UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
December 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, December 3, 2024. The meeting was convened at 9:31 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Hasan, Leggett, Mirani, Neuberger, Parker, 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. Acquaah, Dr. Adams, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Beise, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Couch, Dr. Diala-Ogamba, Dr. Foust, Dr. Haverback, Dr. Haywood, Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Kersh, Dr. Khademian, Dr. Lamos, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Owens, Dr. Parrish-Harris, Dr. Pecukonis, Dr. Reed, Dr. Spencer, Dr. Vincenti, Dr. Wachhaus, Dr. Ward, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Wright.

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

Information Item

Humanities Across the USM
A panel highlighting the humanities across the USM presented to the Committee. The panel consisted of:
- Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Salisbury University
- Dr. Kimberly Moffitt, Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Dr. Blessing Diala-Ogamba, Chair and Professor, Department of Humanities, Coppin State University

Dr. Couch discussed Salisbury University's recent work with QA Commons to certify programs at the institution to identify essential employability qualities. The project is helping to link the humanities to skills to help students get jobs. English, Philosophy, and Art have been certified through QA Commons, with more programs on the docket for certification.

Dr. Moffitt spoke about University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Dresher Center for the Humanities, which was established in 2007. The Center focuses not only on the traditional humanities, but interdisciplinary fields, as well. She spoke about the value of humanities for society and all of the great work the Center and UMBC are doing to address issues and needs in society.

Dr. Diala-Ogamba spoke about her experience working directly with students as a faculty member. She discussed some of the programs and projects that students are involved in, noting that they go out into the community to directly apply the skills they are learning in the humanities programs at Coppin State University.

Regent Gourdine thanked the panelists and noted how important it is to take time to hear about programs across the system. Dr. Haywood, Provost at Coppin State University, asked how different disciplines and even institutions can work together to expand programs. Chancellor Perman said that he wants to convene a larger conversation on the humanities.

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Action Items

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Academic Program Proposals
University of Maryland, Baltimore: Doctor of Social Work
Dr. Roger Ward, Provost and Executive Vice President, Dr. Judy Postmus, Dean and Professor, School of Social Work, and Edward Pecukonis, Professor, 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 program will also focus on research and professional writing that draws from the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB)'s many educational resources. Our proposed DSW program will fill a high-demand and 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, CBT, DBT, family therapy, EMDR, 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.

Dr. Postmus highlighted the features of the program and how it differs from the DSW being offered at Morgan State University. The UMB DSW is fully in person, has a clinical focus, is interprofessional, includes practicums and labs, and is 60 credits. Drs. Ward and Postmus noted that demand for such a program indicates that the state can support two programs.

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 University of Maryland, Baltimore proposal to offer a Doctor of Social Work.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, Baltimore: Master of Science in Medical and Health Studies
Dr. Roger Ward, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Dr. Elizabeth Lamos, Associate Professor of Medicine and Assistant Dean, Office of Student Affairs in the School of Medicine, presented University of Maryland, Baltimore's proposal to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) in Medical and Health Studies. This degree is to be offered as an off-ramp opportunity for medical students using the existing medical school required course work in the pre-clinical phase of the Renaissance Curriculum (62 credits). This MS will allow students who are unable or no longer desire to progress through the traditional 4-year medical school curriculum to transition to a master's. The MS will only be offered to matriculated medical students who have passed and applied the required pre-clerkship coursework and are in good academic standing. The MS includes coursework in biochemistry, pathophysiology, genetics, therapeutics, professional skills, and clinical knowledge of the provider-patient relationship and psychosocial aspects of patient care.

This program is directly related to UMB's strategic plan, particularly student success. There are 12 programs similar to this in the United States, with seven of them associated with public medical schools. Regent Mirani asked when a student can decide to pursue this program. Dr. Lamos said that students must have completed three terms, but can decide later than that. Regent Mirani also asked if more students were expected to pursue this option because of a change in career goals or because of academic performance. Dr. Lamos said that they think of it in thirds: one-third will pursue due to a switch in career goals, one-third will pursue due to struggling with the coursework, and one-third will pursue because they realized that the traditional medical school path is not for them.

Regent Wood asked if there is data on the number of students who drop out of medical school. Dr. Lamos said that it is about 1-3% nationally. Regent Gourdine asked if this program would take resources from other programs and Dr. Lamos said no – it's like flipping a switch for students to switch to this path.
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 UMB proposal for an MS in Medical and Health Studies.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, Baltimore: Master of Science in AI Drug Development
Dr. Roger Ward, Provost and Executive Vice President, and Dr. Joga Gobburu, Professor and Director of the Center for Translational Medicine, presented University of Maryland, Baltimore's proposal to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) in AI Drug Development. The Artificial Intelligence for Drug Development (AIDD) graduate program uniquely combines interdisciplinary research and interprofessional education by integrating cutting-edge AI technologies with pharmaceutical sciences. Through its curriculum, students gain a deep understanding of AI's role in advancing drug development, preparing them to excel in clinical care and practice by leveraging AI-driven strategies for improved patient outcomes. Dr. Gobburu said that this will certify the state's status as a leader in the biosciences. Dr. Ward again highlighted this program's connection to UMB's strategic plan and student success.

Regent Mirani asked if ethical considerations are woven into the program and Dr. Gobburu said that they will be. Chancellor Perman asked about individuals already in the field who need or want to acquire AI skills. Dr. Gobburu said that other students outside of the degree program will be able to take these courses and Dr. Ward said they are looking more into this. Regent Gourdine highlighted that though this program is focused on AI, there is still a need for human intervention.

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 he Eductation Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the UMB proposal for an MS in AI for Drug Development.

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

Bowie State University: Bachelor of Science in Immersive Media, Entertainment, and Gaming
Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, Provost, and Dr. Tewodross Williams, Chair, Fine and Performing Arts, presented Bowie State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Immersive Media, Entertainment, and Gaming. This degree will provide collaborative and interdisciplinary experiences between the Departments of Fine and Performing Arts and Computer Science in the areas of game design, XR, and virtual production and in the visual and media arts through iterative cycles of design, problem-solving, and analysis. The program is designed to prepare students for employment in technical and creative positions in the game and entertainment industries while emphasizing fundamentals such as entrepreneurship, diversity, technology, and inclusion by merging these areas and unique partnerships between these departments. The program will equip students and graduates with the skills and knowledge to apply computing, modeling, and simulation techniques, and digital media arts (art, animation, interactive, video, sound) and virtual production for entertainment, film, immersive

experiences, research, education, military, sports, and other disciplines. Dr. Williams highlighted the program's affordability compared to other programs at private or for-profit institutions.

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 BSU proposal for a BS in Immersive Media, Entertainment, and Gaming.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

Salisbury University: Bachelor of Science in Coastal Engineering
Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Michael Scott, Dean, Henson School of Science and Technology, presented Salisbury University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Coastal Engineering. This degree will address the pressing regional and global challenges posed by climate change, sea-level rise, and coastal erosion. The program will be among the few coastal engineering undergraduate degrees in the U.S., making Salisbury University a regional leader in the field. Students will receive interdisciplinary training, combining engineering principles, environmental sciences, and practical applications like erosion management and sustainable infrastructure design. The curriculum prepares graduates for the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, advancing their employability.

Dr. Scott noted that this is already a track in physics and they are proposing to make it a standalone degree. He noted that SU is working closely with community colleges and that this degree should be highly employable.

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 for a Bachelor of Science in Coastal Engineering.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 7   Nays: 0   Abstentions: 0

At this point, Chair Gourdine had to leave the meeting, so Regent Smarick took over chairing the meeting.

University of Baltimore: Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Information Technology (IT) Operations
Dr. Ralph Mueller, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and Dr. Giovanni Vincenti, Associate Professor and Program Director, Applied Information Technology, presented University of Baltimore's proposal to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Artificial Intelligence for Information Technology Operations. This program aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence (AI), while also fostering diversity and inclusion in technology education. The BS in Artificial Intelligence for IT Operations intends to prepare students interested in the logistical aspects of integrating AI hardware and software into an organization's information technology (IT) infrastructure. Students will graduate with skills in various AI and related technologies, including programming languages, machine learning, data analytics, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and ethical considerations in AI. Dr. Vincenti noted that Community College of Baltimore County is very supportive and they are looking at other community colleges.

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 UBalt proposal for a BS in Artificial Intelligence for IT Operations.

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

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

University of Baltimore: Master of Science in User-Centered Cybersecurity
Dr. Mueller and Dr. Greg Walsh, Associate Professor, Bob "PXG" Parsons Profession, and Program Director, Interaction Design and Information Architecture, presented University of Baltimore's proposal to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) in User-Centered Cybersecurity. This proposed program addresses critical societal needs by advancing the concept of usable security. Traditional cybersecurity solutions often overlook the usability of security tools and systems, particularly for minority and educationally disadvantaged populations, who may not have been considered in the initial design phases of these

technologies. By integrating human-centered design into cybersecurity, this program seeks to create systems that are not only secure but also intuitive and user-friendly.

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 University of Baltimore proposal for an MS in User-Centered Cybersecurity.

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

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

Information Items

Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor
Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the annual report on academic program actions delegated to the Chancellor. In accordance with Board Resolution III-7.03, this annual report is submitted to the Board of Regents to account for all academic program actions delegated to the Chancellor. Between September 2023 and August 14, 2024, the Chancellor approved 133 actions including:
- suspension or discontinuation of 41 programs (including 8 degree programs, 14 certificates, and 19 areas of concentration within an existing degree);
- 20 title changes;
- 16 modality changes (adding or changing to online);
- 22 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code changes;
- 23 new certificates (11 upper-division and 12 post-baccalaureate);
- 4 new areas of concentration and 5 other major modifications to existing degree programs; and
- 2 new offerings at USM Regional Higher Education Centers.

In addition, the Board of Regents approved 17 new degree programs (8 BS, 2 BA, 1 MA, 5 MS, 1 DVM) and one general education program was revamped. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved by the Board for a total of 150 approvals was included in the materials.

Notification of Awards: Elkins Professorships and USM Scholarships
Annually, the University System of Maryland Office of Academic and Student Affairs facilitates the distribution of scholarships to students and research funds in support of faculty. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations, shared information about the Elkins Professorship and Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, shared information about the USM scholarship programs.

The Elkins Professorship, which began in 1978 at the University of Maryland, College Park, was established to perpetuate the name and contributions of Wilson H. Elkins, a former Rhodes Scholar who led the University of Maryland to new levels of distinction as its president from 1954 to 1978. When the new University System of Maryland began in 1988, Dr. Elkins agreed that the professorship bearing his name should extend to the entire USM family. The Professorship may be used to recruit an outstanding individual to an institution to fill a vacancy or to provide special recognition and support to retain a current outstanding member of the faculty. An internal USM committee evaluates nominations and makes special effort to bestow the award in those areas where the Elkins Professor will have an opportunity to make an important contribution to the teaching, research, and public service mission of their institution and the entire University System of Maryland. Direct involvement with undergraduate and/or graduate students and outreach to other institutions within the System are hallmarks of the Elkins Professors. The Professorship is an opportunity for institutions to build on their strengths and to be of greater service to their students and to society.

Ms. Beckett noted that several years ago, USM began dedicating some of the proceeds to an Elkins Academic Transformation Professorship. And last year, part of the academic transformation funds were for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning fellowships. This year's awardees include:

Traditional Elkins

Award to Towson University to support the work of Dr. Mahnaz Moallem, Professor and Chair of the Department of Learning Technologies, Design, and School Library Media – Using funds to establish Girls Computing and Cybersecurity Clubs in the College of Education that will address persistent racial and gender disparities in computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. The clubs will serve as a research and professional development hub for faculty in teacher preparation programs. $66,578

Award to the University of Maryland, Baltimore to support the work of Professor Rabiat Akande, Francis King Carey School of Law - Using funds to explore the relationship between law and colonial power. This project will engage students and personnel within the communities being studied and will result in scholarship, a workshop series, podcasts, and conference presentations. $40,000 – Year 1 of 2

Award to the University of Maryland, College Park to support the work of Dr. Miao Yu, Professor and Director of the Sensors and Actuators Laboratory within the Department of Mechanical Engineering – Using funds to support a collaborative project (at the interface of engineering, computer science, biology, and aquaculture) investigating novel sensing and robotics tools for the study of marine ecosystem dynamics to promote sustainability. The collaboration includes the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the research team will include graduate, undergraduate, and high school students. $30,000 – Year 2 of 2

Academic Transformation

Award to Bowie State University to support the work of Dr. Rosemary Shumba, Chair and Professor of Computer Science - Using funds to conduct a feasibility study to establish an Experiential Learning Center (ELC) within the Department of Computer Science to enhance access, affordability, and quality for underrepresented students in computing fields. $30,000

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Fellows

The 2024-25 Elkins SoTL Fellows are:

Debra McLaughlin, Program Director, Natural Sciences, University of Maryland Global Campus, with co-principal investigator Meenu Vikram, part-time faculty at University of Maryland Global Campus and full-time faculty at Notre Dame University of Maryland.
David Leasure, First-Term Experience, University of Maryland Global Campus

Haitham Alkhateeb, Professor, Mathematics, University of Baltimore

Carlos Faerron Guzmán, Associate Professor of Global Health, with co-principal investigator Amy Ramirez, Executive Director, Global Learning, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Nicole Hollywood, Professor, Business, Management and Accounting, with co-principal investigator Katherine Quinn, Associate Professor, Hospitality and Tourism Management, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

University System of Maryland Scholarship Programs
AY 2024 -2025

The University System of Maryland administers more than two dozen endowed scholarship funds that help in-state students from across the System afford an undergraduate education. Some are small, providing about less than $1,000 once to one student. Others are more significant, such as Regents Scholarships, which can provide a scholarship to cover tuition and fees, room and board, and a set stipend for educational expenses for one or two students. All the scholarships have been provided by the generosity of donors who want to assist students, often in memory of someone who was dedicated to education. While some scholarships look solely at academic merit, others have additional criteria relating to students' demonstration of financial need or another criterion such as academic discipline.

A chart showing the amounts of the scholarships is included below:

Type of Scholarship	New Awards	Continuing Awards	Average Award Amount	Aggregate Amount (estimated)	Notes
Regents – full	3 Transfer Students from MD community colleges	5 Students originally awarded as MDCC transfer students	$26,441	$211,530	Amounts have been calculated for the full Regents Scholarship numbers to include the remission of tuition & fees provided by the USM institutions.

	Pending first-year awards	7 Students originally awarded as first-year students	$35,717	$250,021	Amounts have been calculated for the Regents Scholarship numbers to include the remission of tuition & fees provided by the USM institutions.
Partial awards	4 Kelly Access Opportunity Grants (transfer)	3 Kelly Access Opportunity Grants (transfer)	$4000	$28,000	
	3 various (Kuhn et al.) N/A		$1,833	$5500	
	Fatzinger transfer (6)		$2,000	$12,000	One-time awards;
Wild Near-Completer Awards	Approx. 40	N/A	$11,000 per institution; per student amount usually about $3,000	$121,000	One-time awards made to students selected by the institution to drive completion
Total	56	15		**$628,051**	

Universities at Shady Grove Update: Partnership Council and Super Studio

Anne Khademian, Executive Director of the Universities at Shady Grove, shared an update on the USG Partnership Council and plans for a super studio. The Partnership Council is working to bring data-informed workforce recommendations to USG academic programs. The super studio is aimed at interdisciplinary problem-solving.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Smarick thanked everyone for a productive meeting. He called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Leggett, and unanimously approved. Regent Smarick adjourned the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Andy Smarick
Vice Chair