



University System of Maryland Board of Regents
Via Zoom
February 19, 2021 Public Minutes

Call to Order. Chair Linda Gooden called the meeting of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order at 8:31 a.m. on Friday, February 19, 2021 virtually via Zoom. Those in attendance were: Chair Gooden; Regents Attman, Fish, Gonella, Gossett, Gourdine, Holzappel, Johnson, Leggett, Malhotra, Neall, Pope, Rauch, Sansom, Schulz, and Wood; Presidents Anderson, Breaux, Fowler, Goodwin, Hrabowski, Jarrell, Jenkins, Nowaczyk, Pines, Schatzel, Schmoke, and Wight; Chancellor Perman, Vice Chancellors Boughman, Herbst, Hogan, McDonough, Raley, and Sadowski; Ms. Mulqueen, Ms. Wilkerson, and AAGs Bainbridge and Langrill.

Chair Gooden opened the meeting by thanking the board members for all they do. She also acknowledged that while the approved vaccines bring us closer to the end of the pandemic, there is still work to be done. Campus leaders are still fully engaged in this effort, and the board continues with their efforts focusing on several key initiatives. Namely, the Branding and Marketing Task Force, The Strategic Plan Advisory Group, and the Diversity and Inclusion Efforts.

Chair Gooden recognized and honored Black History Month as shaping the history to come through a genuine commitment to promoting and pursuing social, economic, and racial justice. She also acknowledged several distinguished Black alumni within the USM family, realizing that there is a long and varied list of impressive Black Alumni who have been trailblazers at the state and national levels in the sciences, humanities, industry, athletics, politics, and so much more.

She also noted Chancellor Perman's one-year anniversary and congratulated him on his leadership and insight throughout the year, followed by an introduction of Educational Forum guest speaker, Katherine Thompson, Staff Counsel for the State Ethics Commission. Chair Gooden closed her comments by remarking that this particular board meeting also marked one year since the initial convening of the board to discuss the potential of a menacing virus having an impact on our health. She acknowledged that it has been a challenging year, but as a System we've worked hard to keep our students, employees, and communities safe. She stated that she was grateful to each and every person on our campuses and in the System office who have helped in this effort.

Educational Forum. Ms. Thompson, Staff Counsel for the State Ethics Commission, presented information and scenarios concerning the dos and don'ts of State Ethics Law and conflicts of interest issues. Ms. Thompson indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to help board members and employees avoid improper influence and appearance of improper influence; assure citizens of the impartiality and independent judgment of board members and employees; and require board members and employees to disclose financial affairs and to meet minimum standards of ethical conduct. She also provided information concerning who should file a financial disclosure statement; and provided information on available resources. The full presentation maybe accessed at this link:

https://www.usmd.edu/regents/agendas/20210219_FullBoard_PublicSession.pdf

Chancellor's Report. Chancellor Perman opened his report by acknowledging his one-year anniversary, followed by saying how grateful he was for the successes shared over the last year and the work done to serve our students, advance our System and support our state.

He also made mention of the extraordinary achievements enjoyed by our universities since the last board meeting in December. Namely, in the area of growth in facilities and programs, Towson University's (TU) new Science Complex opened. LAIKA, one of Hollywood's best known and most awarded animation studios, is building the nation's first stop-motion animation studio at Bowie State University; the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is adding Digital Media Studies to its majors and have the distinct honor of being enlisted by Apple as a Community Center for Coding and Creativity, enabling them to teach programming languages for Apple's X-code platform. Coppin State University is adding Applied Molecular Biology and Polymer and Materials Science to its master's programs in the fall. University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science launched its first-ever professional certificate program in Environmental Management for Sustainability, hosted on the edX platform.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County's new BS in Translational Life Science Technology just won the inaugural BioBuzz award for enhancing the regional biotech workforce.

And two new degree programs will launch this fall at the Universities at Shady Grove—BFA in Graphic Design from Salisbury University and a BS in Biocomputational Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) is innovating how it serves learners through innovative business partnerships: A new collaboration between UMGC and Amazon Web Services offers students a combination of paid immersive learning and on-the-job training with Amazon. And a partnership with ManTech, a leading defense contractor, provides employees no-cost access to UMGC's master's program in Data Analytics.

Chancellor Perman also made mention of significant gifts and grants that the various universities received. Bill and Joanne Conway made a \$14-million commitment to the School of Nursing at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, which funds an additional 345 Conway Scholarships that will cover in-state tuition and fees; UMCP's School of Public Health received a \$1.5 million gift from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to prepare a new generation of public health

leaders. UMES received \$2.25 million in scholarship funding from the USDA, to help fill the national shortfall in graduates trained to work in agriculture, food, and renewable natural resources; and the National Science Foundation awarded \$1 million to TU so that the university can continue its work in expanding access to STEM education. Additionally, the Chancellor expressed praise and pride in the institutional excellence exhibited at the various schools and regional higher education centers. He concluded his recognition of campus highlights by mentioning a few terrific media coverage events at the various institutions. Chancellor Perman also talked about the USM's Maryland Momentum Fund adding another investment to our portfolio; and, talked about our rigorous efforts in disease prevention and containment—indicating that they are working. He then thanked everyone for their vigilance, compliance, and hard work.

His concluding remarks addressed the budget shortfall, as well as the steps taken to address them. He indicated that even with the budget reduction, we will still be able to limit tuition increases next year to 2 percent for in-state undergraduates. The bottom line is that this budget proposal demonstrates—at a time of enormous fiscal pain—Maryland's abiding commitment to higher education. And Chancellor Perman acknowledged a significant milestone reached by the MPower initiative between UMB and UMCP and recognized by the Maryland Senate. The NSF has officially linked UMB and UMCP as one research enterprise and that single enterprise—the University of Maryland—now ranks 8th among the nation's public research universities and 14th overall in R&D expenditures. He stated that this remarkable accomplishment was won by the talent and energy of our faculty, and the power of their ideas. It was won by the leadership of Presidents Bruce Jarrell and Darryll Pines, former President Wallace Loh, and Vice President for Research Laurie Locascio. It was won by the vision of the late Senate President Emeritus Mike Miller, his successor, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and their legislative colleagues. But it was won, too, by a commitment to Systemness—a genuine embrace of the value of collaboration; dedication to intentionally seeking out opportunities to partner with one another. Lastly, the Chancellor addressed the COVID vaccine campaign that was undertaken with the 12 USM presidents. Together, they pledged to get vaccinated when eligible. The pledge is a sign of their trust in the vaccine science—and the vaccine scientists. A video was then shown to demonstrate their pledge. The video can be accessed at <https://www.usmd.edu/newsroom/news/2124>.

I. Council Reports

- a. Council of University System Presidents (CUSP). President Breaux presented the report, stating that CUSP continues to meet on a weekly basis to address COVID-19 related issues. She indicated that academic offerings continue to be offered remotely; however, several universities have brought back students on a slightly increased basis. Universities have committed to increased testing—utilizing approaches best suited for their respective campus. They also voiced support for

vaccine advocacy and encouraging their campuses to get the vaccine. There were discussions of communicating with faculty about teaching modalities as they move resuming pre-pandemic levels of in-person teaching and learning.

CUSP also discussed campus safety matters following the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the United States Capitol and the safety advisories that were later issued which extended beyond the inauguration. The presidents agreed to convene university police and security leaders from across the USM to prepare.

There was discussion concerning the Maryland Collaborative to Reduce College Drinking and Related Problems and potential legislation coming during this General Assembly session. Several campuses are active with the collaborative and support its efforts. In closing, President Breaux indicated that the presidents met with the USM Regents Marketing and Branding Task Force to provide the task force with input on USM's branding and marketing strategies in order to better position the system and its institutions moving forward.

- b. Council of University System Faculty (CUSF). Dr. Brunn presented the report, indicating that the Academic Integrity subcommittee will present a final "talking points" draft proposal to the general body for approval at the February 26th meeting. If the draft is approved by the general council the talking points draft will be presented by the CUSF chair to all shared governance councils, Provosts, and Presidents for review and comment beginning in March. A presentation is being prepared to present to CUSF with Kirwan Center's Dr. Bishop on the current IPE pilot badging effort related to the nursing programs and its implications for all faculty curriculums. Dr. Brunn also stated that the technological subcommittee met with USM CIO Michael Eismeier and with the university CIO's on the issues of privacy on February 12th. The CIOs agreed that there seems to be pockets of misinformation across the institutions which are creating this sense of lack of support. As a result, there were suggestions that it is time to start revising and/or setting a new set of ground rules to clearly communicate to faculty what each institution provides in terms of support, equipment, and software for instructional purposes; as well as to what they do not provide and/or will not be responsible for in terms of institutional support. The committee agreed their next step (running a set of refined questions by Provosts and CIOs) is critical in this process and will hopefully provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issues being examined given that many of them relate to decisions taken by Academic Affairs in consultation with IT.

The structural inequality subcommittee held a panel discussion with the Vice Presidents of Diversity and Inclusion from UMGC Dr. Blair Hayes, TU Dr. Leah Cox, and UMD's Dr. Georgina Dodge, including such topics as a definition of structural racism, how it is present on our campuses, what faculty can do with subtle forms or micro aggressions (e.g., building names, curriculum references), what is appropriate diversity on campus, and how can it be achieved. The Covid-19 ad hoc subcommittee prepared a survey that they sent to faculty and other shared governance groups to determine what the academy felt to be the most important

current issues to be addressed related to COVID 19. The Rule and Membership Committee discussed whether to change the traditional meeting from always being face-to-face to online only or a hybrid. Lastly, the Legislative Affairs & Policy Committee met with CUSS to set the date for Annapolis Day—February 17, 2021.

- c. Council of University System Staff (CUSS). Dr. Shishineh presented the report, stating that a lot of time has been dedicated to preparing for and implementing a virtual Advocacy Day, held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Dr. Gregory Fowler, president of UMGC virtually joined CUSS in January, kicking the meeting off with a welcome and introducing himself by sharing information about UMGC and his plans as he assumes his new role.

The Council also had the chance to meet with partners from the USM Women's Forum during the January meeting and discussed potential areas of collaboration including looking at some questions around tuition remission fees, as well as Employee Assistance Programs at each campus. They also discussed the Board of Regents Staff Awards & Recognition, where 38 nominations from 11 institutions and Shady Grove.

Lastly, the Councils and members of the USM Women's Forum were greeted by Chancellor Perman and Patrick Hogan from the USM. Afterwards members from each Council engaged in individual meetings with several delegates and senators. The Councils were also able to send a video and handout highlighting the many accomplishments of the USM this past year.

- d. University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC). Ms. Bernetta Reese, USMSC VP of Undergraduate Affairs, presented the report in the absence of Ms. Rappeport. She indicated that the Council shifted its focus to primarily committee work and legislative advocacy efforts. She acknowledged the dedication of the student leaders across the system and expressed excitement over the progress developing in areas of mental health, affordability/access to higher ed, online academics, response to the pandemic, DEI, and betterment of conditions for specific student populations (i.e., student athletes via support for the Jordan McNair bill.)

The USMSC voted to officially support the following bills in the Maryland General Assembly. For each of the below, USMSC was able to provide written and/or oral testimony and to participate when applicable in press/press conferences to demonstrate support (e.g., The Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act, The Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act, and The Textbook Tax Relief Act). They are also in current voting process for an additional 5-6 bills.

The focus of the USM Student Council since the last Board of Regents meeting has been to help our primary areas (government relations, mental health, student fees, DEI, student affairs) gain momentum through cross-institutional membership and plans of action. Ms. Reese also mentioned that USMSC and the MHEC Student Advisory Council are in conversation during this key planning term for higher education in the state of Maryland. She concluded her report by expressing

appreciation for the tremendous work by leaders at the institutional and System level as well as by faculty, staff, and fellow students during this time. She thanked all of the representatives on the USM counseling center directors' group for meeting with USMSC members on important issues related to mental health; and a large thank you to new UMGC President Greg Fowler for joining the February meeting for a robust conversation related to online and hybrid learning during the pandemic and beyond.

2. Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda was presented to the regents by Chair Gooden. She asked if there were any items on the agenda that should be removed for further discussion. There were no requests to remove any items. Chair Gooden moved and Regent Pope seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda. The motion was unanimously approved. The items included were:
 - a. Committee on Advancement
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from October 8, 2020 Public Session Special Meeting (action)
 - ii. Approval of meeting minutes from February 3, 2021 Public and Closed Sessions Special Meeting (action)
 - b. Committee on Audit
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from December 14, 2020 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
 - c. Committee of the Whole
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from December 18, 2020 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
 - ii. Approval of meeting minutes from January 13, 2021 Public and Closed Sessions Special Board Meeting (action)
 - d. Committee on Education Policy and Student Life
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from January 12, 2021 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
 - ii. New Academic Program Proposals (action)
 1. University of Maryland, Baltimore: MS in Health Professions Education
 2. University of Maryland, College Park: BS in Mechatronics
 3. University of Maryland Eastern Shore: BS in Sport Management
 - iii. Results of Periodic (7-Year) Review of Academic Programs (information)
 - iv. Report: Workload of the USM Faculty – Academic Year 2019-2020 (information)
 - v. Report on Extramural Funding – FY 2020 (information)
 - e. Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from February 4, 2021 Public Session (action)

- f. Committee on Governance and Compensation
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from February 4, 2021 Public and Closed Sessions (action)
 - g. Committee on Finance
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from February 4, 2021 Public Session (action)
 - ii. FY 2020 Audited Financial Statements and USM Financial Planning (information)
 - iii. University System of Maryland: Review of Capital Improvement Projects (information)
 - iv. University System of Maryland: Report on FY 2020 Procurement Contracts (information)
3. Review of Items Removed from Consent Agenda
4. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Finance Regent Attman
 - i. FY 2020 Effectiveness and Efficiency Results (information). Regent Attman reminded the regents that the Committee on Finance is now the steward of the E&E efforts that were formerly the purview of the E&E Workgroup. He stated that this committee will continue to support the E&E initiative by emphasizing collaboration and inter-institutional activities, fostering innovation to promote cultural changes and new operating models, and encouraging the optimal use of technology in support systemwide and campus operations.

University System of Maryland: FY 2022 Operating Budget Update (information). Regent Attman deferred to Vice Chancellor Herbst to provide an update on the status of the deficiency appropriation, the Governor's Allowance, and the legislative budget hearings. Vice Chancellor Herbst shared that the USM will receive \$137.5 million in funding from the second Higher Education Relief Fund that was passed in late December. She also shared that federal funding was allocated for emergency student financial aid and institutional funding for revenue losses and other pandemic-related costs. There is anticipation of additional funding for minority-serving institutions; however, those dollars have not yet been finalized. There is also included in the Governor's Budget Bill a fiscal year 2021 deficiency appropriation in restricted bond funding for facilities renewal projects.

Vice Chancellor Herbst then focused on the FY 2022 Governor's Allowance, stating that the USM operating budget includes revenue from state appropriations, tuition and fees, auxiliary services, federal/other contract and grants, and other revenues for a total budget of \$5.8 billion. The Governor's proposal totals \$1.4 billion—which is a combination of the General Fund and Higher Education Investment Fund. This figure represents a net decrease of

\$7.4 million (or 0.5%) over the revised FY 2021 appropriation. Vice Chancellor Herbst then outlined what was included in the adjustments to the USM's state Funding support. She also mentioned that there is an additional \$38 million for a 2% Cost of Living salary Adjustment (COLA) included in the DBM Personnel Budget (where it will remain until such time it is approved by the legislature and the state budget is finalized); and proposed tuition rate increases are capped at 2% for resident undergraduate students. She concluded her remarks by saying the Department of Legislative Services has not recommended any USM-specific reductions to the Governor's Allowance.

b. Committee of the Whole

- i. 2021 Series A and B Bond Sale. Regent Attman congratulated the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor Herbst, and her team and all of the presidents on the System's very successful bond sale that took place. He referred to headlines that read Maryland taxpayers will save more than \$17.1 million as a result of the refinancing of previously issued public bonds. Additionally, he made mention of the fact that Vice Chancellor Herbst and the Chancellor, along with members of the financial team met with the three major credit rating agencies in January. Each agency (i.e., Moody's, S&P, and Fitch) affirmed the USM's existing strong ratings with a "stable" outlook. Regent Attman then turned to Vice Chancellor Herbst to provide a brief update on the bond sale.
 - ii. USM Public Health Challenge. Chancellor Perman stated that winners were selected for the University System of Maryland Public Health Challenge. The USM Task Force and Corporate Sponsors recognized six creative multimedia presentations on staying safe and healthy while waiting for COVID vaccinations. The top three winners in each category received \$3,000—funds were donated by local organizations and the Task Force. Winning teams came from Towson University, University of Maryland Global Campus, University of Maryland, College Park, University of Maryland, Baltimore, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Three of the videos were played during the meeting.
5. Reconvene to Closed Session Reconvene 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 Gossett; unanimously approved.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. in memory of the late Senator Thomas V. "Mike" Miller.