



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

**BOARD OF REGENTS
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

September 16, 2024

Meeting via Video and Conference Call

Minutes of the Public Session

Regent Fish called to order the first meeting of the year of the Finance Committee of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents at 3:03 p.m., welcoming participants joining via video and teleconference. She introduced the Committee's new member, Regent Mirani, who serves as the Board's newest Student Regent. Regent Mirani is an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park, pursuing dual degrees in Computer Science and Government and Politics with a concentration in International Relations. Regent Fish noted that while Regent Mirani will serve as a non-voting member during his first year, his participation and contributions are highly anticipated.

Regents participating in the session included: Ms. Fish, Ms. Gooden, Mr. Hasan, Mr. Mirani, Mr. Pope, and Mr. Sibel. Also participating were: Chancellor Perman, Ms. Herbst, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Wrynn, Ms. Lawrence, Mr. Sandler, Assistant Attorney General Palkovitz, President Fowler, President Schmoke, Ms. Amyot, Ms. Aughenbaugh, Mr. Bobart, Mr. Colella, Mr. Danik, Mr. Donoway, Mr. Henley, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Lockett, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Oler, Mr. Sergi, Mr. Keeney, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Mohammadi, Ms. Watson, Mr. Allen, Mr. Hauer, Ms. McWeeney, Mr. Pfister, Mr. Harrison, Ms. Adkins, Ms. Auburger, Mr. Beck, Ms. Denson, Mr. Eismeier, Mr. Hickey, Ms. Norris, Mr. Samuel, Ms. Bucko, Mr. Brown, Ms. McMann, and other members of the USM community and the public.

Proceeding with the agenda, Regent Fish acknowledged President Schmoke with a greeting. Joining President Schmoke were Ms. Amyot, advisor to the president for strategic initiatives and Ms. Aughenbaugh, CFO and vice president for business affairs

1. The University of Baltimore Facilities Master Plan 2024-2034 (presentation and information)

Regent Fish introduced the University of Baltimore's 2024-2034 Facilities Master Plan, noting that the plan aligns with the University's upcoming 100th anniversary. She described the plan as a comprehensive blueprint that captures UBalt's long-term vision, strategic priorities, and physical planning principles, aiming to enhance campus building efficiency and quality over the next decade and beyond.

Regent Fish highlighted the extensive community engagement that informed the plan, including participation from faculty, staff, students, and external partners through town halls, surveys, and listening sessions. She further acknowledged the contributions of external partners—including the Central Baltimore Partnership, Bolton Hill Community Association, Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association, and others—in aligning the plan with broader community and city objectives.

Before turning to President Schmoke for the presentation, Regent Fish outlined the two-part approval process for campus facilities plans. She explained that a plan is initially presented for information and discussion, then placed on the agenda at the following meeting for recommendation to the full Board for approval. Regent Fish emphasized that approval of the plan does not imply approval of capital projects or funding, as these items are subject to the standard capital and operating budget review processes. Regent Fish then invited President Schmoke and his colleagues from the University of Baltimore to begin their presentation.

President Schmoke, together with Ms. Amyot, presented the University's new facilities plan to the Committee. They emphasized UBalt's history as a center for career-focused education, serving predominantly Maryland-based students, many of whom are older, working adults. The campus facilities reflect this mix of traditional and non-traditional student needs, with both modern buildings and structures requiring significant renovation.

The plan's primary goals are to "right-size" the campus by reducing square footage, modernizing the learning and working environment to enhance academic success, addressing deferred maintenance, and renewing or replacing underperforming buildings. Five guiding principles were highlighted: establishing a sense of place, fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus, modernization, space renewal, and strengthening the pedestrian experience. Located in a transit-rich area, UBalt aims to replace the Academic Center facility, creating an open plaza space to enhance campus identity, improve pedestrian safety, and support Midtown revitalization near Penn Station. As UBalt prepares for its Centennial in 2025, the facilities plan is designed to transform the campus and foster educational success.

Following the presentation, the Committee raised several questions. President Schmoke addressed enrollment, noting the current number of students at 3,200 with a target of 4,000. In response to a question regarding the Academic Center, Ms. Amyot explained that the acquisition of a welcome center would assist in determining swing space needs. Noting that 87% of campus facilities were listed in poor condition, Regent Hasan inquired about safety concerns, including the presence of asbestos. Ms. Amyot responded that while HVAC, roofing, windows, and other elements are beyond their useful life, ongoing regular maintenance has preserved their condition, and there is no asbestos. The discussion concluded with a focus on the potential acquisition of 101 W. Mount Royal Avenue and UBalt's decision to lease with an option to acquire, which was determined to be more cost-effective than new construction. Factoring in the costs of new construction and the comprehensive facilities condition assessment, UBalt affirmed this as the most efficient and cost-effective approach.

President Schmoke and Ms. Amyot offered to follow up in writing with further details on three matters: (1) Environmental Health and Safety in campus buildings, (2) swing space planning for the Academic Center replacement project, and (3) a build-versus-buy analysis for the Academic Center replacement and the 101 W. Mount Royal Avenue property.

Regent Fish expressed her appreciation to President Schmoke and Ms. Amyot. She invited Committee members to share any additional questions, comments, or feedback with her following the meeting, which she would then convey to the institution and the USM Office.

The Finance Committee received the item for information purposes.

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

Regent Fish noted that, at the beginning of each annual meeting cycle, the Board's Committee on Governance and Compensation requests that each committee review and update its charter as needed. Regent Fish then outlined the purpose and responsibilities of the Committee. It performs all necessary business and provides guidance to the Board to support the University System's long-term financial health and development, grounded in strong fiscal and administrative policies.

Regent Fish highlighted that the Committee considers, reports on, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding matters of 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 long-range financial planning of the University System.

It was further noted that Committee members are appointed annually by the Chairperson of the Board, ensuring that at least one member possesses financial expertise and experience. The Committee typically convenes six times per fiscal year, with no fewer than four meetings as required.

Regent Fish confirmed that there were no proposed changes to the Committee's charter at this time. Included in the materials for information purposes was a chart outlining the annual cycle of input to the University System of Maryland's financial management process, along with the Committee's tentative workplan for the year.

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

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

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

3. Bowie State University: Public-Private Partnership Student Housing (action)

Regent Fish stated that the item on the agenda for Bowie State University had been removed and would not be considered at the meeting.

4. University of Maryland, College Park: Emergency Procurement Report (information)

Regent Fish introduced the next agenda item, an informational report on an emergency procurement by the University of Maryland, College Park. She welcomed Mr. Colella, vice president and chief administrative officer; Ms. Watson, assistant vice president for procurement and business services; and Mr. Allen, executive director for the Department of Transportation, who joined to address the Committee.

Regent Fish noted that the University had conducted an emergency procurement to acquire thirty-five electric buses at a total cost of \$36.5 million. This procurement was funded by a \$40 million Federal Transit Administration grant awarded last year, which also covers the cost of necessary charging stations. Initially, the University intended to procure the buses through a Maryland Department of Transportation contract. However, due to delays in the award of that contract, the University utilized a cooperative purchasing agreement through the State of Virginia.

Regent Fish then invited Mr. Colella and his colleagues to provide further details on the transaction. Mr. Colella explained that what appeared to be delays in the Maryland state contract process prompted the University to pivot to a Virginia state contract for procuring the buses. In response to a question from Regent Gooden about the decision to forego a Maryland state contract, Mr. Colella clarified that the Maryland contract was ultimately not awarded. Ms. Watson added that no Maryland contract had appeared on the state's eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA) site. With a strict timeline in place, the University proceeded with the Virginia contract, although only one of two eligible vendors responded. The buses were required to be manufactured in the United States. Mr. Allen noted that even if the Maryland contract had been awarded, it was uncertain whether the University would have met its deadline for having the buses on campus. A clear expectation was conveyed for strengthened communication in the future, with a recommendation that the University engage the appropriate USM and Board leadership before moving forward with comparable large-scale initiatives.

The Finance Committee received the item for information purposes.

5. Convening Closed Session

Regent Fish 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 Fish moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Pope; approved)

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

Regent Fish thanked everyone for joining. The public meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen R. Fish
Chair, Committee on Finance



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September 16, 2024
Meeting via Video Conference

Minutes of the Closed Session

Regent Fish called the meeting of the Finance Committee of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in closed session at 4:23 p.m. via video conference.

Regents participating in the session included: Ms. Fish, Ms. Gooden, Mr. Hasan, Mr. Mirani, Mr. Pope, and Mr. Sibel. Also participating were: Chancellor Perman, Ms. Herbst, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Wrynn, Ms. Lawrence, Assistant Attorney General Palkovitz, Ms. Auburger, Mr. Hickey, and Ms. McMann. President Fowler, Mr. Sergi, Mr. Hauer, Ms. McWeeney, and Mr. Pfister also participated in part of the session.

1. The committee discussed the awarding of a new contract for comprehensive data analytics services (§3-305(b)(14)). (Regent Fish moved recommendation, seconded by Regent Gooden; approved)
Vote Count = Yeas: 5 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0
2. The committee discussed the proposed FY 2026 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 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen R. Fish
Chair, Committee on Finance