The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in public session on Thursday, January 26, 2017, in the Chesapeake Ballroom of the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center at the University of Maryland University College.

Regent Attman called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. The regents in attendance were Mr. Attman, Mr. Brady, Ms. Fish, Mr. Gossett, Dr. Gourdine, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Pevenstein, and Mr. Rauch. Also present at the meeting were Mr. Sadowski, Ms. Doyle, Dr. Bentley, Mr. Burke, Mr. Darmody, Mr. Drake, Ms. Elfreth, Mr. Farrari, Mr. Fink, Ms. Hemmerly, Ms. Hess, Dr. Irani, Senior Counsel Langrill, Ms. Lenzer, Mr. Lurie, Ms. Martin, Ms. Metz, Ms. Morris, Dr. Motayed, Ms. Moultrie, Mr. Murray, Mr. Naft, Dr. Steiner, Mr. Ulman and Ms. Williams.

1. Featured Start-Up – N5 Sensors, Inc. (Information Item)

N5 Sensors, Inc., a University of Maryland spin-off incorporated in 2012, was founded by a former UMCP faculty member, Dr. Abhishek Motayed. Dr. Motayed presented highlights of the company and its technology. The company’s novel chemical sensor architecture is able to produce sensors whose selectivity can be precisely tuned to any small set of chemicals through nanocluster design, which is currently not feasible with any other technology. Potential applications include environmental monitoring, consumer electronics, toxic chemicals release detection, and industrial safety.

2. NIIMBL Grant Presentation (Information Item)

Dr. Bill Bentley, co-PI for the NIIMBL proposal and director of the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices, briefed the Committee on the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) initiative. As part of a national public-private partnership, the USM (UMB and UMCP) will be a key partner.
to leverage a $70 million cost-shared agreement with NIST to advance U.S. competitiveness in biopharmaceutical manufacturing through the establishment of NIIMBL. Notably, much of the research and collaboration with NIST will take place at USM’s Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research (IBBR) at Shady Grove.

3. New USM Cybersecurity Engagement Officer at National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) FFRDC (Information Item)

Ms. Tina Williams, who received her B.S. in Computer Science from UMBC and J.D. from the University of Maryland, was hired in January 2017 as the new Cybersecurity Engagement Officer for the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) FFRDC. Broadly, her role will entail working with MITRE Corporation, UMBC and UMCP, as well as national academic affiliates, to foster R&D collaborations and strategically involve industry in an effort to best leverage the $5 billion, 25-year partnership with NIST at the NCCoE Federally Funded Research and Development Center in Rockville.

Ms. Williams provided an overview to the Committee of her expertise as a member of Maryland’s cyber community and UMBC adjunct professor. She also discussed her objectives for 2017 in this newly created role.

4. Economic Development Office Updates (Information Item)

Mr. Tom Sadowski, Vice Chancellor for Economic Development, reiterated the importance of the NIIMBL and NCCoE Cybersecurity FFRDC initiatives to the USM’s economic development priorities and updated the Committee on other selected economic development activities. He noted that, subsequent to a preview event for the investment community, an internal advisory board had been established for the Early Stage Investment Fund (ESIF). Currently, an external advisory board is being assembled with the first meeting planned for February and the first round of investment presentations anticipated to occur in March. Mr. Sadowski also emphasized the criticality of federal and industry partnerships in driving regional economic growth and highlighted several USM outreach activities underway to strengthen those partnerships.

The public session was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Attman, Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization