



**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 Friday, September 6, 2019 at Towson University. The meeting was convened at 9:35 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Johnson, Needham, and Wood. Chancellor Caret was also present.

The following were also in attendance: Dr. Alvarez, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Boughman, Dr. Brunn, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Henry, Ms. Jamison, Dr. Jarrell, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Lurie, Mr. McDonough, Ms. E. Murray, Dr. R. Murray, Dr. Niemi, Dr. Olmstead, Dr. Perrault, Ms. Pomietto, Dr. Reitz, Dr. Rous, Dr. Scott, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. D. Smith, Ms. K. Smith, Dr. Throop, Ms. Wilkerson, and other guests.

Chair Gourdine welcomed all to the meeting. She shared her pleasure with being chair of the committee and introduced new regent, Drew Needham, law student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Regent Gourdine thanked President Kim Schatzel and her team for their hospitality. Chair Gourdine, Regent Wood, and Chancellor Caret offered condolences and warm memories of Regent Katrina Dennis, who passed away on August 31, 2019 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. All remember Regent Dennis as sharp, dedicated, focused, and inspirational in her work on the Board, with EPSL, in her profession, and in the community. Those in attendance participated in a moment of silence in honor of Regent Dennis.

**Action Items**

**New Academic Program Proposals**

**Salisbury University: Bachelor of Science in Data Science**

Dr. Karen Olmstead, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Mike Scott, Dean, Henson School of Science and Technology, presented the proposal for Salisbury University to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science. This program would build on existing expertise within the faculty and is a natural outgrowth of current programs. The program will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in rapidly-expanding industries that operate in a multifaceted and ever-evolving technological environment. Graduates will have the ability to manipulate, capture, maintain, process, and communicate large data sets in a variety of sectors from healthcare to retail to manufacturing. The workforce demand for data science-related jobs is well documented, and experts predict the demand will continue growing. SU is well prepared in terms of faculty expertise and facilities to deliver this unique undergraduate program, which will launch graduates into successful careers in a wide diversity of public and private organizations. In response to questions from Regent Needham, the presenters shared that the program is designed to partner well with a variety of majors, offering students opportunities to double major. Additionally, the program will allow for relatively easy transfer into this degree from other science programs. The proposal has gone through the standard USM approval process with institutions having time to submit objections. There have been no objections, and there are no concerns about program duplication.

In response to a question from Regent Wood, Drs. Olmstead and Scott shared that the program will be included in the university's marketing efforts, specifically those as connected to enrollment management. These efforts could include features on the SU website and other digital marketing. Chancellor Caret shared the USM's leadership of or partnerships with the Business Higher Education Forum, the Greater Washington Partnership, the Maryland Center for Computing Education, and the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, which have all reinforced the importance of preparing students for jobs in data analytics/science, cyber, and other technical fields. Dr. Joann Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, shared that the provosts may want to consider creating a roadmap for data analytics/science-related programs across the USM to understand how they compare and contrast as well as to describe how the USM is meeting that workforce need.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to establish a Bachelor of Science in Data Science. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Needham, and passed.

Vote Count:    Yea: 4                    Nays: 0                    Abstentions: 0

**Salisbury University: Bachelor of Arts in Outdoor Education Leadership**

Dr. Karen Olmstead, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Laurie Henry, Dean, Seidel School of Education, presented the proposal for Salisbury University to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Outdoor Education Leadership (ODEL) to address local and regional demand for professionals trained in leadership using environmental and adventure-based programming. The program builds on an existing minor and is well suited to the extensive natural environments of the Eastern Shore region. Student interest is high, and the US and Maryland departments of labor forecast increases in positions such as recreation workers, training and development specialists, and training and development managers, which will yield a steady market for ODEL graduates. The ODEL B.A. will enable students to develop skills and competencies including, but not limited to, leadership, understanding of ethical frameworks, group facilitation, environmental stewardship, risk management, program planning, and research. The delivery of this program applies knowledge in fieldwork experiences, which will help students develop an array of critical thinking, communication, and leadership aptitudes. Thus, the program prepares students to compete for professional positions, not only in the large variety of Mid-Atlantic outdoor adventure, education, and environmental interpretation jobs, but also in fields requiring leadership development, communication, and facilitation skills. The proposed program adheres to the accreditation standards of the Association for Experiential Education, and the university will seek national accreditation.

In response to a question from Regent Wood, Drs. Olmstead and Henry shared that the program will be included in the university's marketing efforts, specifically those as connected to enrollment management. These efforts could include features on the SU website and other digital marketing. Additionally, admissions teams will be equipped to share information about the BA in ODEL as they visit high schools throughout the state and region. Dr. Olmstead noted the presence of a similar program at Frostburg State University and shared that initial conversations have begun to consider how the programs may be able to collaborate given that their focus is the same although their geographies differ greatly. Regent Needham noted that this would be an excellent opportunity for students.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Outdoor Education Leadership. The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Needham, and passed.

Vote Count: Yea: 4 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

### **Information Items**

#### **Discussion of Proposed Amendments to Committee Bylaws and Draft Committee Charge**

Dr. Jo Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, reminded the committee of the University System of Maryland Governance Review Final Report, developed by the Association of Governing Boards, recommended that USM Board committees bring clarity to committee work by reviewing and/or developing committee bylaws, charges, and practices to ensure expectations and structures remain consistent with current System priorities. During the summer, Chair Michelle Gourdine, Dr. Boughman, and her staff met to discuss possible amendments to EPSL's section of the USM Board of Regents Bylaws (Article IX, Section 4) and to develop a draft committee charge for the committee's consideration. Dr. Boughman noted that the proposed amendments to the Bylaws are technical in nature and have been drafted to show the action ("report", "review", or "recommend") EPSL takes on various topics and to include a few new topic areas addressed by the committee. The redlined edits of Article IX, Section 4 were included in the meeting materials. The charge was drafted based on the last several years of reports and major academic and student affairs topics that have appeared on EPSL agendas, been of interest or concern to the USM, or that System staff anticipate as forthcoming issues of import.

Regent Wood noted that, within campus safety, we should consider the System's and Board's work on crisis management. Regents agreed that the charge and amendments to the Bylaws are comprehensive and ready for review at the next level. Chair Gourdine noted that these documents can be amended in the future, but these versions will be part of the broader review of committees' charges and the BOR bylaws during the Board meeting on September 20, 2019.

#### **Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, AY 2018-2019**

Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report to the committee. In accordance with Board Resolution III-7.03, this annual report is submitted to the Board of Regents to account for all academic program actions delegated to the Chancellor. Between September 2018 and August 2019, the Chancellor approved 17 new certificates, 5 modified certificates, 24 modified degrees, and 17 title changes. He also approved the suspension or discontinuation of 6 degrees, 4 areas of concentration within degrees, and 5 certificates. In addition, the Board of Regents approved 19 new degree programs. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved by the Board is attached. Dr. Coleman shared that there has been a steady increase in the number of actions approved by the chancellor and EPSL. From academic year 2015-2016 to 2018-2019, there was a 200% increase in chancellor's actions and a 111% increase in Board actions. Dr. Coleman reminded the committee that program enrollment and program review reports that come to EPSL in January are related to the current report. Chancellor Caret described the care with which he reviews program actions and that he is pleased with what appears to be good planning and thinking by the provosts and their teams. Chancellor Caret also noted that he is in favor of increasing the threshold levels at which a program is deemed not viable and is considered for discontinuation. He and Senior Vice Chancellor Boughman will continue to discuss his belief that after

years of low enrollments, a program should be put on warning. After three years on warning, if the program's enrollment has not improved, the Chancellor believes the program should be automatically discontinued (with the possibility of an appeal). Dr. Boughman shared nuances that should be considered with such a practice and noted that she and the Academic Affairs Advisory Council (USM provosts) will consider those details.

### **Notification of Awards: USM Regents Scholars Program, Donald Langenberg Lecture Award, Wilson H. Elkins Professorships**

Dr. Antoinette Coleman shared information about the **USM Regents Scholars Program**, which was created to provide outstanding students with the financial freedom to pursue academic studies USM institutions. Substantial endowments have been established by individuals and corporations in order to cover the estimated cost of attendance for tuition and fees, living expenses and academic materials. A typical full scholarship for a first-year student or transfer student for 2019-20 would be approximately \$23,781 per year. Partial scholarships are also available. For academic year 2019-2020, 13 new and 12 continuing students were awarded a total of \$396,715.

Dr. Zakiya Lee shared information about the **Langenberg Lecture Scholarship**, which was established through a solicitation for an endowed fund in honor of former USM Chancellor Donald N. Langenberg on the occasion of his retirement in 2002. The scholarship recognizes a rising senior who shows promise and commitment to a career in education and has strong academic performance. In Spring 2019, the USM was proud to present Ms. Faith Garner of Bowie State University with a \$2,000 award in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of education. Ms. Garner's exemplary academic accomplishment in her program and her commitment to teaching are laudable. While maintaining academic excellence, she held leadership roles in the Bulldog Academy Leadership Institute, Bowie Sisters United, and other organizations. Additionally, Faith takes time to mentor new students.

Dr. Lee also described the **Wilson H. Elkins Professorship**, which was established to perpetuate the name and contributions of Dr. Elkins who led the University of Maryland to new levels of distinction as its president from 1954 to 1978. Special effort is made to bestow the award in those areas where the Elkins Professor will have an opportunity to make an important contribution to the teaching, research, and public service mission of their institution and the entire USM. Direct involvement with undergraduate and/or graduate students and outreach to other institutions within the System are hallmarks of the Elkins Professors. The FY 2020 Professorship winners are (1) Bowie State University's Dr. Julius Davis, (2) the University of Baltimore's Dr. Mortimer Sellers, (3) the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Dr. Paulinus Chigbu, and (4) multiple faculty members dedicated to academic innovation efforts. All projects are described in the meeting materials.

The committee appreciated this new report and would be pleased to hear it again in the future. Additionally, the committee would be pleased to welcome an Elkins Professor to share their research and outcomes.

### **Tentative Annual Agenda, 2019-2020**

The proposed agenda comprises anticipated action items as well as information and discussion items. Chair Gourdine noted key topics and shared that some items are reported on an annual schedule to ensure that the regents are well informed about topics of general interest (e.g. enrollment projections, campus crime reporting, financial aid), while others respond to specific requests for reports and recommendations on a variety of topics of interest to the Committee. Regent Wood restated his interest in learning more about the USM's crisis planning and crisis management efforts. Provost Philip

Rous (UMBC) recommended adding the diversification of faculty to the tentative agenda. Regent Gourdine invited the committee and stakeholders to share ideas for agenda topics with her, Dr. Joann Boughman, or members of her team if they should have ideas at a later date.

### **Action Item**

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn and read the appropriate statement to reconvene in closed session to address an honorary degree nomination. The motion was moved by Regent Needham, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair



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

**Minutes ~ Closed Session**

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (EPSL) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in closed session on Friday, September 6, 2019 at Towson University. The meeting was convened at 11:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Johnson, Needham, and Wood. Chancellor Caret was also present.

Also attending were: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Boughman, Dr. Lee, and Ms. Wilkerson.

**Action Item**

**Out-of-Cycle Honorary Degree Nomination**

In accordance with the Board of Regents' Policy on Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00), Bowie State University has submitted an out-of-cycle nomination for an honorary degree. After the final approval of the nomination, the president may begin to arrange for the awarding of the honorary degree. The actual degree may be conferred at any time within five years of approval, unless withdrawn by the Board of Regents for cause. The institution and USM staff vetted the nominee. There are no concerns about the current nominee. The name of the nominee and the degree being recommended, as well as the nomination letters and supporting documentation, were made available to regents prior to the meeting.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the Bowie State University nomination for an honorary degree submitted in August 2019, to be added to the list of individuals approved for the awarding of honorary degrees. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Needham, and passed.

Vote Count: Yea: 4                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

**Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Wood and seconded by Regent Needham. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair