



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 (BOR) met virtually (via Zoom) in public session on Monday, November 23, 2020. The meeting was convened at 2:00 p.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Johnson, Leggett, Malhotra, Sansom, Schulz, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Davis, Dr. Foust, Dr. Goodman, Dr. Hurte, Dr. D. Johnson, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lewis, Ms. Marano, Dr. Mathias, Dr. R. Murray, Dr. Niemi, Dr. Olmstead, Dr. Perrault, Dr. Rous, Professor Sellers, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Travis, Dr. Ward, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Young, and Dr. Zimmerman. Guests also participated via the public, listen-only line.

Action Item

Proposed Amendments to Committee Bylaws and Draft Committee Charge

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, made this presentation to the committee. Proposed amendments to the Education Policy and Student Life section (Article IX, Section 4) of the Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland and a draft committee charge were presented to and discussed by this committee in September 2019. Unintentionally, the item was received as information and was not acted upon. The materials are being re-presented to the Committee for action.

In June 2019, the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) released its final report of the governance review they performed on the USM Board of Regents. Based on their thorough analysis complete with interviews with many stakeholders, the AGB recommended that the Board's committees review and/or develop committee bylaws, charges, and practices to ensure expectations and structures remain consistent with System priorities. In the summer of 2019, Chair Gourdine and the USM Academic and Student Affairs team reviewed and drafted amendments to the EPSL section of the Board of Regents Bylaws and drafted a charge for the committee. In September 2019, the committee members approved of the drafts, but since action was not taken, the documents have not been incorporated into the Board's governing documents. Recently, the USM team and Chair Gourdine reviewed the documents and deemed them still appropriate to be presented to the committee for action.

Bylaws: The team does not recommend any substantive deletions, but there are many areas where expanded language is proposed. Changes include:

- the addition of the phrase "to report or recommend" to reflect the action that can take place around the matters being described;
- the inclusion of institutional mission statements as a basis for the work being done at the institutions;

- the inclusion of specialized centers and institutes, which reflects a BOR policy for which the USM Academic and Student Affairs team is responsible;
- clarification that the committee hears new academic program proposals but also regularly reviews existing programs;
- the inclusion of work done in various student support services areas; and
- the deletion of a bullet referring to reporting and making recommendations, as the team suggests this action be described throughout the document and not in an independent bullet.

None of the changes reflect new work being done or new work that will need to be done. The changes reflect attempts to more accurately capture what's already happening on campuses and what's already being addressed by EPSL.

EPSL Charge: The role and responsibilities closely reflect EPSL's description as noted in the bylaws and focus on academic- and student-affairs related policies and matters for all institutions. The listing of topics is as comprehensive as possible without going into too much detail. Matters include, but are not limited to, Title IX; access and affordability; P20; review of institutional mission statements and goals; a variety of student services; diversity and inclusion; creation of and review of academic program proposals; and faculty affairs. The charge also leaves room for topics to be initiated by regents and other stakeholders.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Lee asked for clarification regarding mentions of intercollegiate athletics (ICA) in these EPSL documents in light of the recent creation of the standing committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare. Chair Gooden noted that the existence of the new standing committee is not intended to remove EPSL review of academic performance metrics. EPSL's role in intercollegiate athletics will be considered as the new committee is being fully developed and can continue to be reflected in these documents.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve (1) amendments to EPSL section of the Board of Regent Bylaws and (2) the EPSL Committee Charge and Role and Responsibilities. The motion was moved by Regent Sansom, seconded by Regent Schultz, and passed unanimously.

Vote Count: Yeas: 8 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Information Items

Notification of Awards: Regents Scholarships and Elkins Professorships

Annually, the University System of Maryland Office of Academic and Student Affairs facilitates the distribution of scholarships to students and research funds in support of its faculty. Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, shared information about the USM Regents Scholars Program Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and two of last year's Elkins Professors shared information about the Elkins Professorship.

The **USM Regents Scholars Program** was created to provide outstanding students with the financial freedom to pursue academic studies at 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 2020-21 would be approximately \$24,870 per year. This figure is higher than last year's total even though charges for FY21 in-state tuition, fees, room and board

were held flat. Partial scholarships were also awarded. For academic year 2020-2021, 13 new and 6 continuing students were awarded a total of \$284,700. Dr. Coleman shared how transformational these scholarships are to students. She read a letter from a recent scholarship recipient who expressed her gratitude and shared how her life changed after receiving a Regents Scholarship.

The **Wilson H. Elkins Professorship** is supported by endowed funds and designated to supplement an existing faculty line and/or to support faculty research. 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 the institution and the entire University System of Maryland. The Professorship is an opportunity for the faculty member and institution to build on their strengths to be of greater service to its students and to society. Dr. Julius Davis (Bowie State University) and Professor Mortimer Sellers (University of Baltimore), two 2019-2020 winners, were present to share details of their Elkins-funded work. Professor Sellers has used the funding to support to the Law and Justice Program that: 1) offers classes; 2) coordinates UB students working with partner NGOs on specific law and justice projects; 3) receives cooperating experts for a series of public lectures; 4) pursues research in law and justice; and 5) publishes books and articles. Dr. Davis has used the professorship to expand and institutionalize the Center for Research and Mentoring of Black Male Students and Teachers with its foci on recruiting Black males into teacher education programs and the profession, addressing college access concerns for that group, as well as conducting research.

Both Dr. Davis and Professor Sellers have also received 2020-2021 funds to continue their work. Additional 2020-2021 awards were made to (1) Coppin State University to support the work of Dr. Kesslyn Brade-Stennis who plans to facilitate community change by creating policy and service-related community engagement experiences for students at Coppin and across the USM in an effort to promote social justice leadership and community empowerment; (2) the University of Maryland, College Park to support the work of Dr. Don DeVoe who plans to involve graduate, undergraduate, and high school students in research focusing on advancing a unique platform for developing personalized cancer immunotherapies through the automated manipulation of individual cancer and immune cells, groundbreaking work at the intersection of engineering, biology, and the medical sciences; and (3) multiple faculty across institutions in Western Maryland to support their collaborative efforts to adopt, adapt, create, and scale the use of fully accessible, freely-available educational resources as part of the Maryland Open Source Textbook initiative. Led by Frostburg State University, the project aims specifically at increasing access, affordability, as well as student achievement through enhanced pathways and course redesign.

Multiple regents expressed their appreciation for and amazement with the important work being done by the Elkins Professors. In response to a question from Chancellor Perman, the presenters shared work that has been or will be published based on their Elkins-funded work. Regent Schulz expressed interest in learning more about the academic innovation efforts around the Maryland Open Source Textbook initiative. Dr. MJ Bishop, Director of the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, will share that information with the committee.

Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, 2019-2020

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 2019 and August 2020, the Chancellor approved 26 new certificates, 6 modified certificates, 22 modified degrees, and 23 title changes. He also approved the suspension or

discontinuation of 12 degrees, 2 areas of concentration within degrees, 4 certificates, and 3 additional locations. In addition, the Board of Regents approved 17 new degree programs. Dr. Coleman noted that this is an uptick in activity over 2018-2019. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved by the Board for a total of 115 approvals for this report was circulated in advance. Regents engaged in a brief discussion regarding the possibility of increased suspensions due to the pandemic and the need to continually review and revise how courses are being delivered and innovations that may help improve student success.

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 has greatly affected many aspects of our lives and our institutions' functioning. It has required months and months of intense and sustained work, collaboration, adjusting, and readjusting by our institutional and System leaders. Chancellor Perman shared that although Salisbury University will have in-person learning still taking place after Thanksgiving, the other USM institutions' semesters are either done or will move fully online. Students are being encouraged to get tested before they go home and discussions regarding plans for testing in the spring have been underway for weeks. As of today, institutions are planning for their spring semester to closely resemble the fall semester. Since leadership knows more, there will be improvements and enhancements where possible, but most classes will remain online, campuses will continue to be de-densified, and masks and other public health measures will still be required. Chancellor Perman noted USM's work with the University of Maryland Medical System regarding vaccine including our offerings of freezer space, healthcare-related students as vaccinators, early graduation of qualified nurses, and other measures. Dr. Perman thanked USM students, faculty, and staff for their dedication through the fall and expressed that it is leadership's partnership with those stakeholders that helped make the fall as smooth as possible. Chair Gourdine also expressed her appreciation to all involved in the planning and execution of such complexities.

Chancellor Perman also shared that UMBC student, Mr. Sam Patterson ('21), is now the second student in UMBC history to receive a Rhodes Scholarship. Only 32 American students (three from Maryland) are awarded the prestigious scholarship each year. Sam will pursue an M.Sc. in the Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance program at the University of Oxford in England focusing on the economics of transportation before attending Harvard University for a Ph.D. UMBC Provost Philip Rous shared his appreciation for the well wishes and spoke highly of Sam, his achievements, and his future.

Action Item

Adjournment

Chair Gourdine thanked the meeting participants and wished all happy holidays. Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Leggett, seconded by Regent Malhotra, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair