

**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 Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.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: Dr. Andersen, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Becnel, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Cestone, Dr. Chulos, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Crowe, Dr. Eskow, Dr. Foust, Dr. Goodman, Dr. Hurte, Ms. Jenkins, Dr. D. Johnson, Dr. Kiger, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Lilly, Mr. Lurie, Ms. Marano, Dr. Moreira, Dr. Mathias, Mr. Muntz, Dr. R. Murray, Dr. Niemi, Dr. Olmstead, Dr. Owens, Dr. Perrault, Ms. Pomietto, Dr. Rook, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Shin, Dr. Treuth, Dr. Ward, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Young, and Dr. Zimmerman. Guests also participated via the public, listen-only line.

Action Items

New Academic Program Proposal

University of Maryland, Baltimore: MS in Health Professions Education

Dr. Flavius Lilly, Vice Provost for Academic & Student Affairs and Vice Dean for the Graduate School, and Dr. Christina Cestone, Executive Director, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, presented the proposal for the University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School to offer a Master of Science in Health Professions Education (MS-HPE). The 32-credit program will be housed within the School's existing PhD in Health Professions Education program, and instruction will occur predominantly online in addition to an in-person impact week occurring at the start of the second year and intercultural and inclusive learning competencies threaded through the first two years of the curriculum. The MS-HPE will focus on the scholarship of teaching and learning of health professionals. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be prepared to become leaders and educators in their respective healthcare fields and will help meet the State's challenge to grow the number of health care practitioners. Professional associations for each of the health professions on campus were contacted, and recurring themes regarding faculty shortage concerns were evident. The MS-HPE is likely to attract learners from the various health professions including, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, and dentistry, among others. Graduates of the proposed degree will be ready to apply the skills that they have acquired through the degree to employment in the private sector, as well as local, state and government positions in healthcare, and education.

There are 34 Health Professions Education master's degree programs in the country, but there are no other in the University System of Maryland. Johns Hopkins, the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences, Notre Dame, and McDaniel College offer degrees or certificates in health professions education (or a closely-related field), but each have distinct differences (degree offered, modality, target audience, etc.) that make the UMB proposed program unique and necessary to help meet demand. Additionally, this proposal has gone through the standard review and approval processes with USM institutions having time

to submit objections. Via the USM process, there were no objections. It is noted that, via the process conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, other institutions in the state will have the opportunity to object to the establishment of this program. However, the USM staff believes the institution has done its due diligence regarding a state-wide examination of programs to try to ensure there is no duplication.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, Baltimore to offer the Master of Science in Health Professions Education. The motion was moved by Regent Sansom, seconded by Regent Malhotra, and passed unanimously.

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

University of Maryland, College Park: BS in Mechatronics

Dr. Betsy Beise, Associate Provost, and Dr. Andrew Becnel and Dr. Ken Kiger of the A. James Clark School of Engineering presented the proposal for the University of Maryland, College Park to establish a Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics to be administered by the Department of Aerospace Engineering within the A. James Clark School of Engineering. Mechatronics is the combination of mechanical, electrical, and information systems engineering. The program addresses the growing need for cross-disciplinary engineers skilled in the areas of robotics, automation, and advanced manufacturing technologies, collectively known as Industry 4.0. The Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics will provide students with a fundamental understanding of mechatronic systems analysis, the knowledge of how these systems are developed and deployed, and the practical experience required to implement mechatronic systems in real-world applications. Graduates of the program are expected to be highly sought after in fields such as aerospace & defense, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing & automation, robotics, and biomedical engineering. The proposed Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics, to be offered at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), is the third of three UMD engineering programs planned for delivery specifically at USG to contribute to workforce development in the state and most specifically in the Montgomery County region, taking advantage of the robust partnership with Montgomery College. The degree program is mainly intended for students who have completed an associate's degree from a Maryland public community college and will allow them to complete their baccalaureate degree in two years. The program will offer courses at the 300- and 400-level, which constitute the junior and senior years of the program. The Mechatronics program is expected to draw students who are not interested in pursuing one of the more standard 4-year engineering degrees available elsewhere within the state. Graduates of the program are expected to be highly sought after in fields such as aerospace & defense, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing & automation, robotics, and biomedical engineering. Mechatronics engineers design, develop, and test automated production systems, transportation and vehicle systems, robotics, computer-machine controls, and many other integrated systems. Mechatronics engineers also develop new technologies for use in the automotive and aviation industry, advanced manufacturing operations, and often specialize in areas such as robotics, autonomous vehicles, and manufacturing systems.

During the time that this program was under development (since 2018), there were no bachelor's degree programs for mechatronics in Maryland. There are associate's and master's degrees offered at Anne Arundel Community and Johns Hopkins University, respectively. However, in November 2020, Morgan State University announced plans to launch a Mechatronics program on approximately the same time scale as the program proposed here. UMCP believes the market demand is sufficiently high, that the geographic draw of students is sufficiently distinct, and that both programs will provide valuable contributions to the Maryland workforce. This proposal has gone through the standard review and approval processes with USM institutions having time to submit objections. Via the USM process, there were no objections. It is

noted that, via the process conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, other institutions in the state will have the opportunity to object to the establishment of this program.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, College Park to offer the Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Wood, and passed unanimously.

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

University of Maryland Eastern Shore: BS in Sport Management

Dr. Nancy Niemi, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Margarita Treuth, Chair and Professor, Department of Kinesiology, presented the proposal for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to establish a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management. This Sport Management program will fall under the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and will tie together both health and business areas. The curriculum includes 42 required credits in general education and 33 credits of major core courses including facility management, sport governance, sport marketing, sport business, sport finance and economics, a unique focus and practicum in interscholastic and intercollegiate athletic administration, and an internship. The program will produce graduates who will be employed as sport managers. They will work in many aspects of sport organizations and events including marketing, finance, law, facility management, event management, fundraising, sponsorships, and promotions. In addition, sport managers can work with all levels of sport, including recreational sports, interscholastic sports, intercollegiate sports, or professional sports. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects faster than average job growth for the field of sports management through 2028, with the Washington Metropolitan area listed as the third highest of the top 10 metropolitan areas. The proposed B.S. in Sport Management is consistent with UMES's mission to meet local, state, and national workforce needs and supports UMES Strategic Plan Goals III and IV, which address the alignment of academic programs with workforce development needs and educational needs of the state of Maryland, respectively.

There are a few Sport Management programs in the State of Maryland; however, none are in the same geographical area. Furthermore, this proposal has gone through the standard review and approval processes with USM institutions having time to submit objections. Via the USM process, there were no objections. It is noted that, via the process conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, other institutions in the state will have the opportunity to object to the establishment of this program. However, the USM staff believes the institution has done its due diligence regarding a state-wide examination of programs to try to ensure there is no duplication.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to offer the Bachelor of Science in Sport Management. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Wood, and passed unanimously.

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

Information Items

Results of Periodic (7-Year) Reviews of Academic Programs

Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report to the committee. 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 Academic and Student Affairs. Comments are shared with the institutions for appropriate action prior to final submission. 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. Copies of the complete program review summaries are available from the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Coleman shared that 72 academic degree and certificate programs were reviewed in 2019-2020. Specific programs at the following schools underwent program accreditation reviews: Bowie State University, Frostburg State University, Salisbury University, Towson University, and the University of Baltimore. Finally, according to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the following thresholds designate programs as *low productivity programs*: Bachelor's: < 5 in most recent year or a total of 15 in last three years; Master's: < 2 in most recent year or a total of 6 in last three years; Doctorate: < 1 in most recent year or a total of 3 in last three years. Accordingly, thirteen (13) programs are considered to demonstrate low productivity. The types of programs identified in this report as low productivity include six (6) bachelor's degree programs, five (5) upper-division certificates, one (1) postbaccalaureate certificate, and one (1) master's of professional studies. The report accompanying the presentation also includes brief summaries highlighting the strategies being undertaken by the identified programs (at Bowie State, Coppin State, Towson, UMBC, UMCP, and UMES) to address the low number of degrees awarded.

Chair Gourdine noted that regents are presented with low productivity programs each year and that they are accompanied by actions plans to improve said programs and that the regents have similar conversations about different programs year after year. She asked Dr. Coleman if there is enough time for the upcoming programs, those that would be presented next year or the year after, to have a solid idea of the viability of a program's enrollment and degree outcomes before it is time for their periodic review? This led to a discussion among provosts, regents, the chancellor, and USM staff about the decisions or determinations made over a seven-year period about the data that reflect challenges in enrollments and degree productivity among those program that meet the definition of low productivity. The discussion also included details of preventive and sustainable measures of accountability that institutions undertake to reduce low productivity programs and, in essence, to turn these programs around.

The committee requested that USM Academic and Student Affairs (Dr. Boughman and Dr. Coleman) convene a workgroup to consider these issues and develop a plan to help ensure more consistent and rigorous reviews of programs during the 7-year cycle to move institutions closer to suspending or discontinuing programs that are obviously and consistently unproductive. A report is due to EPSL in September 2020.

Report: Workload of the USM Faculty – Academic Year 2019-2020

Dr. MJ Bishop, Director of the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation and Associate Vice Chancellor, presented this report to the committee. This year's report (AY 2019-2020) is the second of a 3-year transition between reports generated under the earlier policy and reports that will reflect the format of the new policy which was passed by the Board of Regents in June 2019. The new format is aimed at improving reporting accuracy and coverage, better aligning with current practice, and incentivizing policy goals around student success. As in the past, the report summarizes faculty workload, which includes teaching, research, and service activities at all USM degree-granting institutions with tenured or tenure-track faculty.

Key findings include:

- Overall, total credit hours produced by faculty outpaced total student enrollment.
- Full-time tenured/tenure track and full-time, non-tenure track instructional faculty account for 69% of all credit hours produced (up another 3% from last year).
- Further, over the five years since 2014-15, credit hours produced by tenured/tenure track faculty is up 5.65% while credit hours produced by part-time faculty (adjuncts, etc.) is down - 3.9%.
- Faculty publication and scholarship continue at high levels.
- Faculty secured over \$1.5 billion in research funding, representing a 5.33% gain over last year.
- Full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty carry the largest load at the upper-division undergraduate and graduate levels as compared to other faculty types

Chancellor Perman and the Regents thanked the faculty for their dedicated service.

Report on Extramural Funding – FY 2020

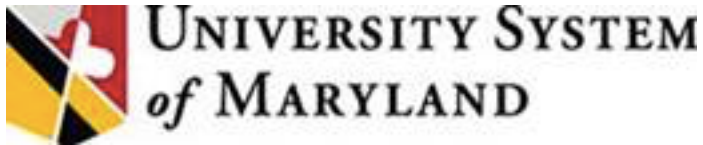
Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, made this presentation. This annual report details extramural awards received by USM institutions in support of specific initiatives in research, education, or service in FY 2020. This report provides information on how many proposals each institution generated, how many rewards were received, and the total amount of funding. In addition to detailed information by institution and funding source for FY 2019 and FY 2020, the report also provides five years of summary data by institution for comparison purposes. In FY 2020, the System received a total of \$1,542,951,565.87 in extramural funding, a 5.6% increase from the FY 2019 total of \$1,460,932,947.34. UMB and UMCP garnered the largest extramural funding totals among System institutions. BSU, CSU, UB, UMB, UMCES, UMCP, UMES, and UMGC obtained higher levels of extramural funding than in FY 2019. Dr. Lee cautioned against too much analysis on specific institutions in a given year, as big shifts up or down in funding can be caused by one or two large grants or other factors that aren't detailed in the data we gather. It's important to note that even with the fluctuations, no institution has steadily declined, and UB is the only institution that has steadily increased since FY 2015. As has been the case for years, the federal government accounts for the majority (64% this year) of USM's grand total. It's important to note that a few institutions tend to more heavily depend on state awards and, some significant decreases there caused a down year for those institutions. Institutions whose funding levels increased this year attribute those increases to the diversification of funding streams, intra-institutional partnerships and coordination, employment of a director of sponsored research, closer tracking of individual faculty federal awards, and growth in State partnerships.

Chancellor Perman noted the significance of this total, as it demonstrates the sustained, committed work of researchers across the USM.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in closed session to address the BOR Faculty Awards and honorary degree nominations. The motion was moved by Regent Schulz, seconded by Regent Sansom, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
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 (BOR) met virtually (via Zoom) in closed session on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. The meeting was convened at 11:45 a.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: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Lee, and Ms. Wilkerson.

Action Items

Board of Regents Faculty Awards Recommendations

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. The Council of University System Faculty's (CUSF) Regents Faculty Awards Committee reviewed 43 nominations from 10 institutions and recommends 16 awards to honor 16 individuals. Summaries of the backgrounds of prospective award recipients were given to the regents, and nominees' full portfolios are available upon request. Dr. Lee served as USM liaison to the review process and affirms that all proper protocols, as outlined in CUSF-developed guidelines, were followed to ensure a fair and honest review and selection process.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the recommendations of the CUSF Regents Faculty Awards Committee and present the awards to the faculty members during the April 2021 BOR meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Malhorta, seconded by Regent Sansom, and unanimously approved.

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

Honorary Degree Nominations

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. In accordance with the Board of Regents Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00), institutions have submitted nominations for honorary degrees. As the policy stipulates, the full Board will act on the nominations at its February meeting based upon EPSL's recommendations. After the final approval of the nominations, presidents may begin to arrange for the awarding of the honorary degrees. The actual degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval unless withdrawn by the Board of Regents for cause. Institutions and USM staff have vetted the nominees. The Committee was presented with 22 nominations from eight institutions. The names of the nominees and the degrees

being recommended, as well as nomination letters and supporting documentation, were made available to regents prior to the meeting.

Regent Gooden noted that UMUC's nomination of a current political office holder violates section 6 of the Board of Regents Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00), which states, "Normally, honorary degrees may not be conferred on currently serving faculty, staff, members of the Board of Regents, or current holders of political office (elected or appointed). Exceptions for compelling reasons can be made only by two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Regents." Additionally, Regent Sansom noted that UMGC's nomination of another candidate is written with too much focus on her husband, who is an elected official.

Based upon section 6, as quoted above, the committee agreed that UMGC should be asked to remove the request for the current office holder to be awarded an honorary degree and re-present the second individual's nomination to ensure that it focuses on her accomplishments and not her husband's status as an elected official.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve institutional nominations for honorary degrees as listed on the slate from Bowie State University; Coppin State University; Frostburg State University; Towson University; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and University of Maryland Global Campus (with the one exception as noted above).

The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Schulz, and unanimously approved.

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

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Johnson, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully,
Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair