



**University System of Maryland  
Board of Regents  
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**

**Minutes  
Public Session**

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (EPSL) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in public session on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. The meeting was convened at 9:33 a.m. Committee members present were: Regent Brady (chair) and Regents Comitz, Gourdine (phone), and Kinkopf. Chancellor Caret was also present.

Also attending were: Ms. Bainbridge, Ms. Baker, Dr. Beise, Ms. Blakely, Dr. Boughman, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Chandler, Dr. Christopher-Hicks, Dr. DeSousa, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Harewood, Dr. Harris, Dr. Jackson, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lilly, Mr. Lurie, Dr. McCartney, Dr. McPherson, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Moultrie, Mr. Muntz, Ms. Murray, Dr. Orr, Dr. Isabelita Rambob, Dr. Rous, Ms. Scott, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Smith, Ms. Smith, Dr. Travis, Dr. Tull, Dr. Wolfe, and other guests.

**Action Items**

**New Academic Program Proposals**

**University of Maryland, Baltimore: Master of Science in Palliative Care**

Drs. Flavius Lilly, Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and Dr. Mary Lynn McPherson, Professor and Executive Director of Advanced Post-Graduate Education in Palliative Care in the School of Pharmacy, presented this program proposal to the Committee. The proposed program is designed to provide education and training for professionals who wish to gain experience in palliative care, a field which is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness and improving quality of life for both patients and their families. The target audience includes healthcare providers who are working in palliative care and wish to advance their knowledge and skills. Faculty from the Schools of Pharmacy, Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Law, and Graduate School will work in an interprofessional fashion to provide the curricular content. If approved, the program would be conducted exclusively online and would become the second M.S. in Palliative Care offered in U.S., and the only one that is offered completely online. The presenters describe the program as cutting edge and evidence-based, and they predict that its popularity will grow rapidly within the state and across the nation. Addressing a regent's concern, Dr. McPherson noted that time may be a challenge since the target audience is likely to already have jobs, but opportunities for enrollment and success will be increased due to the amount of flexibility built into the program.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, Baltimore for the Master of Science in Palliative Care. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Kinkopf, and unanimously approved.

### **University of Maryland, College Park: Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy**

Dr. Betsy Beise, Associate Provost, Dr. Robert Orr, Dean of the School of Public Policy, and Dr. Nina Harris, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Students in the School of Public Policy, presented this program proposal. This interdisciplinary program will not only educate students in the facets of public policy, but also require them to apply their knowledge to address real world challenges. As such, this program will train students to be leaders in the realm of civic responsibility. Graduates are likely to pursue graduate degrees in fields such as public policy, law, public health, and city and regional planning. They may also find employment in the private sector (policy analysts or lobbyists) or as analysts, lobbyists, or grant-writers in the non-profit sector. Responding to regents' questions, the presenters noted that perspective students may currently be pursuing or considering Government and Politics, but that the program will be flexible enough that students from a variety of other disciplines may be interested in taking on Public Policy as a second major or degree. Additionally, the presenters noted differences between the proposed program and Public Policy at the University of Baltimore. Where UB's program focuses on theoretical politics, international affairs, government, politics, political theory, and international relations, the proposed UMCP program is interdisciplinary, has more leadership and ethics, and is more strictly focused on public policy, without much focus on political theory. Additionally, UMCP and UB colleagues have been in touch with each other about the programs, and duplication concerns were not raised. Moreover, the proposed program has gone through the standard vetting process, and there have been no objections.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, College Park for the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Comitz, and unanimously approved.

### **Diversity and Inclusion – Annual Progress Report: Institutional Programs of Cultural Diversity, 2015-2016**

Effective July 1, 2008, the Maryland General Assembly required each institution of postsecondary education to develop and implement or improve their plan for a program of cultural diversity among its students, faculty, and staff. Each year, each institution shall submit its plan through its governing body for review and then, by September 1, the governing body shall submit to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) a progress report regarding the institution's implementation of its plan and, as may be appropriate, improvement of its plan.

Dr. John Wolfe, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, reported that all institutions in the 2015-2016 report cycle are in compliance with the requirements of this statute. (The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science recently received accreditation to grant degrees. Therefore, it is in the process of developing a Plan for its Programs of Cultural Diversity and will be included in next year's report). Dr. Wolfe also shared that a new tabular format was used this year, and that although the new format assists in the summary of the many initiatives underway at our institutions, individual reports (included in meeting materials and on USM website) more comprehensively describe the extensive work our institutions are undertaking to achieve their diversity and inclusion goals. The report includes tables that present highlights of institutional efforts to address four topics: 1) cultural diversity plan, implementation

strategy, and timeline for meeting goals within plan; 2) description of way institution addresses cultural diversity among its students, faculty, and staff; 3) efforts to create positive interactions and awareness among students, faculty, and staff; and 4) existence of a process for reporting institution hate-based crimes. Dr. Wolfe shared highlights from the tables.

Regent Brady asked that the USM staff find ways to demonstrate the extent to which institutions are making progress on diversity and inclusion goals. He noted that the new format offers some insight into progress being made, but he would like the staff to continue working to adjust the report to address what's needed via the statute and what the regents want to know. Dr. Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, noted that the USM staff will work with the State to decrease the frequency of this report, as progress and change is more likely to be evident over a two- or three-year period. Finally, she noted that the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Council, which is presently being developed, could also be of assistance in adjusting the format of the report to more directly address the information requested by the regents. Regent Brady stressed the need for open communication between the D&I Workgroup, the D&I Council, and the Education Policy and Student Life Committee. Finally, Dr. Renetta Tull, UMBC's Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Student Development and Postdoctoral Affairs and USM's newly-appointed Special Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate and Professional Pipeline Development, described the work of the PROMISE program, a UMBC, UMCP, UMB collaboration, which addresses issues pertaining to diversifying the faculty. Dr. Tull's work will help address pipeline, diversification, and other faculty concerns.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Annual Progress Report: Institutional Programs of Cultural Diversity, 2015-2016. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Kinkopf, and unanimously approved.

### **Information Items**

#### **P-20 Update and Overview**

Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the update on the System's P-20 efforts. The P-20 work connects the three mission-driven goals of the USM's Office of Academic Affairs: college readiness, college completion, and citizenship and career readiness. USM's P-20 mission is to facilitate seamless alignments between high school and college, between two-year and four-year institutions, and between college and workforce to support the USM Academic Affairs mission. This year, USM's P-20 work centered on Teacher Education, Preparation and Professional Development; Mathematics Reform Initiatives; the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council Workforce Development Workgroup; College Readiness, Retention and Completion; and \$44 million dollars/15 years of NSF-Funded STEM Education Projects. Dr. Shapiro focused the presentation on Mathematics Reform and Teacher Education. Maryland's Interim State Superintendent, Dr. Jack Smith, joined Dr. Shapiro to engage the Board in a discussion of Teacher Education. The regents were pleased to learn of the partnerships and work being done between the USM and the Maryland State Department of Education and its Local Education Agencies. Dr. Shapiro described the regents' roles as understanding and advocating for college readiness, understanding and advocating for innovative models of teacher preparation, and graduating well-educated and enlightened citizens. Additional details are included in the accompanying materials.

## **Student Financial Assistance: Progress on 2014 Financial Aid Recommendations, Updated FY 2015-2016**

Mr. Chad Muntz, Director of Institutional Research, and Ms. Teri Hollander, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report, which is a result of the Board's 2013 request for the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life to examine the full complexities of financial aid and provide recommendations as to how the Board can address financial aid in ways that will assist students in their efforts to enroll in and persist through USM institutions. The initial report incorporated the thinking, expertise, and suggestions of institutional financial aid directors, USM staff, and the regents, and was presented to the Board in June 2014. The current report provides updates on recommendations that pertain to undergraduate student loan debt, strategic use of institutional aid for undergraduate students, graduate and professional student aid, enhancing financial literacy programs for undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students, administrative processes, advocacy, and assessment and further study. In some cases, recommendations are being met, and in other cases, additional work is needed. Details can be found in the report. Regent Brady encouraged the staff to consider if we should be examining new or additional metrics. He also asked the staff to find a way to accurately capture the amount of need-based aid being awarded, as there are indications that this number is higher than what is currently acknowledged, since many students who are eligible for need-based aid receive merit-based awards and are being counted only as merit-award recipients. Chancellor Caret would like the staff to consider how affordability plays into the student financial assistance picture. Regent Kinkopf would like the staff to pay close attention to gross debt and the relationship of graduation rates to student debt and what happens to students who accumulate debt yet leave school without earning a degree. The Committee agrees with the importance of financial literacy and incorporating prospective earnings as lessons taught via financial literacy. EPSL will receive the next update in 2018.

## **Campus Crime Reports & Update on Sexual Misconduct**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report. The information included in this report is drawn from the Campus Safety and Security data files on the website of the U.S. Department of Education. All postsecondary institutions that receive Title IV (federal student aid programs) funding must submit these data annually as required by the Clery Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The statistics represent alleged criminal offenses reported to campus security authorities and/or local police agencies and do not necessarily reflect prosecutions or convictions. Nevertheless, this is an important measure of campus safety and security, which can provide the regents with context to ask questions and make suggestions and recommendations about activities at institutions within the System.

The report includes tables on crime reports by institution for 2012-2014, the total number of reported incidents, the rate of incidents per 1,000 students, and a trend table showing five years of system-wide data.

Highlights in system-wide changes over last year's figures include:

- A similar numbers of murders/non-negligent manslaughters, negligent manslaughters, and robberies;
- A small increase in the numbers of aggravated assaults and arsons;
- A decrease in the numbers of weapons possessions violations, drug abuse violations, and hate crimes;

- An increase in the numbers of burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and liquor law violations; and
- An increase in the total of all newly-labeled sexual misconduct-related offenses as compared to the number of sexual misconduct-related offenses as previously defined.

Dr. Boughman concluded the presentation by updating the regents on progress with sexual misconduct policies and procedures at our institutions. The System worked with the Office of the Attorney General to host a sexual misconduct update meeting for campus Title IX, student affairs, and legal staff. Campus officials indicate that the increase in reports of sexual misconduct violations was expected and can be attributed to the focus on the issue which has led to clearer policies, increased education for the campus community, and increasingly transparent reporting processes. Finally, regarding some of the some of the crime report numbers, Chancellor Caret asked that USM staff find ways to encourage institutional officials to be more forthcoming about safety violations on their campuses.

**Action Item**

**Adjournment**

Regent Brady called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Comitz, seconded by Regent Kinkopf, and unanimously approved. Regent Brady adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regent James T. Brady