



**Board of Regents  
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**

**Minutes  
Closed 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, January 17, 2017 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The meeting was convened at 11:45 a.m. Committee members present were: Regent Slater (chair) and Regents Enriquez, Fish, Gourdine, Holzapfel, and Johnson. Chancellor Caret was also present.

Also attending were: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Boughman, Ms. Doyle, and Dr. Lee.

**Action Items**

**USM Regents' Faculty Awards Recommendations for 2017**

The Regents' Faculty Awards Committee reviewed 28 nominations from 10 institutions and recommends 16 awards, honoring 16 individuals. Summaries of the backgrounds of prospective award recipients were attached, and nominees' full portfolios are available upon request. Dr. Zakiya Lee noted that although the committee is recommending many faculty members from one institution, that institution followed the guidelines and nominated close to the maximum number of faculty members allowed by the guidelines. Furthermore, Dr. Lee and Dr. John Wolfe served as USM liaisons to the review process and affirm that all proper protocols were followed to ensure a fair and honest review and selection process. Regent Slater asked USM staff to encourage the institutions that did not submit nominations to do so in the future.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the recommendations of the Regents' Faculty Awards Committee and present the awards to the faculty members during its April 2017 meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Holzapfel, and unanimously approved.

**Honorary Degree Nominations**

The Committee reviewed a total of 21 nominations from six institutions. The names of the nominees and the degrees being recommended as well as nomination letters and supporting documentation were made available to regents prior to the meeting. Dr. Boughman shared an addendum from one institution, which further explained their rationale for nominating a particular nominee. Regent Fish expressed concern about that nominee also. Additionally, Regent Johnson encouraged the committee to think about the level of prestige we want associated with USM honorary degrees, as there was some concern about the merit of some of the nominees. Finally, two nominees led the regents to discuss the pros and cons of state

and/or national elected or appointed officials receiving honorary degrees.

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life agreed to propose amendments to the Policy on the Awarding Honorary Degrees (III-3.00) to open discuss and decide whether or not state and/or national elected and/or appointed officials should be eligible to be nominated for an honorary degree. Once determined, the policy should be amended to clarify the distinction. These amendments will be discussed in the public session of the full Board of Regents meeting on February 17, 2017.

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommends that the Board approve the institutional nominations of 19 of 21 nominations submitted in Fall 2016, to be added to the list of individuals for the awarding of honorary degrees. The Committee further recommends that, in closed session during the full Board of Regents meeting on February 17, 2017, the Board reconsider the remaining three nominees – two of whom will be affected by the decision about the eligibility of public officials and one who needs further consideration because of past legal issues and questions about the length of time since the nominee's transformation.

These motions were moved by Regent Fish, seconded by Regent Johnson, and unanimously approved.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Slater called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Fish, seconded by Regent Enriquez, and unanimously approved. Regent Slater adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regent Tom Slater