



**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, September 14, 2021. The meeting was convened at 9:31 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Beams, Gooden, Johnson, Leggett, Oludayo, Smarick, and Wood. Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman was also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Beise, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Boughman, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Clegg, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Cooper, Ms. Esters, Dr. Foust, Dr. Frank, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Goodman, Dr. Grasso, Ms. Ilynn, Dr. Izsak, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Kaza, Ms. Langrill, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Lilly, Dr. Marzullo, Dr. Mathias, Mr. McDonough, Dr. Murray, Dr. Niemi, Dr. Olmstead, Mr. Patty, Dr. Rous, Dr. Shapiro, Mr. Skevakis, Dr. Spitzer, Professor Tatum, Dr. Travis, Dr. Vanko, and Dr. Young.

Guests also participated via the public, listen-only line.

Chair Gourdine extended a special welcome to the new regents: Regent Signe Pringle from Maryland's Department of Commerce; Regent Andrew Smarick formerly of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland State Board of Education; Regent Ada Beams, voting student regent from the University of Maryland, College Park; and Regent Tola Oludayo, non-voting student regent from Bowie State University.

Prior to beginning the action items, Chair Gourdine asked Dr. Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the steps of the academic program proposal process from campus submission through final MHEC approval. Dr. Boughman briefly described the development of academic program proposals at the campus level; reviews by the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, institutions within the state, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission; presentation to the Board of Regents; and the possibility of objections to the creation of a new degree program. This description and subsequent discussion laid the foundation and gave context to this critical part of EPSL's work.

**Action Items**

**New Academic Program Proposals**

**Towson University: Bachelor of Science in Computer and Mathematical Science**

Dr. David Vanko, Dean of the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, and Dr. Sidd Kaza, Chair, Department of Computer Science, presented the proposal for Towson to develop a Bachelor of Science in Computer and Mathematical Science developed by the Departments of Computer and Information Sciences in partnership with the Department of Mathematics. The program consists of two concentrations: an Applied Mathematics and Computer Science concentration and a Computer and Mathematical Sciences Secondary Education concentration. The proposed Applied Mathematics and Computer Science concentration addresses a growing need for a combined major providing an opportunity for students pursuing computer science to bolster their mathematical and analytical skills and mathematics majors to build foundational computer science skills. The Computer and Mathematical Sciences Secondary Education concentration will lead to dual teacher certification for Computer Science and Mathematics Secondary Education (grades 7-12), addressing the teacher shortage in this area. Supplementing the current programmatic offerings at Towson,

the proposed program answers two complementary needs – (1) educating more secondary school teachers in mathematics and computer science and (2) producing more computing professionals with skills both in mathematics and computer science. These needs are present within Maryland and nationally.

Currently, there is not a single degree program in the state that is targeted at preparing graduates in both mathematics and computer science. The nearest comparison to the proposed program would be universities that allow students to simultaneously meet the requirements for their mathematics and computer science programs, receiving a double major degree. Moreover, the program would be among only three approved programs in the state of Maryland for undergraduates wishing to pursue computer science secondary education and the only degree program that prepares graduates for dual certification in both mathematics and computer science. 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.

Regent Gourdine asked why the program is beyond the standard 120 credits. Regent Beams also inquired if the extra credits would be a barrier to transfer students or other students. The presenters noted that it was not intentional and explained that going over is not uncommon. They do not believe this poses a barrier, as there are summer and winter course options as well as an intentional ordering of courses and partnerships with the community colleges to make the process smooth. Dr. Boughman noted that approval of this program constitutes an exception to Board policy and Towson will also need to present their justification to MHEC.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to offer a Bachelor of Science in Computer and Mathematical Science. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Leggett, and passed unanimously.

*Vote Count: Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0*

### **University of Maryland, Baltimore: Master of Science in Clinical Informatics**

Dr. Michael Grasso, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Computer Science and Dr. Flavius Lilly, Vice Provost, Academic & Student Services and Vice Dean, Graduate School presented the proposal for UMB to develop a Master of Science in Clinical Informatics. The program is a mixture of didactic coursework and practical training, with 34 credits required for the MS. All didactic courses will be accessible online. The practical courses will have both on-site and online options. The proposed degree will allow students with a professional healthcare background to be trained in best practices of clinical informatics. The program will be geared toward physicians, nurses, pharmacists, other healthcare professionals, biologists, and scientists, who will study and apply informatics approaches to enhance their professional skills. The program will focus on biomedical data, computational systems, and clinical process improvement, which students will apply to the practice of medicine, to enhance health outcomes, improve patient care, and strengthen the clinician-patient relationship. The Master of Science in Clinical Informatics will be organized around two post-baccalaureate certificates in data science (currently offered by UMBC) and clinical information (proposal forthcoming) and includes hands-on practicums and conferences. Full-time and part-time plans of study will be available. The curriculum will be a joint effort, using clinical and practical courses taught at UMB along with data science courses from UMBC. The program will prepare students from a wide range of healthcare backgrounds for careers in clinical data science and clinical informatics. They will find employment as chief medical information officers, researchers, educators, and in industry, all of which are in high demand.

There are no master's degrees in clinical informatics in Maryland or Washington D.C. The closest related programs are at the University of Virginia, the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Global Campus. These related programs, however, differ substantively from the proposed program. Moreover, 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 University of Maryland, Baltimore to offer a Master of Science in Clinical Informatics. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Smarick, and passed unanimously.

*Vote Count: Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0*

**University of Maryland, College Park: Bachelor of Arts in Technology and Information Design**

Dr. Betsy Beise, Associate Provost; Dr. Keith Marzullo, Dean, College of Information Studies; Dr. Tamara Clegg, Associate Professor, College of Information Studies; and Dr. Kate Izsak, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Information Studies presented the proposal for the University of Maryland, College Park to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Technology and Information Design. This program is designed to teach students to frame important problems at the intersection of people and information; to design solutions for those problems; and to realize, deploy and iterate on those solutions. Students will participate in hands-on studio and laboratory classes in user-centered design, technology development, problem-solving, and cross-disciplinary communication. Graduates may become designers, planners, technology consultants, project managers, and entrepreneurs in such wide-ranging fields as user experience, mobile development, healthcare, law, entertainment, policy, smart-city development, and libraries and archives. The core elements of the curriculum include courses in information science, design, introduction to contemporary societal issues, statistics, modeling, and simulation. Students will take an additional 18 credits of elective courses in a range of topics that includes information organization and user assessment, data privacy and security, design related to human disability and aging, ethics, policy, and artificial intelligence. Learning outcomes include an ability to implement design thinking strategies in user design with specific attention to ethics and equity; and development of solutions using skills such as scope assessment, people organization, management, testing, evaluation, and auditing.

An industry occupational outlook handbook shows a projected rate of growth of 12% from 2018 to 2028 in computer and information technology occupations and notes that this rate of growth is "much faster than the average for all occupations." Currently, there are no similar programs in the state, and UMD expects the rapid increase in demand to continue, exceeding the existing supply of skilled workers, making this degree program a crucial contributor to industry and society. The Information Design major will not result in unreasonable duplication of an existing program within the state. However, there are programs in the area (entrepreneurship programs at Morgan State, Mount St. Mary's, and UMBC) with some curricular similarity, but those programs do not have the overall curriculum nor the innovative combination of skills and content proposed here. 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 University of Maryland, College Park to offer the Bachelor of Arts in Technology and Information Design. The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Gooden, and passed unanimously.

*Vote Count: Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0*

### **Annual Review of Committee Bylaws and Charge and Role and Responsibilities**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report to the committee. She noted that in June 2019, the Association of Governing Boards 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. The EPSL section of the bylaws and the charge, role, and responsibilities document were first drafted in Summer 2019 with the most recent review occurring in November 2020. Reaffirmation of the documents or amendments to the document(s) are due to the Board's Committee on Governance and Compensation.

In Summer 2021, Chair Gourdine, Dr. Boughman, and Dr. Boughman's senior leadership team, which includes Drs. MJ Bishop, Nancy Shapiro, Antionette Coleman, and Zakiya Lee, reviewed the drafts and do not believe amendments are needed. Dr. Lee briefly reviewed the documents to refresh the memories of returning regents and to provide a foundation for new regents. Regent Smarick asked if the committee played any role in the presidential search process. Dr. Boughman said no and noted that that process is led by guidelines and handled at the full Board of Regents level.

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

*Vote Count: Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0*

### **Information Items**

#### **Fall 2021 Update**

Dr. Boughman, on behalf of Chancellor Perman, offered insight into several Fall 2021 issues. Dr. Boughman reported on:

- Vaccination rates average 90% or higher at most USM institutions. Institutions where the rate is lower are actively working to get more students, faculty, and staff vaccinated by partnering with county health departments to offer vaccine clinics. Regent Beams noted that an appointment model and continued encouragement was key in getting a lot of students tested and/or vaccinated over the spring and summer.
- The positivity rate across the USM is 1% or less.
- There is increased concern about the Delta variant, breakthrough infections, other respiratory viruses, and the flu season.
- Institutions continue to work with county health departments around testing, vaccinating, and contact tracing.

Regent Leggett asked about arrangements and considerations being made as the weather changes and activities move inside. Dr. Boughman noted that masks are still mandatory in buildings on campus and spacing is still encouraged. Regents Gooden and Gourdine thanked campus officials for their hard work, congratulated all on the successes, and encouraged the campus communities to remain vigilant.

## **Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, AY 2020-2021**

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 2020 and August 2021, the Chancellor approved 23 new certificates, 1 modified certificate, 11 modified degrees, 15 title changes, 3 off-site offerings of existing degrees at a USM regional higher education center, and 1 reactivated area of concentration within an existing degree. He also approved the suspension or discontinuation of 8 degrees, 1 area of concentration within an existing degree, and 1 certificate. In addition, the Board of Regents approved 15 new degree programs. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved by the Board for a total of 96 approvals for this report was circulated in advance. Dr. Coleman noted that the number of actions is not far off from pre-COVID numbers, indicating that despite the pandemic, institutions were forward-thinking and created programs to address the needs of students and the workforce.

## **Tentative Annual Agenda, 2021-2022**

The Tentative Agenda for 2021-2022 comprises anticipated action items, including new academic program proposals and new Board of Regents policies, as well as information and discussion items. Some of the information 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 information and recommendations from the regents. Following are topics that were offered for consideration:

- COVID's effect on enrollment at USM institutions
- Program duplication – What are the USM's and state's roles in determining potential duplication. Regent Gooden shared that she plans to convene a task force to look at what USM can do to understand and work with MHEC more effectively, so more program proposals make it through the approval process. We also need to understand how the settlement of the Coalition case affects program duplication conversations.
- Regent Wood wondered about the criteria for determining the suitability of a course for an online delivery and who makes those decisions. Dr. MJ Bishop offered insight into this question, as a number of measures are in place.

Regents and school officials were invited to share additional topics with Regent Gourdine, Dr. Boughman, or Dr. Lee.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive first meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair