



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
September 4, 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, September 4, 2025. The meeting was convened at 9:02 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Smarick (vice chair), Gooden, Hasan, Leggett, Lewis, Mirani, Rivera-Forbes, Stebbins, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Amoussou, Dr. Ashby, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Borrero, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Clark, Dr. Clemmons, Mr. Cooper, Dr. Garcon, Dr. Hall, Dr. Hansen, Dr. Hawkins-Wilding, Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst, Dr. Howland, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Khademian, Vice Chancellor Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Marano, Vice Chancellor Masucci, Dr. Mathias, Dr. Miller, Dr. Mueller, Dr. Muhoro, Dr. Nesbary, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Ownby, Dr. Owusu, Dr. Perreault, Mr. Prouty, Dr. Rashaw, Dr. Reed, Vice Chancellor Sandler, Dr. Singh, Dr. Soroush, Dr. Stolle-McAllister, Ms. Sule, Dr. van Briesen, Dr. van Dulman, Mr. Vasquez-Reyes, Dr. Ward, Dr. Whitehead, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Younis.

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

Vice Chair Smarick welcomed everyone to the meeting. He extended a special welcome to the two new committee members, Regents Rivera-Forbes and Stebbins. They both introduced themselves.

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Analysis

Dr. Manfred van Dulmen, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Stolle-McAllister, Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and Dr. John Borrero, Professor, Psychology, presented the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's proposal to offer a Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Analysis. This program will provide knowledge of contemporary topics in the field, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and mastery of technologies necessary to conduct research. Cores areas include principles of behavior, research methods, conceptual analysis, applied behavior analysis, basic behavior analysis, and ethics.

Regent Smarick asked about the types of jobs graduates will be able to pursue. Dr. Borrero said that graduates go into clinic, hospital, and research institution settings, among others. Many graduates work with individuals with developmental disabilities.

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 the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to offer a Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Analysis.

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, Baltimore County: Master of Science in Applied Data Science

Dr. Manfred van Dulmen, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeanne M. van Briesen, Dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology, and Masoud Soroush, Associate Teaching Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, presented the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Applied Data Science. This program will help meet regional demand for data scientists, which is higher than the national average. The program will focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration with industry and public agencies. Graduates will be able to work in technology, healthcare, finance, public policy, and government. Mr. Soroush noted that students will have a capstone project where they will have the opportunity to work on practical problems with partners.

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 the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to offer a Master of Science in Applied Data Science.

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

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

Towson University: Proposal for a College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Melanie Perreault, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. David Ownby, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, presented Towson University's proposal to create a College of Graduate Studies. TU would like to change the Office of Graduate Studies designation to the College of Graduate Studies to better reflect the increasing complexity and anticipated growth in the university's graduate programs. Drs. Perreault and Ownby noted that TU used to have a College of Graduate Studies

and they would like to re-establish it as the institution increases its focus on research. A College of Graduate Studies will align TU with peers.

Regent Smarick asked why this is important to TU. Dr. Perreault noted that having college status allows them to have a Dean, creates a place to house curriculum and students, and is overall better for the students. Senior Vice Chancellor Wrynn said that having this space is important to students. It shows that they are entering a different world from their undergraduate experience. It also frees up the research office to focus on research. Chancellor Perman echoed this and said that this enfranchises graduate students and supports them.

Regent Smarick also asked about the cost. Dr. Perreault said that no new resources are necessary and that they will be reorganizing existing staff.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Towson University to create a College of Graduate Studies.

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

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

EPSLS Overview: Annual Review of Committee Bylaws and Charge and Role and Responsibilities

Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report. The Committee on Governance and Compensation asks for an annual review of the Committee's section of the bylaws and the Committee's Charge, Role, and Responsibilities. Ms. Beckett shared that both the EPSLS section of the bylaws and the Charge, Role, and Responsibilities document note that this committee shall perform all necessary business and provide guidance to the Board of Regents on academic affairs and student affairs functions at USM's institutions. In general, work pertains to the overall intellectual, social, and emotional climate of the university, and includes, but is not limited to, academic program development; student services; faculty matters and policies; admissions, recruitment, retention, transfer, and articulation; campus safety and security; student health and wellness; student organizations; many aspects of diversity and inclusion; P-20/pipeline issues; and more.

When Chair Gourdine, Dr. Wrynn, and the Academic and Student Affairs team reviewed these documents in August 2024, they determined that amendments are not needed.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety recommend that the Board of Regents reaffirm (1) the EPSLS section of the Board of Regent Bylaws and (2) the EPSLS Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities guidance.

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

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

Information Items

Update on Digital Accessibility

Dr. Nancy O'Neill, Executive Director of the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, provided a short presentation on digital accessibility. She highlighted the efforts being undertaken to meet the goal of digital accessibility as outlined in new Title II regulations by April 2026. She covered the support that is being organized by the Kirwan Center, in conjunction with colleagues across the USM.

Regent Mirani asked if these regulations will apply to student organizations and asked about resources for them. Dr. O'Neill discussed the development of a toolkit for student organizations and said that no one is in this alone. She said it would be great to host something with USMSC.

Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst said that systemwide CIOs have been engaged in this work. She noted that the campus CIOs are another resource for those on-campus organizations.

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 2024 and August 2025, the Chancellor approved 108 actions including:

- suspension or discontinuation of 51 programs (including 16 degree programs, 17 certificates, and 16 areas of concentration within an existing degree, and 2 offerings of off-campus, non-RHEC programs); 1 suspended program was reactivated;
- 14 title changes;
- 19 new certificates (undergraduate and graduate combined);
- 10 additions of online modality to an existing program; and
- 14 other actions, including new areas of concentration, modifications to existing degree programs, and new off-site locations.

In addition, the Board of Regents approved 35 new degree programs, one of which will be offered at the Universities at Shady Grove. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved by the Board for a total of 143 approvals was included in the materials.

Tentative Annual Agenda, 2025-2026

The Tentative Agenda for 2025-2026 comprises anticipated action items, including new academic program proposals and new Board of Regents policies, as well as information and discussion items. Some of the information items are reported on an annual schedule to ensure that the regents are well informed about topics of general interest (e.g. extramural funding, civic engagement and education, academic innovation), while others respond to specific requests for reports and recommendations on a variety of topics of interest to the Committee as previously noted by the regents.

Vice Chair Smarick noted that regents and school officials can share additional topics with Regent Gourdine, Dr. Wrynn, or Ms. Beckett.

Before adjourning, Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst said that the USM awarded a record number of degrees in all categories in the past academic year.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Smarick thanked all for a productive meeting. He called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Smarick adjourned the meeting at 10:32 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