



**USM Board of Regents
Special Board Meeting
Minutes from Public Session
January 13, 2021
Zoom**

Minutes of the Public Session

Chair Gooden called the special meeting of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in public session at 5:04 p.m. on Wednesday January 13, 2021.

Those in attendance included Chair Gooden; Regents Attman, Fish, Gonella, Gossett, Gourdine, Leggett, Malhotra, Pope, Rauch, Sansom, and Wood; Presidents Anderson, Breaux, Fowler, Goodwin, Jarrell, Jenkins, Pines, Nowaczyk, Schmoke, Wight; Chancellor Perman; Vice Chancellors Boughman, Herbst, Hogan, McDonough, Raley, and Sadowski; AAG Langrill; Ms. Mulqueen and Ms. Wilkerson.

Chair Gooden opened the meeting by noting the challenges of COVID-19 and the attack on the Capitol on January 6th. She said that we can meet and respond to these challenges and sent a message of hope to the medical and public health professionals. She noted that Meredith Mears resigned from the Board of Regents for personal reasons. She welcomed Dr. Gregory Fowler, new President of UMGC and congratulated Chancellor Perman on his one year anniversary.

- 1. Chancellor's Remarks.** The Chancellor started by decrying the violence at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th. He talked about higher education's role in defending our constitutional principles and noted that democracy requires constant tending and constant vigilance.

He also made note of the fact that civil unrest is not the only challenge we're facing – COVID cases are spiking. The USM's response to this is critical. Our campuses will operate in much the same way as they did in the fall. This effort will be buttressed by testing. The Chancellor said that, as the infection rate is increasing, we must be more aggressive with testing – we need to test at a higher rate and with faster turn of results. To assist in this effort, the Maryland Department of Health has provided the USM with 100,000 BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests to use at the beginning of the spring semester. The campuses will provide their plans to address increased testing and quicker turnaround time in the next week or so.

Senior Vice Chancellor Boughman provided an update on the mass vaccination effort. She said that the USM is working MHEC and MDH to clarify the tiering of the vaccine distribution and how our faculty, staff, and students fit into it. She noted that Vice Chancellor McDonough is working on a communication plan for the vaccine rollout and will ensure that the USM communications are in line with the state of Maryland.

2. **Student Feedback.** Regent Sansom presented concerns from the USM student population expressing the desire for more transparency and communication from campus leaders. The two main questions he's heard are "What will student life look like in the upcoming semester compared to the Fall?" and "Where are mandatory fee funds relating to athletics and student life being allocated given the changes we have encountered due to the pandemic?"

3. **Convene to Closed Session.** Chair Gooden read the "convene to close" statement citing the topics for the closed session and the relevant statutory authority for closing the meeting under 3-305(b) and 3-103(a)(1)(i). (Moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Attman; unanimously approved.)

The meeting reconvened in closed session at 5:34 p.m.