



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

April 1, 2024

Meeting via Video and Conference Call

Minutes of the Public Session

Regent Gonella called the meeting of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in public session at 3:01 p.m.

Regents participating in the session included: Mr. Gonella (Chair), Ms. Gooden, Mr. Breslin, Mr. McMillen, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Wood. Also participating were Chancellor Perman, Senior Vice Chancellors Herbst and Wrynn; AAG Langrill; Associate Vice Chancellors Skolnik, Denson, and Lee, Chief of Staff Denise Wilkerson, and UMES Athletic Director Owens and President Heidi Anderson. In attendance were Athletic Directors Eigenbrot, Evans, Carter, Polizzi, Doughty, Dell; AD staff Franchak, Thomas, Sorem, Reinke, and Williams; VPs Danik, Donoway, Oler, Atkins, Rodriguez, Dettloff, Edenhart-Pepe, and Kumar and other members of the USM community and the public.

Chancellor Perman made a brief comment regarding the Department of Justice's report on UMBC's Title IX program.

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Proposed Amendment to the Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities (Action)

Regent Gonella reminded the committee that in our November meeting, recommendations for broader language were suggested. USM staff provided proposed amendments to the charter intended to address Regent McMillen's concerns: (1) That the Board should provide advice and oversight regarding conference relationships and issues; and (2) that the Board should provide advice regarding the potential for crises that have occurred in athletic departments nationwide to affect Maryland athletic departments, such as hazing, sign-stealing, student gambling, etc.

The charter was approved with the suggestion from Regent McMillen that additional language be added to say that the committee will monitor developments in intercollegiate athletics nationally, including those resulting from "judicial or administrative actions."

Regent Gonella reminded the committee that going forward, we will also try to have the charter reviewed by outside Title IX experts to ensure that it properly reflects the role of this committee.

The Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare recommended that the Board of Regents approve the Amendment to the charter. (Regents Gonella and Breslin moved recommendation, seconded by Regent McMillen; approved)
Vote Count = Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

2. Mid-Year Athletic Director Update – Rotating – UMES (Information)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore’s athletic director Tara Owens provided her perspectives on current issues. Regent McMillen asked Tara Owens if UMES has experienced problems with sports gambling. She mentioned that sports gambling has not been a problem and that they have not had any internal or external sports gambling challenges at UMES. President Anderson announced that Tara Owens has been promoted to Vice President of Athletics and Recreation.

3. Report from the Workgroup on the State of Athletic Trainers (Information)

Regent Gonella introduced Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs both from USM, and Dr. Emily Hildebrand, Director of Athletic Training Program and Clinical Associate Professor within the Department of Kinesiology and Mr. Cody Davis, Assistant Athletic Trainer for Football, both from Towson University, who presented a report from the Workgroup on the State of Athletic Trainers.

Dr. Lee informed the committee that USM athletic directors have shared ongoing difficulties recruiting and retaining athletic trainers and concerns about the state of their profession. Chancellor Perman and the regents on this committee requested that we gather USM experts to analyze the issue and come up with recommendations. To begin this work, Dr. Wrynn and Dr. Lee convened a workgroup of campus experts. This workgroup consists of athletics department representatives from Frostburg and Towson University, representatives from University of Maryland, College Park who are involved in athletics and the University Health Center, and Athletic Training Master’s Degree program officials from Frostburg and Towson University. USM staff includes Kurt Dahl and Chad Muntz from USMO Institutional Research, and Dr. Wrynn and Dr. Lee from USMO Academic and Student Affairs. The workgroup members have discussed the state of the profession, data, challenges, and initial ideas regarding solutions.

Regent Parker asked whether other universities besides Frostburg and Towson might be able to offer the required degree in the future. Regent McMillen raised a pipeline question on why the program was changed from an undergraduate to a graduate program. Also, from a parent’s perspective, Regent McMillen asked what the incentive is to pursue a graduate degree when the salary is low.

Dr. Wrynn said we will keep working on this issue and work together as a group to better understand the landscape of recruitment and retention of athletic directors in our institutions.

4. Financial Condition and Results of Intercollegiate Athletic Programs

Regent Gonella introduced Ms. Ellen Herbst who reviewed for the committee the System Office's analysis of the financial condition of each of the institution's athletic departments.

Regent McMillen recommended that the word "amateurism" be deleted from the first paragraph of the Board of Regents Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics, V-2.10.

5. Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gonella called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent McMillen, seconded by Regent Gooden. The public meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regent Geoff J. Gonella
Chair, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare