



USM Board of Regents  
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety  
Minutes from Public Session  
October 17, 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 Friday, October 17, 2025. The meeting was convened at 9:35 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Hasan, Lewis, Rivera-Forbes, Stebbins, 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. Amoussou, Dr. Ashby, Ms. Beckett, AAG Boyle, Mr. Bruce, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Clemmons, Dr. Colson, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Esters, Dr. Hall, Dr. Haywood, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Joshi, Dr. Kersh, Dr. Khademian, Vice Chancellor Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Chief Leone, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Marano, Vice Chancellor Masucci, Vice Chancellor Minor, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Muntz, Dr. Nesbary, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Parrish-Harris, Dr. Perreault, Ms. Perry, Dr. Rashaw, Dr. Reed, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Skevakis, Dr. St. Jean, Dr. Ward, Dr. Whitehead, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Williams.

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

**Action Items**

**Academic Program Proposals**

**University of Maryland, College Park: Master of Science in Marketing**

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost, and Dr. Yogesh Joshi, Professor, Robert H. Smith School of Business, presented the University of Maryland, College Park's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Marketing. This program provides a comprehensive foundation in marketing strategy, research, and consumer behavior, along with electives in areas such as digital promotion, AI in marketing, and brand management. Offered both in-person and online, the program emphasizes flexibility, applied learning, and technical competence. It addresses a growing need for marketing professionals equipped with strategic, analytical, and digital skills - particularly in sectors like tech, healthcare, and government.

Regent Wood asked about duplication. Dr. Joshi said that there are programs at TU and Johns Hopkins University, but this program varies from theirs and is more comprehensive. Regent Hasan asked if this program has been discussed with JHU. Chair Gourdine indicated that if there were a concern, we likely would have heard it by now. The regents asked for UMCP to consult with JHU before the approval vote at the next Board of Regents meeting.

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, College Park to offer a Master of Science in Marketing, with the understanding that UMCP will consult with JHU to ensure no objections.

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

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

**University of Maryland, College Park: Doctor of Information Science in Information Science Leadership and Community Engagement**

Dr. Will Reed, Associate Provost, Dr. Paul Jaeger, Professor and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher, College of Information, Dr. Beth St. Jean, Associate Professor, College of Information, and Dr. Kate Izsak Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, College of Information, presented the University of Maryland, College Park’s proposal to offer a Doctor of Information Science in Information Science Leadership and Community Engagement. This is a professional doctoral program designed for mid-career professionals working in libraries, archives, museums, nonprofits, government, and higher education. The program focuses on developing leaders who can drive organizational change and foster community engagement within information institutions. Unlike traditional research doctorates, this professional doctorate emphasizes applied, practice-based learning that prepares “researching professionals” to tackle real-world challenges such as information inequity and civic disconnection. Drs. Jaeger and St. Jean noted that this is the first program of its kind in the country and one of only a handful in the world.

Regent Hasan asked how many students are expected for the program and asked about the decline in library use. Dr. St. Jean said they are hoping to start with around 10-15 students. She also noted that this degree serves other organizations such as museums, schools, government, and nonprofits, but that libraries are still well-used for things beyond checking out books. Regent Hasan also asked if AI is a threat to libraries and Dr. St. Jean said that library programming expands beyond what AI is capable of.

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, College Park to offer a Doctor of Information Science in Information Science Leadership and Community Engagement.

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

## Information Items

### Campus Safety Panel

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, introduced a panel on campus safety.

The panelists were:

- Dr. Brian Clemmons, Vice President for Student Affairs, Bowie State University
- Dr. Nicole Marano, Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Baltimore
- Dr. Renique Kersh, Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Chief Thomas Leone, Chief of Police, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Each panelist spoke briefly about campus safety issues on their respective campus. Dr. Clemmons spoke about racial threats that impact BSU. He noted the bomb threats that many HBCUs received in 2022, as well as calls to silence students. He said that targeting racial threats requires several strategies such as technology, police, and mental health.

Dr. Marano's comments focused on the unique location of UBalt. She said that their student safety concerns are not focused on the typical college things like residence life, athletics, or Greek life. Their major concerns are about students coexisting with the community. She spoke about the CARE Team, which is a cross-divisional team that meets weekly to address students of concern.

Dr. Kersh discussed the importance of building relationships across UMBC to support students. She noted a large increase in the number of complex cases they're seeing. She said that they are helping students, faculty, and staff understand the difference between safety and discomfort. Regent Gourdine asked if there is a need to equip faculty with how to deal with safety vs. discomfort and Dr. Kersh noted that is a part of larger conversations.

Chief Leone said that higher education is facing real challenges right now. UMB campus police are engaging with the community and taking a holistic approach. They utilize a co-response model, which pairs a social work intern with police officers responding to calls. He emphasized the importance of resources and wraparound services to help the students and the community. He noted the partnership with UBalt and that it has strengthened the relationship between both institutions.

Dr. Wrynn thanked the panelists for highlighting the day-to-day issues our campuses are facing. Chancellor Perman applauded the panelists and noted that each emphasized the importance of working together.

### Notification of Awards: Wilson H. Elkins Professorships, FY26 and USM Scholarships, AY 2025-2026

Annually, the University System of Maryland Office of Academic and Student Affairs facilitates the distribution of scholarships to students and research funds in support of faculty. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations, shared information about the Elkins Professorship and Dr. Candace

Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, shared information about the USM scholarship programs.

The Elkins Professorship, which began in 1978 at the University of Maryland, College Park, was established to perpetuate the name and contributions of Wilson H. Elkins, a former Rhodes Scholar who led the University of Maryland to new levels of distinction as its president from 1954 to 1978. When the new University System of Maryland began in 1988, Dr. Elkins agreed that the professorship bearing his name should extend to the entire USM family. The Professorship may be used to recruit an outstanding individual to an institution to fill a vacancy or to provide special recognition and support to retain a current outstanding member of the faculty. An internal USM committee evaluates nominations and makes special effort to bestow the award in those areas where the Elkins Professor will have an opportunity to make an important contribution to the teaching, research, and public service mission of their institution and the entire University System of Maryland. Direct involvement with undergraduate and/or graduate students and outreach to other institutions within the System are hallmarks of the Elkins Professors. The Professorship is an opportunity for institutions to build on their strengths and to be of greater service to their students and to society.

This year's awardees include:

### **Traditional Elkins**

**Dr. Darsana Josyula**, Professor, Department of Computer Science at Bowie State University (BSU). Dr. Josyula will establish a Collaborative Hub for Adaptive Human-AI Teaming, anchored at BSU through the Autonomous Technologies Lab, that integrates cutting-edge research, student internships, faculty collaboration, and STEM outreach. This project will expand student-led innovation, regional workforce development, and equitable access to AI research and education. Dr. Josyula has received a \$52,500 award.

**Dr. Elisabeth Smela**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park. The award supports the rollout of a broadly accessible certificate program focused on sustainability in collaboration with the UMD Teaching and Learning Transformation Center and the Office of Sustainability and the development of a searchable database of sustainability-related assignments across a variety of disciplines and fields, curated and recommended by an AI concierge. Dr. Smela received a \$80,000 award. (\$40,000 per year/this is year **one** of two)

**Dr. Rabiya Akande**, Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Carey School of Law. This is year two of a two-year award for a project exploring the relationship between law and colonial power. This project engages students and personnel within the communities being studied and will result in scholarship, a workshop series, podcasts, and conference presentations. Dr. Akande was awarded \$80,000 (\$40,000 per year; this year **two** of two).

### **Academic Transformation**

The Elkins Professorship for Academic Transformation is a prestigious fellowship awarded to faculty within the University System of Maryland. New for AY2025-2026, the fellowship supports innovative projects focused on the use of Generative AI to advance academic transformation. Three awards of up to \$10,000 each will be granted to faculty focused on the use of Generative AI to enhance teaching and learning.

- **Dr. Amanda Jozkowski**, Associate Professor and MS Program Director at Towson University, will use funds to develop the AI-Responsive Instruction and Student Engagement (ARISE) Project to enhance teaching and learning through the structured integration of generative AI into course design.
- **Dr. Eric Stokan**, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Social Science Scholarship at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County will use the funds to develop and disseminate open-source, modular training materials in computational social science and generative AI built around a forthcoming book authored in Bookdown.
- **Dr. David Leasure** at the University of Maryland Global Campus will use funds for the for the adaptation and scale-up of a course-specific, generative AI-based faculty coaching tool.

### **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Fellows**

The 2025-26 Elkins SoTL Fellows are:

Wyletta Gamble-Lomax, Associate Professor of Elementary Education, Coppin State University

Melissa Budgal, Associate Professor of English Director, University Writing Center Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, Salisbury University

Rebecca Anthony, Associate Professor, Social Work, with co-principal investigator, Rachel Buchanan, Associate Professor, Social Work, Salisbury University

Mandee Booth, Assistant Instructor, School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Jason Farman, Professor of American Studies, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, University of Maryland, College Park

Jennifer Rae Myers, Assistant Professor, Hearing and Speech Sciences, with co-principal investigator, Kristin Slawson, Clinical Associate Professor, Hearing and Speech Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park

Kelsie Endicott, Coordinator of the Graduate Writing Center, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Lari Warren-Jeanpiere, Collegiate Professor, Social Sciences, with co-principal investigator, Dominique Hammonds, Collegiate Professor, Clinical Professional Counseling, University of Maryland Global Campus

### **University System of Maryland Scholarship Programs AY 2025 -2026**

The University System of Maryland administers more than two dozen endowed scholarship funds that help in-state students from across the System afford an undergraduate education. Some are small, providing about less than \$1,000 once to one student. Others are more significant, such as Regents Scholarships, which can provide a scholarship to cover tuition and fees, room and board, and a set

stipend for educational expenses for one or two students. All the scholarships have been provided by the generosity of donors who want to assist students, often in memory of someone who was dedicated to education. While some scholarships look solely at academic merit, others have additional criteria relating to students' demonstration of financial need or another criterion such as academic discipline.

A chart showing the amounts of the scholarships is included below:

**Projected Spending for the University System of Maryland Scholarships  
AY 2025-2026**

Type of Scholarship	New Awards	Continuing Awards	Average Award Amount	Aggregate Amount (estimated)	Notes
Regents – full	4-Transfer Students from MD community colleges	4-Students originally awarded as MDCC transfer students	\$37,503.66	\$225,022	Amounts have been calculated for the full Regents Scholarship numbers to include the remission of tuition & fees provided by the USM institutions.
	4- First-year awards	6-Students originally awarded as first-year students	\$38,769.60	\$387,696	Amounts have been calculated for the Regents Scholarship numbers to include the remission of tuition & fees provided by the USM institutions.
Subtotal for AY 25-26	8	10	\$38,136.63	\$612,718	

Other Scholarships	3- Kelly Access Opportunity	8-Kelly Access Opportunity	\$4,000	\$48,000	The Kelly Fund supports
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	Grants (transfer) 1- Kelly Access Opportunity (1 first-year)	Grants (both transfer and first-year awards)			need-based awards and is the largest of the scholarship funds.
	15 from 15 funds for partial scholarships	4-continuing students from 2 funds	\$1,789.47	\$34,000	
Fatzinger- One-Time Transfer Awards	9 students	N/A	\$2,000	\$18,000	One-time awards
Wild Near-Completer Awards	Estimate 83	N/A	\$2,650 est.	\$220,000	One-time awards to drive completion; FY2025 average award was \$2,650
Retention Grant Funds	Estimate 200	N/A		\$218,000	Award range of \$500-\$3,000
Subtotal for AY 25-26				\$538,000	

Projected total amount of awards = \$1,150,718 to serve an estimated 359 students.

### **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.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair