



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
April 3, 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, April 3, 2024. The meeting was convened at 9:01 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gooden, Hasan, Leggett, Lewis, 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. Allen, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Ashby, AAG Bainbridge, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Beise, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Couch, Dr. Dunn, Dr. Esters, Dr. Flinn, Dr. Foust, Dr. Haverback, Dr. Haywood, Ms. Herbst, Dr. Jin, Dr. Khademian, Ms. Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Marano, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Mueller, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Owens, Dr. Patricio, Dr. Reed, Mr. Sandler, Dr. Sanford, Ms. Sule, Dr. Ward, Dr. Weill, Dr. Whitehead, and Ms. Wilkerson.

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

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

Frostburg State University: Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science

Dr. Larry Weill, Interim Provost and Vice President for Student Success, and Dr. Michael Flinn, Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science and Information Technology presented Frostburg State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH).

This program is a new program, and a waiver has been requested from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to allow the program to be offered first at USMH and to be offered both in-person and online. It will be offered by faculty from the FSU Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies. The department currently offers BS degrees in Computer Science, Computer Information Technologies, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance, and Information Technology. This program has been developed with the particular needs of the region in mind, as well as the needs of working adults. Hagerstown Community College has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), and it has associate degree programs that can align with this new degree, and articulations are being developed.

Regent Smarick commented on the geographic need in Western Maryland for a program like this. Chair Gooden noted that it was a well written proposal and Chancellor Perman said that now is the time we need to act as a system and that FSU is responding to a need at an RHEC. Regent Hasan asked if there were any concerns about objections to the program. Dr. Flinn answered that they see no other

competitors doing a program like this in Maryland and that they would actually love to see people mimic the program in other areas.

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 Frostburg State University proposal to offer the BS in Applied Computer Science and that it can first be offered at USMH.

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

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

University of Maryland Eastern Shore: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Dr. Ronnie Allen, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Derrek Dunn, Dean, School of Business and Technology, and Dr. Yuanwei Jin, Chair, Department of Engineering presented University of Maryland Eastern Shore's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. The program's curriculum includes core engineering courses, supporting science and math courses, major electives, and general education courses. It is designed to provide a strong foundation in traditional electrical engineering disciplines while also offering in-depth knowledge of electrical and electronics engineering principles, systems, and applications for real-world problem-solving.

Chancellor Perman asked about UMES's engagement with high schools. Dr. Jin noted that they have an agreement with Somerset County schools. Regent Hasan asked if there are testing facilities on campus and Dr. Jin noted that there are labs.

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 Eastern Shore proposal to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Electrical Engineering.

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

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

University of Maryland Eastern Shore: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Ronnie Allen, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Derrek Dunn, Dean, School of Business and Technology, and Dr. Yuanwei Jin, Chair, Department of Engineering presented University of Maryland Eastern Shore's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

The proposed BSME program aims to provide prospective students with the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, offering a pathway to a career that integrates engineering and technology to enhance the quality of human life. The program's curriculum includes core engineering courses, supporting science and math courses, major electives, and general education courses. Our courses emphasize both experimental and analytical learning to develop a deep understanding of mechanical engineering technology and complex robotic systems.

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 Eastern Shore proposal to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Mechanical Engineering.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 8 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. The Code of Maryland require that existing academic programs are reviewed, and USM policy III-7.04 delegates this review to the chancellor. 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 162 program reviews were completed. Reviews were completed at the following institutions: Frostburg State University; Towson University; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; and University of Maryland Global Campus. 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 two were considered low enrollment, but these programs support other majors. Fifty-nine of the programs reported on specialized accreditation.

Regent Smarick noted that the report reflects that we are offering programs that the state needs. Chair Gooden said that the Regents are often asked if any programs go away, and it is important to have a review process.

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 2024 enrollments of programs continuing in the five-year review period. The information includes the actual enrollments in new programs approved since Fall 2020, 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 may not be 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.

Regent Hasan asked if we look at the return on investment on these programs. Dr. Caraco said that the institutions look at this.

- 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.

Update on Teacher Preparation

Dr. Jennifer Lynch, Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Engagement, presented an update on teacher preparation across Maryland and how the USM is addressing the teacher shortage. She started with an overview of her office and the overall goals of teacher preparation.

She discussed the current trends in teacher preparation, pathways to teaching, and the programs that USM institutions offer. She then moved on to provide information about the USM Teacher Certification Consortium, which seeks to address the teacher shortage in the state by providing pathways for conditionally certified teachers to obtain their teaching license.

Chair Gooden asked what type of license students will obtain through this program. Dr. Lynch said that students who complete the program will have dual license in elementary and special education. Regent Hasan asked where the majority of the shortages are and Dr. Lynch said that they are in Baltimore City and some of the smaller districts across the state.

Regent Wood asked about compensation for teachers and Dr. Lynch said that is key element of the Blueprint. Regents asked about federal workers and retired workers and Dr. Lynch said that they are looking at all talent pools.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Smarick thanked all for a productive meeting. He read the required statement to go into closed session and called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in closed session to address the USM Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarships. The motion was moved by Regent Smarick, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Smarick adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Andy Smarick
Vice Chair



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Closed Session
April 3, 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 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, Ms. Herbst, 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 third 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, 254 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.

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 evaluation committee to honor the twelve (12) students with Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarships.

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

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

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Smarick 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 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Andy Smarick
Vice Chair