pedagogical approaches. We also must develop strategies for successful adoption and sustained implementation of the best models and evaluate their effectiveness in a variety of learning environments and diverse student populations.

For these reasons, the University System of Maryland (USM) launched the Center for Innovation and Excellence in Learning and Teaching that will enable the System to secure and expand its leadership position in innovative best practices in learning and teaching for the benefit of its students. Among the first centers of its kind positioned at the system level, the Center provides a unifying, cohesive place to conceptualize, organize, and disseminate our work and offers greater opportunities to attract funders and collaborators for our initiatives. The Center will become a valued resource for system institutions and the higher education community more generally.

Housed in the USM Office of Academic Affairs, the mission of the Center is: *To scale up and sustain a culture of academic innovation across the University System of Maryland, where faculty and their institutions are continually searching for evidence-based best practices to improve student success.*

Moving from episodic to sustainable change requires interventions that truly “take root” within the organization. Models for sustainable change suggest these transformations require building awareness, engaging stakeholders, addressing capabilities, creating opportunities, and disseminating results. The Center’s goals, which will be shared as part of this report, are grounded in these five fundamental processes.

ALTERNATIVE(S): This is an information item only.

FISCAL IMPACT: This is an information item only.

CHANCELLOR’S RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

DATE: March 11, 2014

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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