



**Friday, September 15, 2017**  
**Report to the USM Board of Regents**  
**Chancellor Robert L. Caret**  
**(AS DRAFTED)**

Thank you Chairman Brady . . . And let me welcome everyone to the first USM Board meeting of the new academic year. Let me start by recognizing our newest regents—Katrina Dennis and student-regent Will Shorter—who are attending their first official board meeting. On behalf of the presidents and the entire USM, let me express our appreciation to you for your willingness to serve.

Bowie State University’s (BSU) new president Aminta Breaux is attending her first regents’ meeting since taking leadership at Bowie on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She has already placed a strong emphasis on growing enrollment and business partnerships. I look forward to working with her on these, and other priorities.

Also joining us today is Dr. Peter Goodwin, who will be assuming the presidency of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) next week. I wish him the best and I once again thank Don Boesch for his leadership of UMCES for the past 27 years.

And there are a few other additions to the USM “family” I would like to mention:

- Jeff Neal, our new Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing.
- Dr. Antoinette Coleman, USM’s new Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.
- And David Wise, who has been named Director of the Maryland Momentum Fund.

And, of course, let me once again thank and congratulate the winners of the Regents Staff Awards. These men and women represent the excellence, professionalism, and commitment that can be found throughout the USM.

The summer months are often seen as a “down time” for higher education, but that is simply not the case anywhere within the USM. Since we last met in June, there has been an incredible amount of activity. So much so, that I am going to have to move through my report very quickly just to hit the highlights.

I will begin with our “host” institution, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and President Freeman Hrabowski. These are certainly exciting times here at UMBC:

- Last month the Association of American Colleges and Universities selected UMBC as one of 10 institutions nationwide to participate in a new initiative to advance justice and build equitable communities. UMBC will establish a Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Campus Center.
- Earlier this month, UMBC alumnus Jerome Adams was sworn in as the nation’s 20<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General. He replaced acting U.S. Surgeon General Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams, an alum of **both** UMBC and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)
- UMBC and UMB shared another recognition this past summer, as both were named outstanding academic workplaces by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- **Three** startups from UMBC’s Research and Technology Park—bwtech@UMBC—were recognized at the 2017 Maryland Incubator Company of the Year Awards.

In addition, UMBC, along with institutions across the USM, was recognized in a number of rankings that have been released in recent months.

*Forbes Magazine's* "America's Top Colleges"—with rankings based on tuition costs, school quality, graduation success, and post-grad earnings—included 4 USM institutions:

- University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), which was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> among public universities
- UMBC
- Towson University (TU)
- Salisbury University (SU)

*MONEY Magazine's* list of "Best Value Colleges"—based on 24 factors in the categories of educational quality, affordability, and alumni success—recognized 6 USM campuses:

- UMCP, which was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> among public universities and 20<sup>th</sup> overall
- Towson
- Salisbury
- UMBC
- Bowie
- Frostburg State University (FSU)

College Choice, a leading authority in college and university rankings and resources, published a ranking of the 50 Best Historically Black Colleges and Universities for 2017.

- Bowie
- Coppin State University (CSU)
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
  - **ALL** ranked in the top 35

And in the just released *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges Rankings:

- UMCP:
  - #62 in National Universities
  - #22 in Top Public Schools
  - #15 in Most Innovative Schools
- UMBC
  - #13 in Best Undergraduate Teaching
  - #7 in Most Innovative Schools
- In the ranking of Regional Universities North / Top Public Schools
  - #10 Towson
  - #23 Salisbury
  - #39 Frostburg
- And in the ranking of Historically Black Colleges and Universities
  - #20 UMES
  - #22 Bowie
  - #50 Coppin

In numerous other rankings—*The Fiske Guide to Colleges*, *The Washington Monthly's* "Best College Guide," *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, and others—you will find literally **every** USM degree-granting institution recognized.

Beyond the institutional rankings, there were some impressive individual accolades and awards.

TU President Kim Schatzel was recognized by *The Daily Record* as one of 2017's Most Admired CEOs, honoring her for her leadership and professionalism. Kim was also honored by Associated Black Charities for her leadership on diversity and inclusion. And TU alumnus John Schuerholz was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Dr. Bill Dennison, UMCES Vice President for Science Application, was recognized by the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation with the **first-ever** Margaret A. Davidson Award for Stewardship, acknowledging his trailblazing scientific research.

Two USM institutions received 2017 Backboard Catalyst Awards acknowledging their success in leveraging technology to improve the educational experience for students:

- A three-person team from UMBC received the Leading Change award.
- A four-person team from Coppin received the Student Success award.

A team of three University of Maryland University College (UMUC) students—all from the Master of Science in Data Analytics program—won second place in the prestigious IBM Watson Analytics Global Competition.

The summer months also saw both the physical and intellectual growth of our campuses continue.

Chairman Brady and I had the pleasure of attending the ribbon cutting at Bowie's impressive new Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Nursing. This \$100 million complex has the potential to be truly transformative for BSU.

In a joint dedication and groundbreaking ceremony at UMCP, we celebrated a project that will vault Cole Field House into the future, with a cutting-edge research facility, space dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship, and athletic training facilities unmatched in Division I sports. Our *MPower* partners, UMCP and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), will collaborate on sports science and research, putting Maryland at the forefront of training the next generation of researchers, doctors, athletes, and entrepreneurs.

At Salisbury, the new Guerrieri Academic Commons—opened just last year—has proven a wonderful and popular addition to the campus. And an incredible new 48-bell Brown and Church Carillon that caps the facility that was dedicated just last week.

Earlier this summer CSU's Science and Technology Center was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) GOLD Certification. The building, which was dedicated in 2015, has increased opportunities for students to excel in STEM learning. The LEED Gold certification underscores Coppin's commitment to a sustainable learning environment.

In other environmental news, the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) announced that the Shady Grove Parking Garage—a project that will help pave the way for USG's Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education Facility, opening in fall 2019—was awarded Bronze level status by Parksmart, the world's only rating system designed to advance sustainable mobility.

At the University of Baltimore (UB), the John and Frances Angelos Law Center—itsself a LEED Platinum certified facility—was named one of 25 “must-see” structures in Maryland by the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Frostburg dedicated its new Public Safety Building, which replaces a nearly 60-year-old renovated elementary school previously used by officials as the campus police headquarters. The \$4.5 million, state-of-the-art facility meets Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies standards, recommended for all USM police forces.

On the academic front, FSU will begin offering a Master of Science in Nursing program with two concentrations, Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, beginning in fall 2018. In addition, Frostburg’s Exercise and Sport Science program has been granted initial accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

And at UMES, the School of Pharmacy's current accreditation status has been extended another two years as the university makes plans to construct a School of Pharmacy and Health Professions classroom building.

USM institutions were tremendously successful in attracting external funding over the past few months as well:

Towson will receive \$1 million over five years from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as part of its inaugural Inclusive Excellence Initiative aimed at enhancing undergraduate, minority student success in the STEM disciplines.

With a three-year, \$400,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, Bowie is developing an interactive cybersecurity simulator to teach minority students how to combat real-world threats, as they train to fill critical gaps in the nation’s cybersecurity workforce. In addition, Bowie and UMCP are teaming up on a \$1.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to train undergraduate students from underrepresented populations for doctoral study.

UMCP received a number of other grants this past summer, including:

- A five-year, \$6-million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to develop a novel vaccine to prevent hepatitis C virus infection.
- A \$3.3 million grant from ED to conduct research aimed at helping children improve their language skills.
- A \$1.2 million NSF grant to advance research on how human neural and cognitive systems interact and intersect with advances in engineering, computer science, and education.

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission in support of a nurse-practitioner program and a physician-assistant training program in downtown Hagerstown. FSU will offer the nurse-practitioner program, while the physician-assistant program will be a joint endeavor of Frostburg and UMB.

All these accomplishments, and many others, underscore the fact that the USM really is working year-round to meet the needs of the state, our communities, and the students we serve.

A few final initiatives I want to quickly brief you on.

The USM's Baltimore Power—or B-Power—initiative aimed at increasing educational and career opportunities for city students continues to make strides forward.

- Coppin has joined with Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh to help make a college education more affordable for graduates of Baltimore City Public High Schools. In August, Coppin announced 2018 plans to offer qualifying Baltimore City Public High School graduates, who also graduate with an Associate's Degree from Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), free tuition for two years at Coppin State University. This plan builds on the Mayor's plan to offer free community college for Baltimore public high school graduates.
- UB's efforts to expand educational opportunities for City students received a significant boost from The Shelter Foundation, which has committed to fund as many as six scholarships for full-time, city-based students who are newly enrolled at UB. This need-based program is available for qualified incoming students, with special consideration provided to those who are part of UB's Dual Enrollment program.
- And Tom Sadowski, USM's vice chancellor for economic development, was named chairman of the board of directors of Junior Achievement of Central Maryland, one of our primary B-Power partners.

Earlier this month, the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) approved a budget reduction plan submitted by Governor Hogan that reduces the USM's current FY 2018 budget by \$8 million. We have developed a plan that focuses on meeting this budget reduction primarily through the elimination of approximately 30 vacant positions at USM institutions. This cut is in addition to the \$9 million reduction in our fund balance, for a total reduction of \$17 million. While any cuts are challenging, we will be able to manage these without adversely impacting current employees or increasing tuition. In terms of the budget for next fiscal year, the FY19 budget is still in the formation stage. We are in discussion with the governor and his team about it. As things take shape, I will keep you informed as to the USM's position. I do want to note that I hope to have a targeted focus on USM's economic impact. As you know, while our growth in STEM degrees has been strong, it has been insufficient in terms of meeting the needs of Maryland's economy, especially in the key growth areas of cybersecurity and the health sciences. With a renewed emphasis on undergraduate and graduate-level programs targeting these critical disciplines, we can position Maryland as a national leader and an economic powerhouse in the innovation economy.

I also want to take a moment to highlight a few areas where our emphasis on "systemness" came to the forefront and served the USM and our institutions very well. After the events in Charlottesville, the system and our campuses stepped up almost immediately, and with one voice, reaffirmed our commitment to the core values of diversity and inclusion, fairness and justice, and safety and security. Through this emphasis we enable and foster the process of free inquiry, free speech, and open debate that lie at the heart of any academic enterprise. Likewise, when the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program came under threat, the USM and our campuses were unified in our actions. Virtually the entire Maryland higher education community came together to reach out to the Maryland Congressional delegation, voicing our support for legislation to codify DACA. I want to thank our campuses and campus leadership for their efforts.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the birthdays from over the summer through the end of September.

From the Board of Regents:

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Attman
- June 21<sup>st</sup> Louis Pope
- June 26<sup>th</sup> Bobby Neal
- June 29<sup>th</sup> Frank Reid
- July 11<sup>th</sup> Jim Brady
- July 27<sup>th</sup> Norm Augustine
- August 23<sup>rd</sup> James Holzapfel

And from our presidents:

- August 13<sup>th</sup> Freeman Hrabowski
- August 14<sup>th</sup> Jay Perman
- August 20<sup>th</sup> Ron Nowaczyk

Mr. Chairman . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the Regents may have.

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