



USM Board of Regents  
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety  
Minutes from Public Session  
September 3, 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, September 3, 2024. The meeting was convened at 9:31 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Hasan, Leggett, Lewis, Mirani, Neuberger, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Abel, Dr. Allen, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Amoussou, Dr. Ashby, AAG Bainbridge, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Bolden, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Carter, Dr. Clemmons, Dr. Couch, Dr. Falter, Dr. Foust, Dr. Gortcheva, Dr. Hansen, Ms. Herbst, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Jeter, Dr. Khademian, Ms. Lang, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Marano, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Owens, Dr. Parish-Harris, Dr. Parker, Dr. Pecukonis, Dr. Perreault, Dr. Pomietto, Mr. Powers, Dr. Postmus, Mr. Prouty, Dr. Reed, Dr. Rossi, Dr. Sanford, Mr. Sandler, Mr. Swain, Dr. Travis, Dr. Ward, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Wright

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

Chair Gourdine started the meeting by welcoming new committee members, Regents Hasan, Lewis, and Neuberger. She extended a special welcome to Regent Dhruvak Mirani, non-voting student regent. Regent Mirani introduced himself and told the committee about himself.

**Action Items**

**Academic Program Proposals**

**Bowie State University: M.Ed. in English for Speakers of Other Languages**

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Rhonda Jeter, Dean College of Education, and Dr. Peter Parker, Assistant Professor of ESOL/Literacy presented Bowie State University's proposal to offer a Master of Education in English for Speakers of Other Languages. This program is designed to prepare teachers to (a) comprehensively address the linguistic and cultural needs of English Learners (EL) in K-12 schools and (b) meet the growing need for qualified ESOL professionals in Maryland's public school system. The program will have two tracks: Master's degree in ESOL with MSDE certification and Master's degree in ESOL without MSDE certification. Dr. Parker noted that this program was developed in response to recommendations from the Blueprint.

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 Bowie State University to offer a M.Ed. in English for Speakers of Other Languages.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

### **University of Maryland, Baltimore: Doctor of Social Work**

Dr. Roger Ward, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Dr. Judy Postmus, Dean and Professor, School of Social Work, presented University of Maryland, Baltimore's proposal to offer a Doctor of Social Work (DSW). The curriculum will focus on advanced skills in treatment methods, supervision, leadership, and teaching pedagogy that are not typically included in the curriculum of Social Work PhD programs. The proposed DSW program will fill a growing need in Maryland and build DSW skills along six clinical practice domains, completed within UMB's dynamic interprofessional learning environment over a three-year period. The six essential learning components of the curriculum are: 1) Advanced clinical treatment skills such as psychopharmacology, cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, family therapy, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing, etc., 2) Supervisory skills to guide and train students and social work practitioners in the field, 3) Teaching andragogy for academic classroom instruction, 4) Leadership/administrative skills, 5) Social justice and health equity advocacy, and 6) Applied research training and program evaluation. The demand for doctoral social workers is projected to increase and this program would help address that demand.

Drs. Ward and Postmus noted that there is a Doctor of Social Work program at Morgan State University (MSU), but the UMB program has several key differences. The UMB program is in-person vs. fully online. It is focused on the clinical side vs. a more community-centric focus. A focus on interprofessional education makes the UMB program unique. Dr. Ward noted that there is such a high demand for social workers in Maryland that the state can support two doctoral programs.

Regent Gourdine asked the presenters to distinguish between the role that a DSW vs. an MSW would play in behavioral health. Dr. Ward noted that the DSW has made a resurgence to meet the aforementioned growing demand for social workers. Chancellor Perman again emphasized the focus on interprofessional education and team-based care, which he noted is a hallmark of UMB's programs.

Regent Smarick asked for more information about why UMB believes there is demand for two programs. Dr. Ward said that over 5,200 alumni were surveyed and a huge number of them indicated that they are interested in getting a DSW. Regent Leggett asked if UMB has spoken to the MSU Dean, and Dr. Ward said that they have spoken and the Dean is willing to continue communicating about the programs.

Regent Gooden said that she would like more clarity on the differences between the UMB and MSU programs and suggested putting this proposal on hold to bring back to a future committee meeting once those distinctions are clarified and strongly stated in the program proposal materials.

Regent Gooden moved that the proposal from University of Maryland, Baltimore to offer the Doctor of Social Work be amended to clarify and elevate the differences between the UMB and MSU programs and brought back to the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety at a future meeting. Regent Leggett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

**University of Maryland, College Park: M.S. in Climate Finance and Risk Management**

Dr. Will Reed, Assistant Provost, and Clifford Rossi, Professor of Practice and Director, Smith Enterprise Risk Consortium presented University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Climate Finance and Risk Management. This degree will focus on the financial concepts, techniques, models, and data that are critical to conducting financial analysis of climate change.

Rossi stressed the importance of having professionals trained in this area to guide companies through addressing climate change. It will help students have a better grasp on climate models and will link science with business.

Regent Mirani said that climate risk management is a focus of state government so there may be room for collaboration with state agencies. Rossi said that UMCP is already collaborating through the risk enterprise consortium and will continue to do so.

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 M.S. in Climate Finance and Risk Management.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

**University of Maryland Global Campus: B.S. in Artificial Intelligence**

Dr. Blakely Pomietto, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, introduced several academic program proposals from the University of Maryland Global Campus. She said that all of these programs advance UMGC's mission of offering programs for adult learners. Over

the last two years, UMGC has been undertaking a comprehensive review of its portfolio to build on its programs and expand its reach.

Dr. Elena Gortcheva, Portfolio Director, Data Analytics, presented the first proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Artificial Intelligence. This program builds upon the existing B.S. in Data Science and the upper-division undergraduate certificate in Artificial Intelligence Foundations and Applications. The degree will directly address the AI skills gap within two tracks, AI Applications, and AI Developer, each focusing on distinct job-related roles and skillsets.

Dr. Gortcheva noted that the market is projected to grow and that 75% of companies say they will include AI moving forward. There is a lack of skilled workforce in AI across all industries and this degree aims to address that.

Regent Gooden asked if we should be working with MHEC to focus on moving AI to a discipline category such as English, Math, Computer Science, etc.

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 UMGC proposal to offer the B.S. in Artificial Intelligence.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

#### **University of Maryland Global Campus: B.S. in Sustainable Value Chain**

Dr. Jim Falter, Department Chair, Accounting and Finance, presented the University of Maryland Global Campus's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Value Chain. The program will prepare students to assess the value chain of a business entity for operational effectiveness and sustainability; employ appropriate statistical techniques to enhance production processes and systems; and propose and recommend actions to improve the functional aspects of the value chain including marketing, operations, and quality management.

Dr. Falter said that the degree is highly interdisciplinary and reflects the growth of sustainability. Students will develop applied quantitative skills and will consider the whole organization, which will help advance ethical sourcing and customer value.

Regent Hasan asked if there was a better name to for the program to help people better understand the program. Dr. Falter said that they did extensive research and this name came out of that research. He said that the term “value chain” goes further than supply chain when we talk about sustainability.

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 UMGC proposal to offer the B.S. in Sustainable Value Chain.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

#### **University of Maryland Global Campus: M.S. in Operations Management**

Dr. Jim Falter also presented the University of Maryland Global Campus’s proposal to offer a Master of Science in Operations Management. The core courses constitute key knowledge areas learners need to excel in operations management.

Dr. Falter said that there is workforce demand behind this degree and the program emphasizes operational efficiencies. Students in the program will learn about management tools, productivity, inventory control, and project management. It will be applicable across many fields.

Regent Hasan asked why the degree is not called an M.S. in Business, as the focus seems very narrow. Dr. Falter specified that this degree is focused on the operations side and will be very different than an M.B.A. He said that this degree is stackable with the B.S. in Sustainable Value Chain.

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 UMGC proposal to offer the M.S. in Operations Management.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

**University of Maryland Global Campus: M.S. in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Leadership**

Dr. Pam Carter, Portfolio Vice President and Dean, School of Business, presented the University of Maryland Global Campus's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Leadership. This program will emphasize leading change, fostering creativity, and building a culture of innovation. Core courses will be designed to help students develop a unique set of entrepreneurial skills to navigate the complexities and challenges of fostering innovation within an organization.

Dr. Carter noted that the program will take advantage of the changing business landscape. It is important to develop entrepreneurial leaders who can build a culture of innovation. Graduates of the program will be well-positioned for positions in firms, government, and nonprofit organizations.

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 UMGC proposal to offer the M.S. in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Leadership.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

**University of Maryland Global Campus: M.S. in Homeland Security Leadership**

Brian Powers, Portfolio Director, Homeland, Intelligence, and Emergency Management, presented the University of Maryland Global Campus's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Homeland Security Leadership. This degree will prepare learners for leadership roles within the homeland, national, and global security sectors. The program will empower learners to address complex security challenges and safeguard communities against national and international security threats.

Powers said that this degree builds on existing programs and has an interdisciplinary approach. Students can choose from three focus areas: Homeland Security, Emergency Management, or Intelligence. This program is proposed in response to market demand and is designed to help individuals advance from the management level to the leadership level.

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 UMGC proposal to offer the M.S. in Homeland Security Leadership.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

### **University of Maryland Global Campus: M.S. in Public Safety Leadership**

Christopher Swain, Portfolio Director, Criminal Justice & Public Safety Administration, presented the University of Maryland Global Campus's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Public Safety Leadership. The degree will have core courses to address the key responsibilities of public safety leaders such as ethical leadership, decision-making, and communications.

Swain noted that this degree will replace UMGC's current master's degree in management with an Area of Concentration in criminal justice management. He said the degree addresses things common to all public safety leaders.

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 UMGC proposal to offer the MS in Public Safety Leadership.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

### **EPSLS Overview: Annual Review of Committee Bylaws and Charge and Role and Responsibilities**

Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report. The Committee on Governance and Compensation asks for an annual review of the Committee's section of the bylaws and the Committee's Charge, Role, and Responsibilities. Ms. Beckett shared that both the EPSLS section of the bylaws and the Charge, Role, and Responsibilities document note that this committee shall perform all necessary business and provide guidance to the Board of Regents on academic affairs and student affairs functions at USM's institutions. In general, work pertains to the overall intellectual, social, and emotional climate of the university, and includes, but is

not limited to, academic program development; student services; faculty matters and policies; admissions, recruitment, retention, transfer, and articulation; campus safety and security; student health and wellness; student organizations; many aspects of diversity and inclusion; P-20/pipeline issues; and more.

When Chair Gourdine, Dr. Wrynn, and the Academic and Student Affairs team reviewed these documents in July 2024, they determined that amendments are not needed.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety recommend that the Board of Regents reaffirm (1) the EPSLS section of the Board of Regent Bylaws and (2) the EPSLS Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities guidance.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8                      Nays: 0                      Abstentions: 0

### **Information Items**

#### **USM Regional Higher Education Centers**

The Executive Directors of the three regional higher education centers (RHECs) presented information about their centers. Dr. Jacob Ashby, Executive Director of USM at Hagerstown (USMH), spoke about USMH's needs, value, and bold targets. Dr. Eileen Abel, Executive Director of USM at Southern Maryland (USMSM) discussed USMSM's founding, university partners, labor market data, and how the regents can help support the center. Dr. Anne Khademian, Executive Director of Universities at Shady Grove (USG), spoke on USG's role in economic development in the state and region, what makes USG an asset in the system, the USM pathway framework, and what the regents can do to help USG.

#### **Update on HB 1244**

Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented an update on HB 1244. This bill establishes a new process for academic program approval and institutional mission statements based on identifying State and regional workforce needs. It establishes new review processes for academic programs to ensure alignment with workforce demands and incentives collaboration between institutions. It specifies that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must review existing programs and establish a council and procedures related to the review process.

Dr. Wrynn said that she'll continue to update the committee as implementation moves forward. The bill contains an updated definition for duplication, establishes a new advisory council that will have two USM presidents and provosts on it, has a new way to evaluate potential harm of degree program duplication, and more. The USM will continue to work with MHEC on implementation of the bill.

#### **Tentative Annual Agenda, 2024-2025**

The Tentative Agenda for 2024-2025 comprises anticipated action items, including new academic program proposals and new Board of Regents policies, as well as information and discussion items. Some of the information items are reported on an annual schedule to ensure that the regents are well informed about topics of general interest (e.g. extramural funding, civic engagement and education,



academic innovation), while others respond to specific requests for reports and recommendations on a variety of topics of interest to the Committee as previously noted by the regents.

Chair Gourdine noted that regents and school officials can share additional topics with Regent Gourdine, Dr. Wrynn, or Ms. Beckett.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine thanked everyone for a productive meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Gooden, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair