



**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, May 16, 2017 at Coppin State University. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. Committee members present were: Regent Slater (chair) and Regents Enriquez, Fish, Gourdine, Holzapfel (phone), and Johnson. Chancellor Caret and Regent Brady were also present.

Also attending were: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Boughman, Mr. Bowden, Dr. Chandler, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Fidler, Mr. Hogan, Ms. Hollander, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Jamison, Dr. Jarrell, Dr. Kauffman, Dr. Lee, Mr. Lurie, Dr. Mazer, Ms. Moultrie, Ms. Murray, Ms. Patty, Ms. Pomietto, Ms. Ramirez, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Smith, Dr. Whitehead, Dr. Wilkens, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Wolfe, Dr. Zacker, and other guests.

Regent Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered special recognition of and appreciation for Regent Enriquez whose term is ending and who will be attending MIT for graduate school.

**Information Items**

**William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation Update**

Dr. MJ Bishop, Director, William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation (KCAI), presented this report. Dr. Bishop reminded the regents that the KCAI mission is to capitalize on recent findings from the learning sciences and the capabilities of emerging technologies to increase postsecondary access, affordability, and achievement and to identify best practices and facilitate efforts to take them to scale across USM institutions. To date, the Center's impact has been significant. The Center has helped:

- create a collaborative environment to support innovation both among the USM institutions and across the State of Maryland;
- remove barriers that block progress;
- incubate initiatives aimed at catalyzing change; and
- lead the national conversation on academic transformation.

The Center's work is challenged by scarce resources, the difficulty of raising funds for operations support, and the struggle to effect culture change. Dr. Bishop shared details of current KCAI projects including, but not limited to, digital badging, SSMx, the Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative, and USMx. KCAI is a leader in national conversations about academic innovation and looks forward to continuing on that path. In response to a question from Regent Brady, Dr. Bishop said if she had more funding, the Center would be able to move faster on its major projects, explore and support new areas, and increase focus to adaptive

learning environments. The Committee agrees that the full Board should be made aware of the work being done by Dr. Bishop and her team at the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation.

## **Inclusion and Diversity 2016-2017 Overview**

Dr. Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, provided the regents an overview of system-level Inclusion and Diversity (I&D)-related activities and work that has taken place since September 2016. The I&D Council, consisting of representation from all System institutions, has met twice and will meet on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Council began exploring the need for a climate study, the development of a system-wide mission statement, and revisions to the annual cultural diversity report. The System's I&D focus began to more clearly include international students, especially in light of how faculty, staff, and students were affected by immigration actions and plans presented by the White House. Including today's panel, EPSL has had two panels on I&D-related issues – 1) student activism and 2) the effects of the White House's executive orders on immigration and related process changes. Dr. Boughman also briefly discussed demographic changes (generally, system-wide there is an increase in the numbers of students, faculty, and staff or color; focus on diversifying the faculty must continue, especially tenured and tenure-track faculty) occurring in the USM as noted in institutional cultural diversity reports. Finally, Dr. Boughman reminded the regents that the provosts and vice presidents for student affairs regularly discuss I&D-related issues in their monthly meetings.

## **Institutional Programs of Cultural Diversity Annual Progress Report (action)**

Dr. John Wolfe, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report. Since 2008, the Maryland General Assembly has required each institution of postsecondary education to develop and implement a plan for a program of cultural diversity among its students, faculty, and staff. The USM I&D Council proposed a revised format by which institutions would capture this information. A summary of institutional submissions and actual institutional submissions were included in the regents' material and are available on the USM website. All institutions have submitted reports and are in compliance. When considered in combination with the demographic information shared by Dr. Boughman, the reports show that institutions are still maintaining a strong focus on diversity. Programs are plentiful and campus reports show progress in some areas, but, as always, there is more work to be done to ensure inclusive campus environments, as community needs change based on issues and events occurring in society.

## **Panel: The Effects of Federal Immigration Decisions on Campus Communities**

Recent immigration decisions from the White House have affected colleges and universities in many ways. Today, a panel shared the experiences and challenges of students, faculty, and staff at some of our institutions and addressed how university officials are managing these issues while providing a supportive environment for their students, faculty, and staff. Ms. Amy Ramirez, Director of the Office of International Services at UMB, shared stories from the hundreds of international scholars and students who were and still are fearful of and affected by the travel ban and changes being made to H1B visa processing. Ms. Ramirez stressed that those who are concerned come from countries beyond the countries specified in the ban. Dr. John Zacker, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at UMCP, described the sense of fear that has taken over the campus community. Students and staff fear traveling (for professional development,

study abroad, to go home, etc.), discrimination, what will happen to their family members, and, despite the presence of significant resources, seeking assistance, as they are unsure what people and offices they can trust. Dream Act and DACA students are also of great concern. Dr. Zacker also shared that inquiries from prospective students and their families illustrate the degree to which these issues are likely to impact the number of international applicants and overall admissions. Finally, Dr. Tim Chandler, Provost at Towson, described how these issues are negatively affecting faculty recruitment and faculty retention, especially in certain disciplines. He predicts that the shrinking pool of candidates will grow and worsen over the next few years. He shared that recently, prospective hires and others being recruited to or considering TU have declined offers because of immigration-related concerns. Panelists agreed that it's difficult to serve students, faculty, and staff during this time, but additional offices and services have been set up to address concerns and provide services to the community. Regent Slater asked Chancellor Caret and Vice Chancellor Hogan if it's appropriate to and how to present these realities to our government officials. Chancellor Caret noted that he recently presented some of these issues to a delegation of officials but agreed that the panelists' stories were compelling and should be shared when the right venue is identified. Chairman Brady agreed with the need to educate legislators, but he reiterated the need for campus officials to continue providing services to and easing the communities' concerns. He also noted the need to focus on diversifying the faculty, as this could begin to help shift the culture at our institutions.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the 2017 Institutional Programs for Cultural Diversity Annual Progress Report for submission to MHEC by September 1, 2017. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Fish, and unanimously approved.

### **P-20: Langenberg Lecture and Symposium: Civic Education, Civic Engagement, and Civic Responsibility**

Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report to the regents. On April 10, USM, in collaboration with the USM Foundation and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, hosted the endowed Langenberg Lecture, which was organized by the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Symposium was co-sponsored by MHEC, MACC, MICUA, and MSDE, making it truly a P-20 effort. Senator Barbara Mikulski presented a lecture that launched a day of dialogue and discussion in the form of a symposium on a range of topics related to higher education's responsibility for civic education. Two hundred participants - representatives from 31 higher education institutions (including every USM institution) and the K-12 community - were in attendance. The keynote address was followed by a series of breakout sessions and a panel of experts to help ascertain how higher education can build capacity for civic engagement and civic development and how we can help students connect their learning to the social, civic, ethical, and environmental issues of the larger community. When considering the role USM should play in encouraging and supporting civic renewal efforts at our institutions, regents and staff noted that we should continue building bridges between academic and student affairs, that faculty may need professional development to navigate the increasingly political environment, and that the university should be a laboratory for ideas, sharing, and learning. Regent Slater recommended that Dr. Shapiro create a team of provosts and vice presidents for student affairs to examine and make recommendations about the role of USM in promoting and supporting civic education, engagement, and responsibility. The committee agreed; Dr. Shapiro will keep the committee updated.

## **Legislative Session Summary**

On April 10, 2017, the Maryland General Assembly concluded, with several actions having direct impact on the policies and processes of interest to the EPSL Committee. Vice Chancellor for Government Affairs, Mr. Patrick Hogan, updated the regents on the Session. Of the approximately 3,000 bills that were introduced, about 75 related to USM. The System worked on the Textbook Cost Savings Act (HB 967) which passed. The legislative team also worked with legislators to make amendments to the following bills, which have passed and are with the governor: Criminal History in the Admission Process (HB 694), Financial Aid Reduction Restrictions (SB 327), Student Loan Notification Letter (HB 509), Student Debt Relief Act (HB 399), Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Programs at USM Institutions (HB 950), and Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act (HB 1082). With support from USM staff, various campus stakeholders have already started planning changes that will be required by the passing of these and other laws.

## **Campus Crime Reports**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report. The data included in the crime report are required by the Clery Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act and are submitted annually by all postsecondary institutions that receive Title IV (federal student aid programs) funding. The tables present crime reports by institution and include criminal offenses, arrests, and campus disciplinary actions for violations that occurred in the following Clery geography: on-campus, noncampus, and public property in 2015. This is the first year noncampus and public property crimes are included in the report. This shift is important, as it presents a more accurate picture of the crimes and rates of crimes at our institutions. In addition to total number of reported incidents, the tables provide a rate that reflects the total number of incidents per 1,000 students, and a trend table showing five years of system-wide data. Highlights in system-wide changes over last year's figures include:

- decreases in reports of robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, vehicle theft, arson, and drug abuse and liquor law violations; and
- increases in reports of rape, fondling, Violence Against Women's Act offenses (likely resulting from an increase in reporting), weapons possession violations, and hate crimes.

Dr. Lee shared that USM 2015 trends mirror national trends for public four-year institutions and that all institutions are in compliance with the requirement to submit the annual campus security report to the Department of Education.

## **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 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regent Tom Slater