



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
*of* MARYLAND

**BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare**

May 29, 2025

Meeting via Video and Conference Call

FINAL

Minutes of the Public Session

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Regent Gonella called the meeting of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order in public session at 10:00 a.m.

Regents participating in the session included: Mr. Gonella (Chair), Ms. Gooden, Mr. McMillen, Mr. Breslin, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Wood. Also participating were Chancellor Perman, Senior Vice Chancellors Herbst and Wrynn; Deputy Chief for Advice Langrill; AAG Jackson, Director of Financial Planning and Analysis Norris; Associate Vice Chancellors Lee and Muntz; Director of Decision Support & IR Research Sule, and Chief of Staff Wilkerson. In attendance were Athletic Directors Eigenbrot, Polizzi, Doughty, Dell, Owens, and Tucker; Deputy AD Sorem; CSU Asst. Director for Athletics Vera Carrington, TU Deputy AD Casey Cegles; BSU Associate Dean of Student Success Sean Coleman, Assoc. AD, Business Operations & CFO Eric Reinke, Presidents Anderson and Ginsberg, and other members of the USM community and the public.

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Mid-Year Athletic Directors' Updates – Rotating – TU, UMES, FSU (Information)

Regent Gonella informed the Committee members they would hear from three athletic directors about their perspectives on current issues. The presentations are intended to be informative and keep the committee abreast of current challenges and impacts felt on the ground at the institutions including but not limited to student health and safety, academic performance and progress, and financial affairs of their programs. AD Eigenbrot presented from TU, AD Owens from UMES, and AD Dell from FSU.

Regent Breslin inquired about TU's plan for House settlement payments, pending court approval; AD Eigenbrot outlined the plan, and indicated the payments will likely be in the \$1-1.5 million range.

Regent McMillen voiced concerns about how House payments and Title IX compliance issues will be handled, citing studies that project female athletes will only receive approximately 5%. Regent McMillen also voiced concerns over potential OCR complaints and lawsuits as a result of the House Settlement, and he suggests that all agreements be outlined in writing. AD Eigenbrot

indicated that TU is expecting female athletes to receive closer to 30% of payouts, and that TU is reviewing revenue drivers. Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst pointed out the inherent conflicts that exist between Title IX policies and the House Settlement, and the likelihood that further court rulings will be necessary.

Regent McMillen highlighted a strategic opportunity for HBCUs to leverage as a key focus, particularly for UMES, which currently does not offer a football program. AD Owens confirmed that UMES is planning a reform centered on enhancing both men's and women's basketball programs. If successful, this initiative is expected to generate additional funding that can be shared with other athletic programs across their university.

Regent Parker asked AD Owens if there were any contracts in place to encourage or obligate players to stay, particularly men's basketball players. AD Owens explained that contracts are annual, but UMES offers players more gametime, which in turn sets them up for better athletic futures.

Regent McMillen asked AD Owens how UMES compares to other institutions within the MEAC. AD Owens responded that the university currently ranks in the middle of the pack, but their ambition is to rise to the top which she hopes will ultimately increase their revenue growth to support contributions to the House settlement.

Regent Wood asked AD Owens about the structure and purpose of the guaranteed games.

Regent Wood asked AD Dell whom he expects to respond to the questions he raised during his update. AD Dell emphasized that meaningful input should come from across the university's governance bodies, reflecting a campus-wide approach to addressing the issues.

Regent McMillen asked a follow up question about Title IX and House Payments, regarding the possibility of reserving funds for future payouts.

## 2. Title IX Intercollegiate Athletics Status (Information)

Regent Gonella introduced Dr. Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, who annually reviews the reports submitted by USM institutions with athletic programs to the US Department of Education. Dr. Lee offered highlights of those reports and talked about Title IX compliance. Dr. Lee noted that the EADA report for the Department of Education has not been updated for the year 2023-2024. Dr. Lee discussed an internal process undertaken to survey institutions on how they continually monitor Title IX compliance as it pertains to equity for men's and women's sports, which institutions do by regularly reviewing rosters and the need for opportunities for additional sports, annual (or more frequent) analyses of various metrics, and corrective action plans when needed. The internal survey also sought to understand the athletics departments' training for staff on addressing Title IX sexual misconduct-related complaints that arise. Universities shared that training is regular, in partnership with Title IX offices, and reminds athletics officials that complaints should be directed to the Title IX office. USM's Policy on Sex

Discrimination is also currently being reviewed as a result of the new federal administration's instruction to return to the 2020 Title IX regulations.

Regent McMillen suggested the idea of creating a simple, visual Title IX scorecard. In response, Dr. Lee expressed concerns about the timing, noting that the current pace of change will make it difficult to establish consistent metrics. Dr. Wrynn added that with the change in administration, further adjustments are expected, which could complicate efforts to keep the data current. For now, she recommended continuing with internal tracking at the campus level while monitoring developments. Chancellor Perman suggested that we look at past information to see if that can help us navigate the landscape. Deputy AD Sorem added that there is a 5-year requirement with the NCAA for Title IX compliance and perhaps, campuses can turn that information to the system office for audit purposes.

3. Summary of Student-Athlete Admissions, Graduation, and Academic Progress Trainers (Information)

Regent Gonella introduced Associate Vice Chancellor Muntz, who summarized the academic indicators USM staff review and have summarized for the Board to ensure that "Student Athletes are first and foremost students, and it is the expectation of the Board of Regents that their academic performance and progress will be comparable to that of non-athletes."

Regent Parker asked if student-athletes are required to take in-person classes exclusively, and if there are any established guidelines regarding in-person vs virtual classes. Deputy AD Sorem said that such requirements vary by campus. Mr. Muntz added that there are currently no system-wide metrics available to track this data.

Regent McMillen raised concerns about the demanding schedules student athletes face and how they manage their academic responsibilities. Mr. Muntz responded that the current assessments are based on general indicators of academic success. Ms. Herbst added that, at the system level, the focus is on key outcomes such as degree completion, GPA, and total credits earned. Deputy AD Sorem noted that UMCP provides academic counseling specifically for student-athletes. Dr. Wrynn affirmed that athletic departments are actively monitoring student-athlete performance and emphasized that higher education is currently undergoing a period of significant transformation. Regent Wood asked why the 6-year graduation rate is the metric used to report success, rather than 4-year; the System has 4-year data available on published dashboards and will provide directly with future reports.

The public meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regent Geoff J. Gonella  
Chair, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare