



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

**Minutes  
Public 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, March 28, 2017 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The meeting was convened at 9:35 a.m. Committee members present were: Regent Slater (chair) and Regents Enriquez, Gourdine, Holzapfel, and Johnson. Chancellor Caret and Chairman Brady were also present.

Also attending were: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Boughman, Ms. Buterbaugh, Ms. Doyle, Dr. Gable, Dr. Hedgeman, Ms. Hollander, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Jamison, Dr. Lee, Dr. Leisey, Mr. Lurie, Dr. Neerchal, Dr. Passmore, Mr. Patty, Dr. Rock, Dr. Rous, Dr. Santamaria-Makang, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Smith, Dr. Travis, Dr. Tull, Dr. Whitehead, Dr. Wilkens, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Wolfe, Dr. Young, and other guests.

**Action Item**

**New Academic Program Proposal**

Frostburg State University: Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Practitioner with Concentrations in Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Dr. Doris Santamaria-Makang, Interim Assistant Provost; Dr. Heather Gable, Chair of Department of Nursing; Dr. Kelly Rock, Assistant Professor; and Ms. Jill Buterbaugh, Assistant Professor, presented this proposal. The concentrations in this proposed MSN would be the first to explicitly target experienced registered nurses who live and work in rural, medically-underserved areas. FSU hopes these students will remain in their communities providing a higher level of care that is so desperately needed. The program would utilize a blended instruction model (online and face-to-face), which offers the flexibility working adults need. Although various aspects of the proposed program can be found at other institutions within the USM, FSU's proposed program differs in delivery mode and degree level. Additionally, the proposal went through the standard approval process during which institutions have the opportunity to object; there were no objections. Regents Johnson and Gourdine shared their excitement for this program. In response to a question from Regent Gourdine, the presenters acknowledged they will probably experience challenges arranging clinical placements for students. The presenters described strategies they'll employ (including, but not limited to, dedicating staff to develop relationships with prisons and county health departments) to secure state-wide clinical placement sites. Regent Holzapfel asked the presenters to consider the role USM-Hagerstown could play in this academic program. Chancellor Caret shared information about an ongoing Healthcare Taskforce, which acknowledges the nursing shortage and other healthcare issues.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Frostburg State University for the Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Practitioner with Concentrations in Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Gourdine, and unanimously approved.

## **Information Items**

### **Overview of Undergraduate Success in the USM**

Mr. Chad Muntz, Director of Institutional Research, presented the following reports:

1. SAT Percentile Distribution of First-Time Undergraduates;
2. Retention and Graduation Rates of First-time, Full-time Degree-Seeking Undergraduates; and
3. Transfer Students to the University System of Maryland: Patterns of Enrollment and Success

These reports are designed to help describe undergraduate enrollment within the USM. When looked at as a whole, the three reports provide a useful overview including the various pipelines that feed undergraduate enrollment, the academic profile of incoming first-time students (as measured by SAT scores), student success and persistence after enrollment, and, in the end, bachelor degree attainment. This information can be helpful as regents seek to understand or make decisions about our student population. The complete reports and the PowerPoint from the presentation are available online, but highlights include:

- Fall new freshmen at USM continue to be an academically strong group.
- Of MD's 63,747 2015-2016 high school graduates, 10,172 went to USM institutions. When adding in the 2,973 students who came to USM from out of state, 13,145 first-time, full-time (FTFT) students comprised the 2016 freshmen class.
- The average SAT score for those students who submitted SAT scores to a USM institution was slightly higher than the average score for Maryland and the nation.
- SAT scores vary between institutions, but have been fairly consistent over time and can partially explain differences in student success across the USM.
- SAT scores correlate with one-year retention rates and six-year graduation rates.
  - SAT is not the only predictor of graduation rates, but the two are strongly correlated.
- Transfer students comprise approximately two-thirds of the new students who enter USM institutions in a fiscal year.
  - Of those Maryland community college (MDCC) transfers who enrolled in FY 2013, 55% graduated within four years. Rates are even higher at regional centers.
- The total number of transfer students entering a USM institution as a new student in FY 2016 was 31,937, up by nearly 3,000 students over FY 2015.
- UMUC accounts for more than half of the total number of transfer students entering a USM institution as a new student in FY 2016 and 80% of all new USM students who transferred from a non-Maryland institution.
- MDCC transfers accounted for 36% of all new USM transfers in 2016, with 11,544 new transfers coming from MDCCs. This number has consistently exceeded 11,000 for five straight years.
- More MDCC students are transferring at the sophomore or junior level increasing the chances of finishing a bachelor's degree within 4 years after transfer.
- Overall, four-year graduation rates remained at the high of 55% for USM (64% if UMUC is excluded).
- Overall, USM is producing nearly seven graduates for every ten who enter as new freshmen.
- A ten-year view shows that graduation rates are at or near all-time highs for all groups reported (USM FTFT, low-income FTFT, MDCC transfers, African American FTFT, regional center transfers, and Hispanic FTFT).
- All leading indicators predict sustained rates of success.

#### Implications:

- From a board perspective, the continuation of initiatives that emphasize completion and closing the achievement gap should be encouraged.
- Competition, resources, and reputation affect quality, demand, and yield.

- Increasing the numbers of students staying in-state at community colleges will increase USM transfer numbers in subsequent years.
- Strategic program expansion at USM regional centers is important.
- An increase in the number of completed credits before transferring increases students' chances to graduate.
- An increase in financial support could help more students attend full-time.
- The continuation of initiatives that emphasize transfer enrollment and completion should be encouraged (even moreso at enrollment-challenged institutions).

Regent Brady asked for subsequent reports to include how we compare to other systems (particularly on the enrollment patterns of a state's graduates if that information is available). Regents acknowledged that we need to understand what USM is doing to keep Maryland high school graduates in Maryland. Chancellor Caret noted that the USM must continue to make decisions and set goals based on the information found in these reports to continue seeing increases and improvements.

### **New Program 5-Year Enrollment Review**

Dr. Joann Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Ms. Teri Hollander, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report. The report details Fall 2016 actual enrollments in new programs approved since FY 2011 to gauge the relative accuracy of projected enrollments, which are included in program proposals presented to EPSL. It is important to note that due to the timing of Board and MHEC approvals and other factors, not all programs are implemented in the year they are approved. In other cases, admission to a program may not occur until students have completed required core courses, examinations, etc.; so, enrollment would be reported two years after implementation. Overall, most programs are approaching their enrollment projections, and Regent Slater acknowledged programs that are exceeding projections. The report details some programs that have been discontinued or that have suspended admission due to low enrollment. Provosts from UMES, UB, and UMBC responded to questions about programs that are not meeting enrollment projections:

- UMES Masters in Chemistry – Dr. Whitehead says the university is engaged in a review of all programs to determine the need for eliminations and modifications, but chemistry is an area they want to sustain and believe they can grow.
- UB Post-Baccalaureate Certificate and Master's in Innovation Management and Technology Commercialization – Dr. Smith described the structure of the certificate and explained that resources are not being specifically directed to this program (or being withheld from other programs to sustain this program), so they will continue to examine demand, but they would like to maintain and grow the program.
- UMBC Bachelor's in Biology Education – Dr. Rous noted that start-up enrollment is lower than the projections due to the design of the program, as students transfer into the program from other fields. A similar pattern can be seen with UMBC's physics education program, which is structured similarly, but began to flourish after a seemingly slow start. They expect the same pattern to happen with the bachelor's in biology education.

Regent Brady suggested that in addition to eliminating programs that can't meet enrollment projections, institutions should also work to understand how some projections could be so inaccurate.

### **Response to Federal Immigration Issues**

Dr. Joann Boughman presented this update. Recent immigration executive orders and actions coming from the White House have affected colleges and universities in many ways. Nearly 200 students, staff, and faculty were at least temporarily affected by the first executive order. We are also concerned about DACA and Dreamer students. The general level of fear and concern for individuals, families, and friends has had a significantly stressful impact on students. Institutions have responded by sharing information broadly on line and in person and by providing support in the form of group sessions, seminars, and individual and group counseling. Many institutions are paying substantial overtime in international student

services offices. Each school has also arranged for contacts to be made with specialists and attorneys to assist students and faculty with immigration issues. These referrals take considerable time and human resources from the institutions. We are also very concerned about implications for admissions. Applications from international students (not only from the targeted countries) are down across the USM. We have special concerns about students from Saudi Arabia and India, as those two countries send many STEM students (especially graduate students) to the USM. Finally, there have been major changes in the H-1B visa program extending the wait time and reducing the number of visas to be granted. These H-1B visa changes and other proposed changes in the visa granting process through agency changes in regulations will have a very serious dampening effect on our ability to recruit postdoctoral fellows. We have 20-50 faculty caught in this extended process. We are even more concerned about the reduced number of applicants for jobs for those with specific expertise in areas such as computer science, cyber, and STEM related disciplines.

Regent Slater asked Dr. Boughman to develop a panel to address these issues from the various institutional-level perspectives. The panel will take place at the May EPSL meeting.

### **Langenberg Lecture Announcement**

Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Outreach presented this announcement. On April 10, 2017, the USM and USM Foundation will host the Langenberg Lecture and Symposium, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, featuring The Honorable Barbara Mikulski. The theme of the lecture and symposium, "*Civic Education, Civic Engagement, and Civic Responsibility: Foundations of a Democratic Society,*" will be addressed through a series of discussion groups and panels during the day and a lunch panel moderated by Dean Lucy Dalglish, James Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland, College Park. The panel will feature Brian Stelter, senior media correspondent for CNN and the host of "Reliable Sources"; Allan Miller, CEO of the News Literacy Project; and Hannah Cole-Chu, third-year student at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and editor-in-chief of the Maryland Law Review. Regents Slater and Gourdine will also take part in the program.

The Symposium is co-sponsored by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Maryland Independent College and University Association, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, and the Maryland State Department of Education and is intended to reinforce a commitment to civic education as a mission-critical responsibility for educators from pre-school through graduate school (P-20). Every college and university in the state (public and private) has been invited to bring a team of 3-5 faculty and educational leaders. The general audience will also include regents, presidents of institutions, and K-12 superintendents, principals, and teachers. During the day, attendees will explore: how schools can build capacity for civic engagement and civic development; how we help students connect their learning to the social, civic, ethical, and environmental issues of the larger community; what is currently being done at schools; who takes the lead; how to get others involved; what obstacles exist; and how we can continue or enhance this work.

### **Action Item**

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Slater called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Enriquez, and unanimously approved. Regent Slater adjourned the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regent Tom Slater