



**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 11, 2022. The meeting was convened at 9:31 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Johnson, Leggett, Oludayo, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Andersen, Mr. Arnold, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bergen-Aurand, Dr. Bishop, Dr. Bowden, Mr. Byrd, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Foust, Ms. Harper, Dr. Hurte, Ms. Jenkins, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Lilly, Ms. Marano, Dr. Mathias, Mr. McDonough, Dr. Murray, Dr. Niemi, Dr. Olmstead, Dr. Perreault, Ms. Pomietto, Dr. Rous, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Tatum, Dr. Travis, and Dr. Young.

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

Action Item

Proposed Amendments to EPSL Committee Bylaws and Charge and Role and Responsibilities

Dr. Zakiya Lee presented this report to the committee. In September 2021, the committee conducted its annual review of the EPSL section of the Board of Regents Bylaws as well as the EPSL Charge, Role, and Responsibilities. At that time, the committee sought no amendments and reaffirmed those items. With the move from the Board of Regents Workgroup on Intercollegiate Athletics to the establishment of the standing Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare (ICA-HW), EPSL's responsibilities regarding athletics, as detailed in these guiding documents, must be reevaluated. A similar realigning of Bylaws as well as the Charge, Role, and Responsibilities is happening for the Committee on Finance, which also held responsibilities for athletics.

Proposed amendments to the EPSL section of the Bylaws remove athletics from the listing of matters for which EPSL should consider, report, or make recommendations to the Board of Regents. However, since EPSL is still responsible for the health and wellness of all students and academics at large, the committee may consider reports/issues brought to it by ICA-HW. New language reads, "This Committee shall also consider or report or recommend to the Board student-athlete health, wellness, and academic matters brought to it by the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare, the Chancellor, or the Board". The Charge, Role, and Responsibilities document has corresponding changes with the removal of references to athletics as a responsibility of EPSL and the inclusion of language that notes that EPSL may receive, for information purposes from the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare, reports on academic issues and health and wellness.

Committee Chair Gourdine reiterated the need for this transfer of power and that EPSL may still request reports from ICA-HW. Board Chair Gooden noted that this is not to deemphasize the support or the

importance of EPSL's role regarding the academic success and health and wellness of students, but direct responsibility for this particular subset of students shall now fall under the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare. At the end of a year or so, the Board Chair and the chairs of the affected committees will analyze the status of this transfer of responsibilities to ensure the necessary work and coverage is in place. Regent Wood noted his initial thought that a regular, standard report from ICA-HW to EPSL was in order, but, with the amendments offered and the assurances provided by Regents Gooden and Gourdine, Regent Wood is satisfied that the work is in good shape.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposed amendments to the EPSL Committee section of Bylaws and the EPSL Charge and Role and Responsibilities.

The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Smarick, and passed unanimously.

Vote Count: Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Information Items

Winter/Spring 2022 Update

Chair Gourdine noted that since many of the campus issues that are affected by the pandemic fall under EPSL's purview, she asked Dr. Joann Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to give an update as to where we are at this point. Highlights of Dr. Boughman's presentation include:

- USM institutions' Presidents are meeting more frequently now, as the Omicron surge is serious and overwhelming
- With the exception of some clinical and lab rotations, most of our universities have gone remote/virtual for the academic winter session
- Telework was being encouraged by all presidents last week, and by many this week and next
- USM and the institutions are strongly recommending booster shots for all students and employees. Institutions have the authority to require boosters for all if they deem that necessary for health and safety, but the USM is only requiring boosters for all students who live in residence halls. Booster shots are being provided on campus.
- Institutions are making decisions about whether they will begin the Spring semester in-person or virtually. There is no USM-wide guidance or requirement, but all are connecting with local and state public health officials to get expert advice.

Chair Gourdine thanked all who have been in the trenches of this work since March 2020. Regent Wood also recognized the good and important work being done and noted that the USM Communications and Marketing team and local press is recognizing that work.

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

Dr. Antionette Coleman, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report to the committee. COMAR requires that existing academic programs are 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 130 academic degree and certificate programs were reviewed in 2020-2021. This is a significant increase over last year's 72 programs. Specific programs at the following schools underwent program accreditation reviews: Bowie State University; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; and University of Maryland Eastern Shore. 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, 14 of the 130 reviewed programs are considered low degree producing programs. These 14 comprise 11%, which is a huge improvement over last year (although it should be noted that last year's review was of a different set of programs). The types of programs identified in this report as low productivity include six bachelor's degree programs, four master's degree programs, three postbaccalaureate certificates, and one post master's certificate. The report also includes two programs that have been suspended and discontinued since their last seven-year program review. These actions were taken by the institutions and are the result of low enrollments and low degree productivity.

Dr. Coleman noted that MHEC is reviewing low productivity definitions and guidelines and how programs are reviewed. Dr. Boughman hopes that such a review will lead to standards that account for programs with lower enrollments that are designed for other purposes and may not need to be highlighted as problematic. Regent Gooden asked what happens to programs that are low productivity and if suspension is a precursor for discontinuation. Dr. Coleman shared that institutions determine if one of their programs will be suspended, discontinued, or redesigned and, yes, a program can be suspended for three years before it is redesigned or all students have advanced through and the program is discontinued. Regent Gooden also asked how stackable credentials, which are not designed to lead to a degree, fare in this type of review. Dr. Boughman said they would not fare well, but that with changes afoot in higher education, we know we need to begin addressing how those innovations are seen in this light. Dr. Mj Bishop (Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation) concurred and shared that she and Dr. Coleman have already begun these conversations.

Regent Gourdine thanked Dr. Coleman and all who are making sure we adhere to regulatory standards and Board standards to review these programs for productivity, relevance, and more.

Report on Extramural Funding – FY 2021

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report to the committee. This annual report details extramural awards received by USM institutions in support of specific initiatives in research, education, or service in FY 2021. 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 2020 and FY 2021, the report also provides five years of summary data by institution for comparison purposes. In FY 2021, the System received a total of \$1,598,843,604.81 in extramural funding, a 3.6% increase from the FY 2020 total of \$1,542,951,565.87. UMB and UMCP garnered the largest extramural funding totals among System institutions. BSU, CSU, FSU, SU, TU, UMB, UMBC, UMCP, and UMES obtained higher levels of extramural funding than in FY 2020.

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. Only three institutions are down from last year, and two of those decreases are nominal. It should also be noted that the 24% decrease at UMGC and the 119% increase at Towson are swings back closer to their

pre FY 2020 numbers. For both schools, FY 2020 was the standout year; their FY 2021 funding is more standard.

As has been the case for years, the federal government accounts for the majority (60.5% this year) of USM's grand total. However, without funding from the state government, corporations, foundations, and other sources, our faculty and institutions would not be as successful as they are. Institutions whose funding levels increased this year attribute those increases to the diversification of funding streams, intra-institutional partnerships and coordination, closer tracking of individual faculty federal awards, and growth in State partnerships.

Notification of Awards: Regents Scholars – Academic Year 2021-2022 and Elkins Professorships – FY 2022

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, and Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, 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. Consideration is given to exceptional students, both first-year and transfer students, applying for admission to full-time undergraduate programs at one or more of the University System of Maryland 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. Some Regents Scholarships have additional criteria relating to particular disciplines or to students' demonstration of financial need. Some scholarships have no qualifying factor other than merit. The awards are funded in part by endowments established by University System benefactors committed to academic excellence. A typical full scholarship for a first-year student or transfer student for 2021-22 would be \$24,772 (average) per year and includes the costs of in-state tuition, fees, room and board, and academic materials. Partial scholarships were also awarded. For academic year 2021-2022, 12 new and 12 continuing students were awarded approximately \$325,869. Dr. Coleman reminded the Committee that the entire Board was shown an example of how transformational these scholarships are when, during the November full BOR meeting, scholarship recipient and Salisbury student, Julia Mohr, spoke about her experiences at SU and as an active Army Airborne Reservist.

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 USM. 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. For FY 2022, awards have been presented to:

Towson University to support the work of Dr. Paz Galupo, Professor of Psychology, who will use Professorship funds to understand the unique legal and cultural factors that impact the health care experiences of and lead to health disparities for transgender and nonbinary Marylanders. Year I of \$30,000 per year for two years

The University of Maryland, Baltimore to support the work of Dr. Radi Masri, Professor in the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and University of Maryland School of Medicine, who will use Professorship funds to conduct research to understand barriers that prevent adult minorities from improving their oral health in the local community and increase access to advanced dental care. \$58,000

The University of Maryland, Baltimore to support the work of Dr. Heather B. Congdon, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FNAP, Co-Director of UMB's Center for Interprofessional Education, who will use Professorship funds to collaborate with the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation to scale up targeted Interprofessional Education recommendations from the 2018 USM report "Strengthening Maryland's Health Care Workforce" through a digital badging initiative. \$40,000

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science to support the work of Dr. Lora A. Harris, Associate Professor, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, who will use Professorship funds to integrate regional and national work into multiple institutions and underserved communities in Maryland to diversify STEM and improve learning outcomes and the engagement of underrepresented students in the environmental and ocean sciences. \$40,000

The University of Maryland, College Park to support the work of Dr. Don DeVoe, Professor and Associate Chair for Research and Administration in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, who will use Year 2 of his Professorship award to continue developing a novel platform enabling fully automated manipulation of individual cancer and immune cells from highly limited patient samples - technology aimed at enabling a new approach to personalized cancer immunotherapy. Year 2 of \$30,000 per year for two years

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive meeting. She 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 Gooden, seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair



**Board of Regents
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**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 public session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. The meeting was convened at 10:40 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Johnson, Leggett, Oludayo, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Lee, and Mr. McDonough.

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 45 nominations from 11 institutions and recommends 17 awards to honor 17 individuals. The committee is recommending the maximum of 4 awards in each of the following categories – mentoring, public service, teaching, and research/scholarship/or creative activity. They are also recommending one award in the innovation category. Those approved will receive a \$2,000 award and a plaque. 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 2022 BOR meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 6 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 degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval unless withdrawn by the Board for cause. Institutions and USM staff have vetted the nominees and there are no reputational concerns. Additionally, as required by the policy, institutions

have identified the internal processes used to obtain these nominations from the faculty, college or department, or a sanctioned Honorary Degree Committee, which includes faculty.

The Committee was presented with 28 nominations from six institutions. The names of the nominees and the degrees being recommended, as well as nomination letters and supporting documentation, were made available to the regents prior to the meeting. There was discussion about the extent to which public perception of nominees is weighed into decisions to nominate someone for an honorary degree, especially when nominees are leaders of one side of national debates. Dr. Lee noted that although we are not made aware of the institutional deliberations, we have been informed that institutions have followed internal development and vetting processes as described in the policy. Chancellor Perman agreed that we do need to consider how these decisions affect our reputation, but that since degrees are the purview of the faculty, we should give most weight to those decisions while still engaging in such conversations to ensure we are doing our due diligence to maintain the status and reputation of the USM and its institutions. No nominees were highlighted as problematic based on this discussion.

Dr. Lee highlighted UMES's inclusion of two nominees who are current political office holders. Section 6 of the Board of Regents Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00) 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." Finding no compelling reason to exempt those two nominees from this requirement, the committee agreed that UMES should be asked to rescind the nominations of the two current office holders.

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 Frostburg State University; Towson University; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (not including the two exceptions noted above).

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Johnson, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair