



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
January 30, 2025
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 9:32 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Leggett, Lewis, Mirani, Parker, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Ashby, Dr. Bachner, AAG Bainbridge, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bondy, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Charne-Merriwether, Dr. Couch, Dr. Foust, Dr. Gupta, Dr. Haverback, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Khademian, Ms. Lang, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Manyara, Dr. Marano, Dr. Marquez, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Mueller, Dr. Owens, Dr. Patricio, Dr. Perreault, Dr. Reed, Mr. Sandler, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Sapkota, Dr. Tawah, Dr. van Dulmen, Dr. Weill, Dr. Whitehead, and Ms. Wilkerson.

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

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

Bowie State University: Bachelor of Science in Accounting

Dr. Regina Tawah, Interim Dean, College of Business, and Dr. Symon Manyara, Professor, Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics, presented Bowie State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Accounting. BSU currently offers a concentration in accounting within its B.S. in Business. The proposal seeks to modify the area of concentration to offer the B.S. in Accounting. Dr. Symon noted that no additional funds or faculty are needed for the program. Students currently enrolled in the accounting area of concentration will transition into the standalone program without being required to take additional courses.

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 Bowie State University proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

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

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

University of Maryland, Baltimore: Master of Science in Trauma Sciences

Dr. Jenny Owens, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, Dr. Shailvi Gupta, Associate Professor of Surgery at the Shock Trauma Center's Program in Trauma, and Dr. Mary Jo Bondy, Interim Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, presented University of Maryland, Baltimore's proposal to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) in Trauma Sciences. This program is a two-year master's degree in collaboration with Shock Trauma that aims to enhance the education of healthcare professionals who work in trauma units. In addition to physicians, the program will strengthen the education and the ability of non-physician professionals to help provide trauma care. It will be the first of its kind in the U.S.

Regent Mirani asked about the approach and process of developing the curriculum. Dr. Gupta said that the advisor helped develop a similar program in London and it builds on education that is already at UMB. Regent Gooden asked for more information regarding market supply and demand in the state of Maryland as it was not included in the proposal. Dr. Gupta noted that the UMB team did a market analysis. Chair Gourdine asked if that information could be included in the proposal when it goes to the full Board of Regents. SVC Wrynn was tasked with ensuring that an updated proposal was received in a timely manner and that it included the requested information.

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 Trauma Sciences.

Regent Gourdine moved approval of the proposal pending the inclusion of additional data and final review by SVC Wrynn; Regent Gooden seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

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

University of Maryland, College Park: Master of Science in Biostatistics

Dr. Will Reed, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Amir Sapkota, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dr. Boris Lushniak, Dean, School of Public Health, and Dr. Jennifer Bachner, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, School of Public Health, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Master of Science (M.S.) in Biostatistics. The department already offers a Master of Public Health in Biostatistics. This standalone program, which addresses a growing demand, will focus on advanced biostatistics methodologies and public health data science. Dr. Sapkota noted that this degree will also serve as an offramp for those students who do not complete the Ph.D. in Biostatistics. Regent Gooden asked for more specific data related to demand for jobs in this field in the state and region. SVC Wrynn was tasked with ensuring that an updated proposal was received in a timely manner and that it included the requested information.

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 UMCP proposal for an MS in Biostatistics.

Regent Gourdine moved approval of the proposal pending the inclusion of additional data and final review by SVC Wrynn; Regent Gooden seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

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

University of Maryland, College Park: Ph.D. in Biostatistics

Dr. Will Reed, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Amir Sapkota, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dr. Boris Lushniak, Dean, School of Public Health, and Dr. Jennifer Bachner, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, School of Public Health, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Ph.D. in Biostatistics. Biostatistics knowledge is foundational for students in public health disciplines and all top-tier Schools of Public Health have a doctoral program in biostatistics. A Ph.D. program in biostatistics will increase the department's ability to attract high-caliber faculty, secure large federal training grants, and maintain national rankings. No additional funds are required for the program, which can be supported by the projected tuition and fee revenue. Regent Gooden again asked for more specific data related to demand for jobs in this field in the state and region. SVC Wrynn was tasked with ensuring that an updated proposal was received in a timely manner and that it included the requested information.

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 UMCP proposal for a Ph.D. in Biostatistics.

Regent Gourdine moved approval of the proposal pending the inclusion of additional data and final review by SVC Wrynn; Regent Gooden seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

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

Information Items

Report: Workload of the USM Faculty – Academic Year 2023-2024

Ms. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, presented the Report of the Workload of USM Faculty for the 2023-2024 academic year. The report summarizes faculty workload, which includes teaching, research, and service activities at all USM degree-granting institutions with tenured or tenure-track faculty. Key findings include:

- The total credit hours produced in 2023-2024 mirrored total student headcount enrollment.
- When disaggregated by level of the courses taught (lower- and upper-division, undergraduate and graduate), total credit hours produced appropriately aligned with the unique mission of the USM institutions.
- Full-time tenured/tenure track and full-time, non-tenure track instructional faculty accounted for 70.44% of all credit hours produced (up slightly from five years ago).
- Further, over the five years since 2019-20, credit hours produced by part-time faculty dropped slightly from 29.82% to 28.28%.
- Full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty carried the appropriate instructional load at the upper-division undergraduate and graduate levels as compared to all other faculty types.
- Average student credit hour production for core instructional faculty shows a slight downward trend over the past 5 years.
- The number of bachelor's degrees awarded increased slightly. Across the institutions reported here, 26,586 degrees were awarded – up from last year's total of 26,552.
- Four-year and six-year undergraduate graduation rates decreased slightly (down 1% for each) in 2023-24.
- Faculty publication and scholarship continued at high levels and at appropriate levels according to faculty type.
- Faculty secured over \$1.6 billion in research funding in the 2022-2023 academic year, representing a 14.2% increase over the previous year.

Regent Leggett asked about the new methodology used to report research funding, asking for clarification of the numbers. He also asked if there is information about online vs. in-person classes. Regent Smarick noted that we should be seeing continuous increases in production, so if there are institutions without increases, we should make note of that. Chancellor Perman noted that institutions use data on productivity and react to changes when necessary.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine thanked all 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 Faculty Awards and honorary degree nominations. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Closed Session
January 30, 2025
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 Thursday, January 30, 2025. The meeting was convened at 10:36 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Leggett, Lewis, Mirani, Parker, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: AAG Bainbridge, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Masucci, and Ms. Wilkerson.

Action Items

Board of Regents Faculty Awards Recommendations

Ms. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. The Regents Faculty Awards Committee reviewed 43 nominations from 9 institutions and recommended 18 awards to honor 18 individuals. The committee is recommending the maximum of 4 awards in each of the following categories - Mentoring, Teaching, Research/Scholarship and Public Service, and 2 awards in the Creative Activity category. Those approved will receive a \$2,000 award and a plaque. Summaries of the backgrounds of prospective award recipients were given to the regents and nominees' full portfolios are available upon request. Ms. Beckett served as USM liaison to the review process and affirms that all proper protocols, as outlined in CUSF-developed guidelines, were followed to ensure a fair and honest review and selection process.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety recommend that the Board of Regents approve the recommendations of the CUSF Regents Faculty Awards Committee and present the awards to the faculty members during the April 2025 BOR meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved.

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

Honorary Degree Nominations

Ms. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. In accordance with the Board of Regents Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00), institutions have submitted nominations for honorary degrees. As the policy stipulates, the full Board will act on the nominations at its February meeting based upon

EPSLS's recommendations. After the final approval of the nominations, presidents may begin to arrange for the awarding of the honorary degrees. The degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval unless withdrawn by the Board for cause. Institutions and USM staff have vetted the nominees and there are no reputational concerns. Additionally, as required by the policy, institutions have identified the internal processes used to obtain these nominations from the faculty, college or department, or a sanctioned Honorary Degree Committee, which includes faculty.

The Committee was presented with 12 nominations from seven (7) institutions. The names of the nominees and the degrees being recommended, as well as nomination letters and supporting documentation, were made available to the regents prior to the meeting.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety recommend that the Board of Regents approve that the Board of Regents approve institutional nominations for honorary degrees from Bowie State University; Coppin State University; Salisbury University; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, College Park; and University of Maryland Global Campus.

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

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

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair