USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
April 12, 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 Friday, April 12, 2024. The meeting was convened at 10:02 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Helal, Parker, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Allen, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Amoussou, Dr. Ashby, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bhalla, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Couch, Dr. Cunningham, Dr. Dauwalder, Dr. Esters, Ms. Griffin, Dr. Halick, Mr. Hartman, Dr. Haverback, Ms. Hawkins-Wilding, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Kersh, Ms. Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Dr. Marano, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Mueller, Dr. Muhoro, Dr. Nava-Tudela, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Owens, Dr. Perreault, Dr. Pomietto, Dr. Reed, Dr. Russell, Dr. Scott, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Skevakis, Dr. Taylor, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Wilks.

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

Chair Gourdine started the meeting by introducing Kelsey Beckett, Senior Vice Chancellor Wrynn's new Chief of Staff, who will be helping staff the committee.

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

Salisbury University: B.S. in Engineering Physics
Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost, and Dr. Michael Scott, Dean, Henson School of Science and Technology, presented Salisbury University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics. This program prepares students to apply physics principles to tackle modern engineering challenges and to apply engineering to address cutting-edge questions in physics. It is a cross-functional major that bridges the gap between applied science and practical engineering. Students will learn to use their knowledge of physics to solve real-world problems and to develop new technologies and applications.

A degree in Engineering Physics is a highly employable major according to data provided by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and graduates will have an opportunity to explore numerous employment options in engineering-related career fields. This degree will meet local workforce needs and will train graduates who can exist and work in a challenging engineering environment.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to offer a B.S. in Engineering Physics.

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

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

Salisbury University: B.A. in Music Therapy

Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost, and Dr. Colleen Clark, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Music Theater and Dance, presented Salisbury University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Music Therapy. This program is designed for students who wish to pursue careers as board-certified music therapists in clinical settings. The curriculum is designed to impart entry-level competencies in three main areas: Musical Foundations, Clinical Foundations, and Music Therapy Foundations as specified in the AMTA Professional Competencies. Study includes practical application of music therapy procedures and techniques learned in the classroom through required fieldwork in facilities serving individuals with disabilities in the community and/or on-campus clinics. Students learn to assess the needs of clients, develop and implement treatment plans, and evaluate and document clinical changes. Students complete the same core courses as other music programs, giving them a foundation of music skills.

Dr. Clark noted that graduates of the program will be prepared to work in settings such as schools, hospitals, care facilities, and substance abuse facilities. This would be the only public option for this program in the state, as the only existing program is at a private institution. There are currently only 9 music therapists in the radius of SU, so this program addresses a need in the region. The job growth projection for this field in Maryland is 20%, higher than the 4% national projection.

Regent Wood asked if this program would lead to jobs in performing. Dr. Clark said possibly. Regent Gourdine asked if there are enough clinical placements identified for the students. Dr. Clark said they have been speaking to potential sites and are confident they will have enough placements.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to offer a B.A. in Music Therapy.

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

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

Towson University: B.S. in Biophysics
Dr. Melanie Perreault, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Matthew Nugent, Dean, Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, and Dr. Jennifer Scott, Chair, Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, presented Towson University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Biophysics. This degree, which will be housed in the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences (PAGS), will complement TU's existing B.S. in Physics major. It will provide students with a strong foundation in fundamental physics paired with a coherent academic program in chemistry and biology.

Dr. Nugent and Dr. Scott emphasized that this program is geared toward biomedical, while many other programs in the state are geared more toward engineering. This will be the only biophysics program at a public institution in the state and meets the high demand for scientists in the region.

Regent Gourdine asked about overlap with the interdisciplinary physics program at Morgan State University and potential overlap. Dr. Scott noted that the MSU program is more broad and open to tailoring, while the TU program is more focused on the intersection between physics and biology.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to offer a B.S. in Biophysics.

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

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

Towson University: B.S. in Biophysics
Dr. Melanie Perreault, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Matthew Nugent, Dean, Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, and Dr. Jennifer Scott, Chair, Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, presented Towson University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Physics. This program will have three concentrations: Computational

Physics, Physics Innovation and Entrepreneurship (PIE), and Planetary Science. This degree, which will be housed in the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences (PAGS), will complement TU's existing B.S. in Physics major. It will provide students with a strong foundation in fundamental physics along with the freedom to develop a coherent academic program of study across other disciplines.

Dr. Nugent noted that there has been significant job growth both regionally and nationally in this area. Dr. Scott noted that other institutions offer physics degrees but not this type of interdisciplinary program. As noted in the previous presentation, MSU's is more engineering focused.

Regent Gooden noted that there was discussion and mention of AI within the degree and asked how we'll handle these types of programs moving forward to ensure that they are unique and focused. Dr. Caraco said that when a program is proposed, there is a lot of research into demand, similar programs, etc. to ensure that new programs meet a need. Dr. Wrynn noted that students choose different institutions and programs for different reasons and we need to balance overlap to ensure we have enough programs to meet need. Regent Gourdine said that the team is very careful to ensure needs are being met.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to offer a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Physics.

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

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

University of Baltimore: M.S. in Artificial Intelligence for Business

Dr. Ralph Mueller, Provost, and Dr. Raju Balakrishnan, Dean, Merrick School of Business, presented the University of Baltimore's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence for Business. This new program is designed to meet critical workforce needs in the region. It will achieve this by providing participants with practical AI competencies and knowledge of how to apply AI in various business fields. This will be accomplished through coursework in the general application of AI in business, ethics and regulation of AI, and the application of AI in such fields as accounting, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, organizational behavior, and supply chain management.

Dr. Balakrishnan noted that this is a timely degree, as Baltimore was recently named one of 31 federal tech hubs. The Greater Baltimore Committee estimates that AI will bring about $3.1B to Baltimore in the next 5 years.

Regent Wood asked if there is competition among Maryland universities in this area. Dr. Balakrishnan noted that other programs are more technology-focused, while this will be the only program focused on business. Regent Smarick reiterated an earlier comment that we should be thoughtful about introducing new programs in this area so as not to oversaturate. Dr. Shapiro noted that K-12 is doing a lot of work in this area so it makes sense to approach it from multiple perspectives.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Baltimore to offer an M.S. in Artificial Intelligence for Business.

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

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

University of Maryland, College Park: B.A./B.S. in International Relations

Dr. Will Reed, Assistant Provost, Dr. David Cunningham, Professor, Department of Government and Politics, and Dr. Katherine Russell, Associate Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer both a Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Science in International Relations. UMCP's Department of Government and Politics currently offers a bachelor's program in Government and Politics with an International Relations (IR) concentration. This proposal is to replace the concentration with a stand-alone bachelor's degree. This new program will have both a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) option and a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) option.

Students will develop a foundational understanding of international relations theory and will develop the skills necessary to pursue careers or more advanced degrees in the IR field. Students will also be required to take courses in statistics and political methodology to attain competence in data analysis. Students pursuing the B.S. degree will take more advanced coursework in this area. Regent Smarick noted that he always likes to see creativity in the humanities.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, College Park to offer a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in International Relations.

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

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

University of Maryland, College Park: M.S. in Quantum Computing
Dr. Will Reed, Assistant Provost, and Dr. Alfredo Nava-Tudela, Director of Scientific Computing, Institute for Physical Science and Technology and Scientific Development Officer, Norbert Wiener Center for Harmonic Analysis and Applications presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Quantum Computing. This program will provide students with foundational, practical, and theoretical topics of quantum computing. Participants will discover current state-of-the-art quantum computing technology and areas of application, while also exploring its origins, evolution, and possible future states.

UMD currently offers this program as a Master of Professional Studies (MPS) program in Quantum Computing. The goal of this proposal is to move the existing curriculum out from under the MPS umbrella to create a standalone Master of Science (MS) degree program. The transition to an MS will allow the program to be properly designated with a STEM CIP code, which will in turn allow the program to appear on institutional, state, and national reports on STEM program offerings. This move will also allow students to benefit from being in a STEM program. For example, international students studying here on visas are allowed longer post-graduate work experiences in the United States by two years if they are in a STEM program. This will be the only program of its kind in the state.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland, College Park to offer a Master of Science in Quantum Computing.

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

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

University of Maryland Eastern Shore: Bachelor of Science in Aviation Maintenance Management
Dr. Ronnie Allen, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Mr. Chris Hartman, Program Coordinator for Aviation Science, presented the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Maintenance Management. This program will prepare graduates

for high-demand careers in the aviation industry (Bureau of Labor Statistics data show the overall employment of aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and technicians is projected to grow 6% during 2021-2031). The program complements the current aviation science program and embeds FAA aviation maintenance certificates. Regent Wood noted that the program honors Richard Henson's legacy and that he would be proud to see it.

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. 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 and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

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

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

Information Items

Results of Periodic Reviews of Academic Programs

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the report. . 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.

Dr. Caraco shared that 110 program reviews were completed. Reviews were completed at the following institutions: Bowie State University; Coppin State University; Frostburg State University; Towson University; 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. Dr. Caraco shared that nine were considered low enrollment, but explained that three of the master's programs could be

exempted from this description based on more recent data or the program's close curricular relationship to a doctoral program. Thirty of the programs reported on specialized accreditation.

New Programs: 5 Year Enrollment Review
Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the five year enrollment reviews of new programs. As part of the ongoing review process of academic programs, the data have been updated with the Fall 2023 enrollments of programs continuing in the five-year review period. The information includes the actual enrollments in new programs approved since Fall 2019, as well as the projections submitted with the initial proposal. It is important to note that not all programs are implemented in the year they are approved. Depending on the approval dates from the Board of Regents and MHEC, recruitment and admission to the program may not begin until the next academic year. In addition, admission to (and so enrollment in) an undergraduate program may not occur until the students have completed the required lower-division General Education or core courses, with the result that enrollments are reported two or even three years after initial approval.

With those caveats in mind, the enrollment data reflect the relative accuracy for the projected enrollment submitted with the program proposal and provide an opportunity to judge the long-term viability of a new program prior to its first seven-year periodic program review. For this period, it should also be noted that programs were widely impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Regent Gooden asked what we do when more students sign up for a program than projected. Dr. Caraco said that the USM checks back with institution to make sure they have the resources they need. Dr. Owens from UMB said that the M.S. in Cannabis Science and Therapeutics has more students than anticipated, which can be challenging, but they are managing it well.

Motion to Adjourn
Prior to adjourning, Regent Wood asked the committee to pause to remember Tom Finan, Jr., a longtime former Regent, who passed away last week.

Regent Gourdine thanked everyone for a productive meeting. She 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 Student Excellence Scholarships. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Helal, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair

USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Closed Session
April 12, 2024
Zoom

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 Friday, April 12, 2024. The meeting was convened at 11:29 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine, Gooden, Helal, Parker, Smarick, 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

USM Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarships
Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. In 2023, the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC), with guidance and advice from USM's Office of Academic and Student Affairs, established the first ever student awards to parallel the Board's awards recognizing faculty and staff. This is the second year of the awards. USM students applied for a scholarship in one of four categories: academics, scholarship, and research; innovation and creativity activity; leadership and advocacy; and outreach and engagement. Applicants had to submit an essay, letter of recommendation, resume, and transcript. This year, 206 complete applications were received from across the USM.

The Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarships Evaluation Committee is a three-member committee that includes members of the USMSC executive board. USM Academic and Student Affairs staff advised the process. The evaluation committee recommends 12 scholarships – three in each category. Applications were received from each institution and the winners represent seven institutions.

The Chancellor recommends that the That the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety recommend that the Board of Regents approve the recommendations of the evaluation committee to honor the twelve (12) students with Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarships.

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

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

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Helal, seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair