
TOPIC: Maryland Center for Computing Education

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

SUMMARY: With guidance from the USM Office of Academic and Students Affairs, campuses of the USM (especially UMBC and UMCP) have been working with a collaborative group of computer science educators and non-profit organizations to enhance the professional development of teachers in computer science. The group includes the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Code.Org, Code-in-the-Schools, and the Computer Science Teacher Association as well as community colleges and local school districts in Maryland. To ensure Maryland's P-12 students have access to computer science courses in elementary, middle and high schools, and to enhance the preparation of students who may wish to focus on computer science in colleges, the state needs much better prepared elementary and secondary education teachers. Governor Hogan responded to this need by proposing legislation, the Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide (ACCESS) Act of 2018. The proposed legislation (attached) would require MSDE to adopt content standards for computer science education.

In addition, the legislation would formally establish the Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCCE). With coordination through the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, leadership and engagement of the campuses, and collaboration with MSDE and other partners, the Center will assist local schools and partner organizations to increase student exposure to computer science and computational thinking by supporting existing teachers and developing education supports and resources. The framework and proposed goals for MCEE are attached.

By Board of Regents Policy IV-1.00 (Policy for the Establishment and Review of Centers and Institutes in the University System of Maryland), any center that is multi-institutional must have chancellor approval, and the establishment of any center that is not based at an institution must have BOR approval. Therefore, in preparation for the final approval steps in the legislative process, we seek endorsement for the naming of the Maryland Center for Computing Education at the USM.

ALTERNATIVE(S): This is an information item.

FISCAL IMPACT: This is an information item.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Information Only

DATE: January 16, 2018

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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