Minutes of the Public Session

Regent Attman welcomed those on the video and teleconference to the first meeting of the year and called the meeting of the Finance Committee of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in public session at 10:31 a.m.

Regents participating in the session included: Mr. Attman, Ms. Gooden, Ms. Fish, Mr. Gonella, Mr. Peters, Mr. Pope, Mr. Rauch, and Mr. Wood. Also participating were: Chancellor Perman, Ms. Herbst, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Joshi, Dr. Masucci, Mr. McDonough, Assistant Attorney General Bainbridge, Dr. Jenkins, Ms. Aughenbaugh, Mr. Colella, Mr. Danik, Mr. Davis, Ms. Dettloff, Mr. Lockett, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Oler, Ms. Rehn, Dr. Rhodes, Mr. Sergi, Ms. Auburger, Mr. Beck, Ms. Denson, Mr. Eismeier, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Hoffacker, Ms. Norris, Ms. Samuel, Ms. Skolnik, Mr. Lurie, Ms. McMann, and other members of the USM community and the public.

1. Coppin State University: Facilities Master Plan (presentation and information)

Regent Attman welcomed President Jenkins, who then recognized and introduced Mr. Danik, Ms. Galeano, Mr. Patterson, and Mr. Thomas. In his opening remarks, Regent Attman commented on the importance of Coppin’s approach to their plan. He noted that it included an exhaustive outreach effort to seek opinions of students, faculty, and staff; and paid a great deal of attention to issues of sustainability. He expressed his appreciation regarding the institution’s emphasis on building strong relationships and physical ties with their community, pointing out that the way the plan ties each sector of the campus together within the context of their neighborhood is exemplary.

Before turning President Jenkins for the presentation, Regent Attman reminded the members of the Committee of the two-part approval process for master plans. The plan is presented for information, and then the item will return at the following meeting for recommendation to the full Board for approval. He also added that approval of the plan does not imply approval of capital projects or funding, as these items are reviewed through the normal procedures of the capital and operating budget processes.

President Jenkins outlined a bold plan for the campus, located in West Baltimore along the North Avenue corridor. He talked about the age and condition of their older facilities, while noting the high quality of those that have been added in recent years. He used a series of aerial photographs and overlay diagrams to showcase the way the plan will help tie all the various components and segments of the linear 56-acre campus footprint together physically and functionally. President Jenkins responded to a question about available land by saying there were roughly 5 acres on the south end of campus that
could be developed; and he highlighted the vacant (former Lutheran Home Hospital) 7.4-acre property also owned by the University a half mile further south. When asked about the need for housing given the changing demographics and preferences of students generally, President Jenkins cited the continued need by Coppin students for safe, convenient housing, and reassured the regents that the campus expects continued demand for housing as the institution’s enrollment grows.

Regent Attman thanked President Jenkins for his very compelling presentation, while Regent Wood added that it was truly exciting. Regent Attman invited Committee members to provide him with any further questions, comments, or feedback following the meeting, that he would relay to the institution and the USM Office.

**The Finance Committee accepted the item for information purposes.**

2. **Review of the Finance Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities (action)**

Regent Attman stated that the Board’s Governance and Compensation Committee has asked that each Board committee review and update its charge as appropriate on an annual basis. In accordance with the Board’s bylaws, the Committee on Finance performs all necessary business and provides guidance to the Board to help ensure the long-term financial health and development of the University System, informed by strong fiscal and administrative policies. The Committee considers, reports, and makes recommendations to the Board on matters concerning financial affairs; capital and operating budgets; facilities, student enrollment; investments; real property transactions; business entities; procurement contracts; human resources; tuition, fees, room, and board charges; and the overall long-range financial planning for the University System.

Members of the Committee are appointed annually by the Chairperson of the Board and as required by statute, there must be at least one member with financial expertise and experience. On that point, Regent Attman indicated that the Committee was well-qualified, counting among its ranks an accomplished banking executive, currently serving as the Baltimore Region Market Leader for Sandy Spring Bank; a retired executive of a Fortune 500 company; a president/owner of real estate firm with a business, finance and banking degree; a former State Senator with an MBA who most recently served as Majority Leader and Chair of Capital Budget; a founder/President/CEO of healthcare firm, CPA; and an attorney with B.S. in Economics. Following a brief discussion of the comprehensive charge, Regent Attman reviewed the financial cycle chart provided in the material along with the tentative workplan for the Committee. Regent Gooden complimented the workplan and added that it was a great best practice for other committees.

**The Finance Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the charge of the Committee as presented.**

(Regent Attman moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Fish; approved)

Vote Count = YEAs: 8  NAYs: 0  Abstentions: 0

3. **University System of Maryland: Proposed Amendment to USM Policy II-2.30—Policy on Sick and Safe Leave for Faculty Members (action)**

Regent Attman recognized Ms. Skolnik, USM Office of Human Resources, and proceeded to summarize the item. The Committee is asked to recommend an amendment of an existing Board policy. The proposed amendment will provide institutions with an additional method for faculty to report use of sick leave. This additional method is called “exception-based” reporting and is on par with time
reporting currently required of exempt staff. If institutions choose, they may continue to require positive leave reporting, which means faculty will report all hours worked each week and all hours taken as leave, similar to the reporting required of nonexempt/hourly workers. The proposed exception-based reporting requires faculty to confirm they worked their regular schedule and requires them only to report hours used for leave. Regent Attman explained that the changes were requested by the University of Maryland, College Park Workday team. Workday is the new Human Resources Information System that will be implemented in July 2023 at UMCP, UMES, UMCES, and the USM Office. The timing for this policy change is critical now because key design elements of the system are being configured and this policy is integral to the way timekeeping is implemented. Regent Attman remarked that this another great example of E&E (the Board’s Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative). UMCP is building a new HR and Finance system using Workday, called “project Elevate.” Concurrently, the consortium of five other USM institutions, called “Maryland Connect” (Frostburg, Bowie, Coppin, UBalt and Salisbury) is implementing the same technology.

Regent Attman added that these amendments also reflect best practices and were reviewed by human resources staff and academic affairs faculty and staff throughout the USM. Furthermore, the Office of Attorney General reviewed and approved the proposed amendments.

The Finance Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the proposed amendment to USM Policy II-2.30, including a correction to section I.B.

(Regent Attman moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Pope; approved)
Vote Count = YEAs: 8 NAYs: 0 Abstentions: 0

4. Convening Closed Session

Regent Attman read the Convene to Close Statement.

“The Open Meetings Act permits public bodies to close their meetings to the public in circumstances outlined in §3-305 of the Act and to carry out administrative functions exempted by §3-103 of the Act. The Committee on Finance will now vote to reconvene in closed session. The agenda for the public meeting today includes a written statement with a citation of the legal authority and reasons for closing the meeting and a listing of the topics to be discussed. The statement has been provided to the regents and it is posted on the USM’s website.”

The Chancellor recommended that the Committee on Finance vote to reconvene in closed session.

(Regent Attman moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Pope; approved)
Vote Count = YEAs: 8 NAYs: 0 Abstentions: 0

Regent Attman thanked everyone for joining. The public meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Attman
Chair, Committee on Finance
Minutes of the Closed Session

Regent Attman called the meeting of the Finance Committee of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in closed session at 11:24 a.m. via video conference.

Regents participating in the session included: Mr. Attman, Ms. Gooden, Ms. Fish, Mr. Gonella, Mr. Peters, Mr. Pope, Mr. Rauch, and Mr. Wood. Also participating were: Dr. Perman, Ms. Herbst, Ms. Wilkerson, Mr. McDonough, Dr. Masucci, Assistant Attorney General Bainbridge, Ms. Auburger, Mr. Beck, Ms. Denson, Mr. Hickey, Ms. Norris, and Ms. McMann. Mr. Lowenthal also participated in part of the session.

1. The committee discussed a real property acquisition in Towson (§3-305(b)(3)). (Regent Attman moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Peters; unanimously approved)
   
   Vote Count = YEAs: 8 NAYs: 0 Abstentions: 0

2. The committee discussed the proposed FY 2024 Operating Budget submission and potential adjustments to the submission (§3-305(b)(13)).
   
   This item was presented for information purposes; there were no votes on this item.

The session was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Attman
Chair, Committee on Finance