



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
May 15, 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 Thursday, May 15, 2025. The meeting was convened at 9:02 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Coker, Gooden, Hasan, 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. Abel, Dr. Adams, Dr. Allen, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Amoussou, Dr. Andrews, Dr. Ashby, Dr. Baer, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Bittinger, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Chester, Mr. Colson, Dr. Cornelius, Dr. Couch, Dr. Dorsey, Dr. Downing, Dr. Foust, Dr. Habay, Dr. Hall, Dr. Haywood, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Jacobs, Dr. Khademian, Dr. Lacorte, Ms. Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Dr. Littlefield, Dr. Lynch, Ms. Marano, Ms. Marek, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Mathias, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Muntz, Dr. Neerchal, Dr. Nobles, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Orr, Dr. Owens, Dr. Perrault, Dr. Reed, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Scullen, Dr. Shiffrinson, Dr. Shumba, Dr. Skevakis, Dr. Smith, Dr. Tucker-Oluwale, Dr. Waks, Dr. Ward, Mr. Waters, Dr. Weber, Dr. Whitehead, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Worsnop.

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

Chair Gourdine welcomed everyone to the meeting. She remarked that it is Regent Parker's last EPSLS meeting, as his two-year term as a student Regent is coming to an end. She asked him to say a few words about his plans for the future.

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

Bowie State University: Bachelor of Arts in Dance

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, Provost, and Dr. Jennifer Dorsey, Associate Professor of Dance, presented Bowie State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. The program provides an outlet for students' creativity in the arts to be fulfilled through a comprehensive program of study of the art of dance as tradition, history and purveyor of culture, and its performative power. Building on the existing dance and movement studies track in the Theater Arts program, and minors in Dance and African Diaspora Dance, the program links the scholarship of the humanities with the performance qualities of dance as an art form.

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 Bachelor of Arts in Dance.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Bowie State University: Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, Provost, and Dr. Rosemary Shumba, Chair & Professor, Department of Computer Science, presented Bowie State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence. This program seeks to make AI education and careers more accessible to underserved populations and to create more inclusive pathways into the field. It utilizes an approach designed to create well-rounded students and enhances our campus culture of diversity, inclusion, and civic engagement through corporate and government partnerships in STEM fields. If approved, BSU will be the first HBCU in Maryland to offer the BS. in Artificial Intelligence.

Dr. Shumba noted that the target audience for this program is different than the B.S. in A.I. programs at UMGC and UBalt, which have applied programs (example: "AI for IT Operations"). Regent Gooden asked that more specificity in naming these programs be considered. Regent Leggett asked if potential duplication has been addressed and the BSU's reps said that it has been.

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 Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Frostburg State University: Bachelor of Music

Dr. Michael Mathias, Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Science, and Dr. Brent Weber, Chair, Department of Music, presented Frostburg State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Music. This degree will serve students looking to join the workforce in a wide variety of music-related jobs. Updating the FSU music degree programs as proposed so they will align with specialized accreditation through the National Association of Schools of Music will make FSU's students better trained and thus more marketable. Dr. Mathias noted that FSU is converting several BS/BA program areas to the Bachelor of Music.

Chancellor Perman noted that he was encouraged by the upbeat tenor of the presentation. Regent Lewis asked about performance opportunities for students in the program and Dr. Weber noted several examples.

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 a Bachelor of Music.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Salisbury University: Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Dr. Laurie Couch, Provost, and Dr. Stephen Habay, Chair, Department of Chemistry, presented Salisbury University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Currently, SU offers Biochemistry as a concentration within the Chemistry degree, and Molecular Biology is taught as a set of electives within the Biological Sciences Department. This current structure limits students' ability to explore interests beyond their primary program of study and can lead to extended time to graduation for those who fall behind in the prescribed course sequence. The proposed stand-alone degree, along with an enhanced curriculum, supports SU's strategic goals of "enriching academic success and student development" and "supporting access, affordability, and academic excellence." Dr. Habay noted that demand continues to increase, and this program uniquely addresses the need on the Eastern Shore.

Chancellor Perman thanked the presenters for offering a program that directly addresses workforce needs.

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 Salisbury University proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

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

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost for Academic Planning, and Mr. Jeff Waters, Director of Graduate Operations, College of Information, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Information. UMCP proposes to offer this as an exit credential for students enrolled in its Information Studies Ph.D. program. This 30-credit, non-thesis degree recognizes the significant graduate-level coursework completed by students who choose not to finish the doctorate or who seek additional credentialing.

Regent Leggett asked if the coursework would be different than the Ph.D. program. Dr. Waters noted that the coursework would be identical and that this degree is for students who have completed coursework and did not wish to complete the doctoral program. They must have reached the point of being able to complete, however.

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 College Park proposal for a Master of Science in Information.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, College Park: Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost for Academic Planning, and Dr. David Jacobs, Professor, Department of Computer Science, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence. This program is designed for professionals seeking advanced training in AI technologies. The curriculum emphasizes technical proficiency in machine learning, deep learning, and AI decision-making, while also addressing human-centered design, ethics, and the societal impact of AI. Dr. Jacobs noted that a key feature of this program is the connection of technical courses with more human-centered courses. The goal is to prepare students for a wide range of jobs that span technical and non-technical 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 University of Maryland College Park proposal for a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, College Park: Bachelor of Arts in Global Culture and Thought

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Hester Baer, Professor, Germanic Studies, and Dr. Elisa Gironzetti, Associate Director for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Global Culture and Thought. This interdisciplinary program integrates language learning with cultural, literary, and media analysis to prepare students for global citizenship and careers requiring intercultural competence. Students may pursue one or two languages and engage in experiential learning such as study abroad, internships, or language immersion programs. The program will enable students to explore and interpret the histories, institutions, values, practices, varieties, and intersections of global cultures as they are produced and received across national and regional boundaries.

Chancellor Perman noted that it is important to see programs that are interdisciplinary.

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 College Park proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Global Culture and Thought.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, College Park: Bachelor of Arts in Global Foreign Policy

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Josh Shiffrinson, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, and Dr. Jennifer Littlefield, Director, Undergraduate Studies, School of Public Policy, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Global Foreign Policy. The program equips students to address global challenges—such as conflict, migration, development, and sustainability—through a career-focused curriculum that blends academic rigor with professional training. The program's emphasis on experiential learning—via internships, capstones, or study abroad—ensures students graduate with practical experience.

Regent Smarick asked about students' civics knowledge. Dr. Shiffrinson noted that students take courses to help them understand ethical issues within the context of the American government and global foreign policy.

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 College Park proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland, College Park: Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost for Academic Planning, Dr. Manel Lacorte, Professor and Program Head, Spanish and Portuguese, and Dr. Leah Waks, Principal Lecturer & Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Communication, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation. The program will address the growing need for professional interpreters and translators in Maryland, particularly in Spanish-speaking communities. Offered at the Universities at Shady Grove, the interdisciplinary program targets heritage Spanish speakers and bilingual students, combining communication theory, linguistic proficiency, and applied training. With a focus on public service sectors such as healthcare, education, and legal services, the program prepares students for direct workforce entry through a community-based practicum.

Chancellor Perman thanked the presenters for being responsive to students at UMCP and to overall system priorities.

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 College Park proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland Eastern Shore: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

Dr. Ronnie Allen, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Tiara Cornelius, Acting Chair, Department of Mathematics, presented University of Maryland Eastern Shore's proposal to offer

a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. This program is being offered as nationally, interest in mathematics has shifted as students seek more applied tracks, rather than more traditional mathematics training. The proposed undergraduate program in mathematics prepares graduates to practice applied mathematics and related fields in industry and government effectively, in addition to continuing advanced study.

Regent Wood asked about the naming of the program and Dr. Cornelius said that this was the consensus of the naming. Chancellor Perman said that getting students to the university early, through partnerships with K12 schools, helps them prepare and gets them to the institution.

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 for a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland Eastern Shore: Bachelor of Science in Private Club and Resort Management

Dr. Ronnie Allen, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Erinn Tucker-Oluwole, Chair, Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, presented University of Maryland Eastern Shore's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Private Club and Resort Management. The proposed degree provides prospective students with an academic program with strong foundations and advanced knowledge in club operations, resort, and event venue management. UMES is the only post-secondary institution on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. The proposed degree will expand and strengthen the capability of UMES, addressing an underserved educational niche that has significant employment potential.

Dr. Tucker-Oluwole noted that not all students have the golf ability for the PGA program, so this allows them to acquire the skills needed for club management.

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 for a Bachelor of Science in Private Club and Resort Management.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

University of Maryland Global Campus: Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Kimberly Whitehead, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Executive Dean, and Dr. Calvin Nobles, Portfolio Vice President and Dean, School of Cybersecurity and Information Technology, presented the University of Maryland Global Campus's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence. This program provides graduate learners with both the necessary technical foundation in AI and the opportunity to study the application of AI in a selected area of specialized interest. Dr. Nobles noted that the program is different than other programs in the state. It has a stackable credential structure and is online and asynchronous.

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 a Master of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Approval of Public and Closed Session Minutes from April 3, 2025

The minutes from the April 3, 2025 meeting of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety were approved.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Request for Temporary Exemption from a Clause in Policy on Undergraduate Admissions

Dr. Darlene Smith, Interim President at Frostburg State University, presented FSU's request for a five-year exemption from the 30 percent enrollment cap while it grows Maryland enrollment and pursues strategic out-of-state opportunities. FSU has had a years-long partnership with a Chinese institution. Its growth and simultaneous in-state enrollment declines have shifted FSU's undergraduate out-of-state enrollment percentage, which is limited by the Policy on Undergraduate Admissions (III-4.0). Frostburg remains committed to prioritizing recruitment of Maryland residents, whose access to FSU has not been impacted.

Dr. Smith framed the request in the context of the university's strategic plan. She said that the revenue from the program has provided support for academic operations. The institution recognizes the need to diversify international partnerships and grow the domestic market. The revenue from this program will support this transition.

Dr. Smith said that the Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the program. Several Regents asked that the OAG to review this request further before taking action.

The OAG will review the request and if there are no concerns, it will come before the full Board in June.

Proposed Amendments: III-6.10: Policy for the Numbering of Academic Courses

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the proposed revisions to III-6.10: Policy for the Numbering of Academic Courses. She noted that since the policy was written in the 1990s, student information systems (SIS) have evolved so that some now require four digits instead of three. Also, as curricula evolve, more course numbers are used and there is a need for four numbers versus three. The proposed amendments to the policy allow for USM institutions to use SIS that require four digits. The amendments continue to align with State policy and practice, as well as with registrar practices across the country.

Regent Gooden asked if it would make sense to have one set of numbers. Dr. Caraco said that would be difficult, as different campuses use different technology, with some SIS requiring three digits and others four.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal to amend the Policy on Course Numbers.

The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Parker, and unanimously approved.
Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Proposed Amendments: III-5.00: Policy on Academic Calendar

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the proposed revisions to III-5.00: Policy on Academic Calendar. Since the last update to this policy over 20 years ago, there have been federal regulatory changes that provide some additional flexibility in academic scheduling, which helps universities that have a fall commencement complete the semester before December 23 without starting in mid-August and may also provide the option of a fall recess should an institution wish to implement one.

The recommended policy amendments bring the policy in line with USM implementation practice. The policy as proposed balances the benefits of a common calendar with institutional flexibility to meet university needs.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal to amend the Policy on Academic Calendar.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Information Items

Proposed Amendments: VIII-2.30: Policy on Waiver of Tuition and Granting of Other Privileges for Senior Citizens of MD

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the proposed revisions to VIII-2.30: Policy on Waiver of Tuition and Granting of Other Privileges for Senior Citizens of MD. This policy is coming to the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety for information only and will go to the Committee on Finance meeting on June 4th for consideration and action.

This program for senior citizens is popular on all campuses, but the plastic “Golden ID” cards have not been in use for some years. Beneficiaries of the program receive student identification cards. The section on emergency health care needed to be updated to reflect expectations of equitable treatment of students. The proposed revisions were drafted in collaboration with university registrars and counsel in the Office of the Attorney General.

Regent Gooden said that more people should know about this program.

Proposed Amendments: VIII-2.70—Policy on Student Classification for Admission and Tuition Purposes

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the proposed revisions to VIII-2.70—Policy on Student Classification for Admission and Tuition Purposes. This policy is coming to the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety for information only and will go to the Committee on Finance meeting on June 4th for consideration and action.

These revisions are recommended to reflect a change in State law based on the recently passed Educational Equality for Service Members Act (SB 276/HB 600). The new law expands State benefits now reserved for the Armed Forces of the United States to the Uniformed Services, which comprises the Armed Forces, the Public Health Service, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. In parallel, the law alters the definition of veteran. The law also aimed to make citations to Federal law within State law more consistent.

The USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs worked with the Office of the Attorney General to draft the proposed amendments. Legal citations and formal definitions have also been updated. Lastly, the policy has been updated to reflect UMGC policy where it is noted.

Policy on Student Refund After Withdrawal for Extenuating Circumstances

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented the proposed Policy on Student Refunds After Withdrawal for Extenuating Circumstances. This policy is coming to the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety for information only and will go to the Committee on Finance meeting on June 4th for consideration and action.

In 2024, the General Assembly passed the Cameron Carden Act (Education Article, Anno. Code of MD, Section 15–138). The law requires each degree-granting institution to have a policy that authorizes a student to withdraw from all courses at the institution for a certain semester, or to withdraw from the institution, under extenuating circumstances. That policy must provide, if warranted, for the student to

receive a refund for tuition and fees paid by the student for the semester in which the withdrawal occurs if the extenuating circumstances inhibit the student's ability to acquire an education at the institution. The attached draft policy conforms to the requirements of the law and provides a framework for USM institutions to have their own policies and procedures. Among other things, the policy requires that students provide documentation of the extenuating circumstances that impact the student's ability to acquire an education.

This policy received extensive feedback during the drafting process, and all language has been reviewed by counsel in the Office of the Attorney General.

Campus Safety and Security Report

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, presented the campus safety and security report. She started by outlining current things that the USM is doing to address these issues including institutions applying for MHEC Campus Safety Grant awards and regularly convening stakeholder groups. She covered the data of the report which includes crime data required by the Clery Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Dr. Lee said that most universities are in full compliance with the Clery Act and that there are audits when there are discrepancies.

Regent Gooden asked if institutions are counting the same way this year as in past years. Dr. Lee said that there is no indication that anyone is counting in a different way. Regent Gooden also asked about the decrease in alcohol and drug violations. Dr. Lee said that students today have a different relationship with drugs and alcohol. Chancellor Perman highlighted the Maryland Collaborative that addresses alcohol use on campuses.

2024-2025 Agenda Brainstorming

Regent Gourdine noted that the annual agenda for the Committee includes many standard reports, new academic program proposals, and other anticipated information items. She and the USM Academic and Student Affairs Office team meet during the summer to plan next year's agenda, but she offered this opportunity for committee members to share ideas they believe warrant attention by the Committee. There were ideas relating to the USM strategic plan and federal changes and issues.

Regent Gourdine encouraged committee members to keep sharing their ideas.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
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