



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
January 16, 2024
Zoom

Minutes of the Public Session

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety (EPSLS) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents (BOR) met virtually (via Zoom) in public session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The meeting was convened at 9:33 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Helal, Leggett, Parker, Smarick, and Wood. Regent Breslin, Chancellor Perman, and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Ashby, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Beise, Dr. Burns, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Couch, Dr. Dauwalder, Dr. Esters, Dr. Foust, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Haverback, Ms. Hawkins-Wilding, Dr. Kersh, Dr. Khademian, Dr. Lee, Ms. Marano, Dr. Masucci, Mr. Morgan, Dr. Mueller, Dr. Muhoro, Mr. Muntz, Dr. O’Neil, Ms. Pomietto, Dr. Reed, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Ward, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Wilks.

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

Chair Gourdine noted the passing of Regent Doug Peters in December 2023. She shared that before becoming a valued member of the BOR, Doug diligently served our country, earning a Bronze Star for his valor during Operation Desert Storm. He also served in the Maryland Senate for many years. He was dedicated to the Board of Regents and this committee from the very beginning, offering insight, experience, ideas, and inspiration. On behalf of all present, Chair Gourdine offered our condolences and love to his family and friends. Regent Peters was honored with a moment of silence.

Chair Gourdine announced that she may need to step out and EPSLS Vice Chair, Andy Smarick, will chair the meeting after she leaves.

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

Salisbury University: M.A. in Public Communication

Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost, and Dr. David Burns, Professor, Department of Communication presented Salisbury University’s proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Public Communication. This program will provide students with proficiency and insight in the digital skills necessary to design strategic campaigns, produce multimedia products, manage social networks, understand audience motivations, and shape public engagements and behaviors. Students will learn how to conduct media research, examine legal issues, employ analytics, and more.

The 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. Further, the presenters noted that this would be the only program of its type within 100 miles of SU, which meets a major regional need. However, 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. Nevertheless, 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to offer an M.A. in Public Communication.

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

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

Salisbury University Proposal for a Graduate School

Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost, and Dr. Dr. Clifton Griffin, Dean of Graduate Studies & Research, presented the proposal for Salisbury University to transition its existing Office of Graduate Studies and Research to a Graduate School and a separate Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The goals of the change are to facilitate branding and the prestige of the university's graduate programs, improve consistency in administrative and assessment processes, and provide more support for graduate students, as well as external stakeholders. The university anticipates enrollment growth for graduate students within the next few years and new graduate offerings including doctoral programs. The change would be consistent with what peer institutions have done and is receiving unanimous support.

The proposal is consistent with III-7.05 Policy on the Creation/Development by University System of Maryland (USM) Institutions of Schools or Colleges. This proposal addresses the five elements of the policy: decision-making process, rationale for creation of the new school, mission statement of the new school, proposed administrative structure and resources needed, and faculty resources in place.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to establish a Graduate School.

The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Helal, and unanimously approved.

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

Information Items

Civic Education and Community Engagement

Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Outreach and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for P-20 Education, provided an update on USM's Civic Engagement and Civic Education and the Langenberg Legacy. Dr. Shapiro discussed several initiatives including the Civic Engagement

and Community Engagement Council, the Civic Education and Civic Engagement Symposium, the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, Civic Education and Civic Engagement Institutional Grants, the Langenberg Legacy Fellowship Program, USM Student Civic Leaders Committee, and the National Study of Learning Voting and Engagement.

After Dr. Shapiro’s presentation, Regent Hugh Breslin led a discussion about the potential of including a civic engagement requirement in general education requirements at USM institutions. There was discussion about what that might look like, how it might be implemented, and potential issues that may arise. Dr. Wrynn and Dr. Caraco provided context for the discussion and how such requirements work in other states and systems. The USM team will further explore and engage with campus partners on this topic and will report back to the Committee at a later date.

Academic and Student Affairs Updates from the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Chad Muntz, Associate Vice Chancellor for Decision Support, presented an update on the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare. Dr. Lee and Mr. Muntz discussed updates on mental health, managing APR issues, Title IX, student- athlete admission, graduation, and academic progress, and the Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act 2023 report.

Regent Wood shared concern about a fiscal aspect of the USM Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics (V-2.10). Dr. Lee noted that she would share this concern with the chair and staff the Board’s Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Smarick thanked all for a productive meeting. He read the required statement to go into closed session and 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 Smarick, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Smarick adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair

Regent Andy Smarick
Vice Chair



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Minutes of the Closed Session

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety (EPSLS) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents (BOR) met virtually (via Zoom) in closed session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The meeting was convened at 11:42 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Smarick (Vice Chair, presiding), Gooden, Helal, Leggett, Parker, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Ms. Bainbridge, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Lee, Dr. Masucci, and Ms. Wilkerson.

Action Items

Board of Regents Faculty Awards Recommendations

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. The Regents Faculty Awards Committee reviewed 49 nominations from 11 institutions and recommends 20 awards to honor 20 individuals. The committee is recommending the maximum of 4 awards in each of the following categories - Mentoring, Teaching, and Research/Scholarship, 5 awards in Public Service, and 3 awards in the Creative Activity 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 2024 BOR meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Smarick, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Honorary Degree Nominations

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for 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 EPSLS'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 11 nominations from five (5) 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. Dr. Lee noted the need for attention to one nomination from the University of Maryland, College Park and one nomination from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore that were not in alignment with the portion of the Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees that restricts conferring honorary degrees on currently serving faculty, staff, members of the Board of Regents, or current holders of political office. The committee agreed to not approve the nomination from UMES and to approve the nomination from UMCP with the understanding that the degree could not be conferred until the nominee had retired.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve that the Board of Regents approve institutional nominations for honorary degrees from Coppin State University; Frostburg State University; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and University of Maryland Global Campus.

The motion, minus the nomination from UMES, was moved by Regent Smarick, seconded by Regent Leggett, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Smarick moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Regent Helal, and unanimously approved. Regent Smarick adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Andy Smarick
Vice Chair