



**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, January 16, 2018 at the Universities at Shady Grove. The meeting was convened at 9:32 a.m. Committee members present were: Regent Gourdine (chair) and Regents Brady, Shorter, and Dennis (via phone). Chancellor Caret was also present.

The following were also in attendance: Dr. Andersen, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Boughman, Dr. Beise, Dr. Coleman, Dr. desjardins, Dr. Foster, Ms. Herbst, Ms. Jamison, Dr. Jarrell, Dr. Kauffman, Dr. Lee, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Neal, Dr. Olmstead, Mr. Patty, Dr. Plowfield, Ms. E. Murray, Dr. R. Murray, Dr. Rous, Dr. Santamaria-Makang, Dr. Shapiro, Ms. Smith, Dr. Van Dam, Mr. Vivona, Dr. Wade, Dr. Whitehead, and others.

**Action Item**

**Academic Program Proposal**

**Towson University: Entry Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program and Post Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program**

Dr. Tim Chandler, Provost, and Dr. Lisa Plowfield, Dean of the College of Health Professions, presented this proposal. The proposed Entry Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (ELOTD) and Post Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PPOTD) programs are a result of the recent action taken by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education to mandate the move for the entry-level degree for occupational therapists to the doctoral level by 2027. The proposed PPOTD will allow Towson to serve current, entry-level OT practitioners with master's degrees who will be tasked with supervising fieldwork and hiring ELOTD graduates. The ELOTD will allow TU to transition away from the entry-level master's program and replace it with an entry-level doctoral program in advance of the 2027 mandate. The proposed programs will be critical contributors to the healthcare workforce in Maryland. There are no concerns about program duplication. Currently, Towson offers Maryland's only entry-level master's program that prepares registered occupational therapists and has been doing so since 1975. The proposed graduate programs will continue to fulfill a significant need in Maryland, as the closest OT programs are in Richmond and Philadelphia. Additionally, the proposal went through the standard approval process during which institutions can object; there were no objections. Beyond the necessity of these programs for accreditation reasons, as of 2014, the OT profession has a projected 27% national job growth rate. Approving these

programs will allow for continuity in TU's highly-ranked program, keep occupational therapists in the state, and meet rehabilitation and healthcare needs within the community. Since resources are already tied to the current OT program, no additional resources are needed for the proposed programs. Reallocations will cover costs.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to establish an Entry Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate (ELOTD) Program. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Dennis, and unanimously approved.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to establish a Post Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate (PPOTD) Program. The motion was moved by Regent Brady, seconded by Regent Dennis, and unanimously approved.

### **Information Items**

#### **University System of Maryland Strategic Plan Update**

Ms. Ellen Herbst, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Anthony Foster, Associate Vice Chancellor for Accountability and Planning, presented this update.

Understanding that strategic plans should not be static and following guidance provided by the regents and USM presidents at the Board's November 2016 budget retreat, USM staff have worked to update and refresh the current USM strategic plan through the 2018-2020 timeframe. The refresh builds on progress achieved under the current USM plan (i.e., goals regarding STEM; company startups; and course redesign), but other goals needed revisiting. Specifically, goals and strategies tied to bachelor's degree completion, STEM degree completion, technology transfer and commercialization, stewardship, and effectiveness and efficiency were reviewed and updated. In addition to updating the aforementioned goals, the USM leadership and stakeholders found it important to address societal changes that have occurred since the current plan was adopted in 2010. Subsequently, the most significant change to the strategic plan is the introduction of a theme focused on promoting and enhancing greater equity, diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement among all students, faculty, and staff. Other additions to the plan include goals and strategies addressing needs and opportunities in Baltimore, advances in academic innovation and efficiency and effectiveness, and new economic development opportunities. Congratulating the System on progress already made and on identifying important new or refreshed goals, Regent Brady asked that the inclusion, diversity, and civic engagement goal be more directed and include the importance of diversity of thought. Regent Shorter also asked that disability support services and accessibility be acknowledged. Further, he suggested that we determine ways to assess the System's and institutions' progress on various goals and that the goals should have more specificity in order to help make determinations about progress and that a report, ultimately, be presented to the regents. Regent Gourdine and others noted the need for clarity on the definition of and assessment(s) of "systemness". Chancellor Caret shared that he is working with the presidents to determine how to most effectively engage in systemness while maintaining unique institutional personalities.

Drafts of the refreshed strategic plan goals and the executive summary were shared with the Council of University System Presidents in November 2017 and January 2018. Dr. Foster, the USM institutional research team, and Mr. Jeff Neal, Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing, were recognized for their important roles in the strategic plan update and communications plan. A full draft of the refreshed strategic plan and the executive summary will be available on the USM website.

### **Maryland Center for Computing Education**

Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Outreach, presented this report. With the support of grants and in coordination with the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs and engagement of the campuses (especially UMBC and UMCP), the Maryland State Department of Education and other partners, have acknowledged and studied the consequences of a lack of computer science teachers. 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 college, 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 would require MSDE to adopt content standards for computer science education. The legislation would also formally establish the Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCCE). 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 were shared. The Board of Regents Policy for the Establishment and Review of Centers and Institutes in the USM (IV-1.00) requires chancellor approval for the creation of any center that is multi-institutional and BOR approval for the establishment of any center that is not based at an institution. Therefore, the Committee received this report in preparation for their formal approval for the naming of the Maryland Center for Computing Education at the USM, which will be sought once the legislative process is complete. Regent Brady commended this effort, and the regents look forward to an update upon the conclusion of the legislative session.

### **Update: Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education**

Chancellor Robert Caret presented this update. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (also known as the Kirwan Commission and chaired by Chancellor Emeritus Kirwan) was appointed in June 2016 with the dual charge of:

- (1) reviewing the current education financing formula (Bridge To Excellence in Public Schools Act, Thornton Commission) and
- (2) making policy recommendations to ensure that Maryland public schools would perform comparably to the best schools in the world.

With many implications for students' preparation for higher education and teacher preparation and training, higher education is represented on the Commission by Chancellor Robert Caret, with assistance from Dr. Nancy Shapiro. The Commission will make policy recommendations in January 2018 and will do an intensive cost analysis of the recommendations over the next few months. The Commission will also make recommendations for legislative and policy initiatives

to increase the availability of innovative educational opportunities (guided by the National Center on Education and the Economy's nine building blocks for high-performing school systems - <http://ncee.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/9-blocksv011217.pdf>) and for strategies to make funding for State public education adequate and equitable. Chancellor Caret also shared the Commission membership, the consultants for the two goals of the Commission, insight into international and national gap analyses, lessons learned, and areas of consensus for work to be done. Workgroups are in place to bring recommendations into reality, and there is focus on how to phase in recommendations and to fully understand fiscal implications. The Commission's complete report and recommendations are expected in the second quarter of 2018. The regents commended the Commission on its work. In response to questions from Regent Brady and Regent Shorter, Chancellor Caret noted that principal training and the process by which recommendations will be implemented are being considered. Regent Shorter also asked the USM to consider what we're already doing and could be doing to address these issues. Chancellor Caret offered some programs (UTEACH and teaching academies) that exist within the USM and noted that focus on such programs and activities will continue.

### **Results of Periodic Reviews of Academic Programs**

Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report. Existing academic programs are required to be reviewed every seven years. A format for the reports is standardized and includes information on enrollments and degrees awarded, internal and external reviews, and institutional recommendations and actions. The periodic program review process includes an internal self-study that is conducted by the program at the departmental level and reviewed by external reviewers. The respective dean and the provost review the recommendations and draft full report prior to submission for additional review by staff in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Comments are shared with the institutions for appropriate action prior to final submission to the Chancellor. Institutional action plans are decided upon primarily by the provost or dean, both of whom are responsible to monitor academic quality and productive use of resources.

During this cycle, 92 programs were reviewed, and ten successful program accreditation reviews took place. The clear majority of the programs that were reviewed are strong and continue to build, but five programs were identified as having low degree productivity. Institutional teams have already implemented focused strategies for increasing enrollment and degree productivity and have identified comprehensive timelines for improvements. Coppin, UMB, and UMES did not have programs under review.

Regent Brady asked how long low degree productivity programs should be allowed to exist, and he shared that he believes an end should be identified. Regent Shorter agreed, suggesting the creation of a policy or standard practice that establishes how long low degree productivity programs would be allowed to exist. Provosts and associate provosts from several institutions noted a variety of factors that help determine a program's viability and other considerations to be made when determining the fate of a program. Those points include the overall health and strength of the program, maintaining graduate programs to attract high-quality faculty, the diversity of the faculty, trends over several years, and competition that may exist and may be contributing to lower enrollment. The provosts, Dr. Coleman, and Dr. Boughman noted the great extent to which this review is a good motivator, as it identifies weaker elements of

programs (including but beyond degree productivity) and encourages institutions to be creative and thoughtful about making improvements. Provosts and Dr. Boughman also noted that when a program is no longer viable, by the aforementioned variety of factors, programs are discontinued. Some discontinuances are noted in the footnotes of the chart accompanying this report, and, in September, the Committee received a report that four degree programs had been discontinued in the last year.

### **Report on Extramural Funding – FY 2017**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Chief of Staff to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report. This report provides information on extramural awards received by USM institutions in support of specific initiatives in research, education, or service in FY 2017; in addition to detailed information by institution and funding source for FY 2016 and FY 2017, the report also provides five years of summary data by institution for comparison purposes. In FY 2017, the System received a total of \$1,292,254,826.32 in extramural funding, a 2% increase from the FY 2016 total of \$1,265,909,656.95. UMB and UMCP garnered the largest extramural funding totals among System institutions. BSU, CSU, FSU, SU, UB, UMB, UMBC, and UMES obtained higher levels of extramural funding than in FY 2016. Big shifts in institutional funding between FY 2016 and FY 2017 can often be attributed to one big grant that was received or not received. Overall, however, there was an increase in the number of proposals submitted and, for each of the last five years, the System has experienced an increase in extramural funding.

### **Action Item**

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in closed session to address regents' faculty award and honorary degree nominations. The motion was moved by Regent Shorter, seconded by Regent Dennis, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair