

# **USM Board of Regents Retreat**

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

## **2017 Legislative Agenda**

### **Bills to Pursue:**

#### **Quasi-Endowment Fund for Facilities Renewal:**

SB 583 (2016) would have granted the Board of Regents authority to establish a quasi-endowment of up to \$50 million through a transfer of cash balances currently held by the state treasurer into the System's endowment fund known as the Common Trust Fund, where the funds would be managed as an endowment, where the principal is invested in perpetuity, and annual spendable income of more than \$2.1 million would be generated to use for institutional facilities renewal needs. During the 2016 legislative session, SB 583 passed the Senate, but failed in the House.

#### **Optional Retirement Plan Study:**

SB 453 (2016) would have established a workgroup, staffed by the USM, to study the Optional Retirement Program (ORP). The workgroup would be charged with reviewing the population of employees eligible to participate in ORP; reviewing the contribution requirements for the ORP; reviewing the eligibility criteria for health benefits of ORP participants; and making recommendations regarding any changes to ORP that would improve the program and be beneficial to program participants and the State. During the 2016 legislative session, SB 453 passed the Senate, but failed in the House.

#### **Open Educational Resources Expansion:**

Members of the legislature, including the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology, have expressed an interest in expanding access to open educational resources for students in Maryland. The USM has communicated some of our early success in this area and has shared suggestions for next steps. Please see included document for additional information.

### **Possible Issues/Bills of Concern:**

Financial Aid Reduction Prohibition

Bachelor's Degrees at Community Colleges

Affirmative Consent Standard

Interagency Agreements Indirect Cost Recovery Rate Cap

Paid Sick Leave Standard

Collective Bargaining for Adjuncts/Graduate Students