



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
December 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 Wednesday, December 3, 2025. The meeting was convened at 9:31 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Coker, Gooden, Hasan, Leggett, Lewis, 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. Alston, Dr. Amoussou, Dr. Ashby, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Blackman, AAG Boyle, Dr. Cade, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Clark, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Davis, Dr. Dennison, Dr. Djerdjouri, Dr. Esters, Dr. Grimes, Dr. Hall, Dr. Haywood, Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Kassner, Dr. King-White, Ms. Lang, Vice Chancellor Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Marano, Vice Chancellor Masucci, Dr. Mathias, Dr. Miller, Vice Chancellor Minor, Dr. Mueller, Dr. Muhoro, Mr. Muntz, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Perreault, Dr. Reed, Mr. Roberts, Vice Chancellor Sandler, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Skevakis, Mr. Vasquez-Reyes, Dr. Ward, Dr. Wauchhaus, Dr. Whitehead, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Williams.

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

Action Items

Academic Program Proposals

Bowie State University: Bachelor of Science in Risk Management and Insurance

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mr. William Roberts, Director, Maguire Academy of Insurance and Risk Management, and Dr. Mohamed Djerdjouri, Dean, College of Business, presented Bowie State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Risk Management and Insurance. This program will offer a comprehensive study of risk management and insurance principles and will blend theoretical knowledge with practical applications across diverse industries. Students will gain hands-on experience through internships, case studies, and industry partnerships, while deepening their understanding of regulatory frameworks, risk mitigation strategies, and insurance operations.

Mr. Roberts noted that there are no undergraduate risk management programs in Maryland. He said that there is a need for this type of training and that the 10-year outlook shows that need will continue to increase.

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 Risk Management and Insurance.

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

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

Bowie State University: Ph.D. in Nursing Education

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Monique Alston, Chair, Department of Nursing, and Dr. Cheryl Blackman, Dean, College of Professional Studies, presented Bowie State University’s proposal to offer a Ph.D. in Nursing Education. This program will be unique to this region of Maryland, as no other institution offers a Ph.D. in Nursing Education as its primary curriculum content. It will increase the number of Ph.D.-prepared nursing faculty in Maryland.

Dr. Alston noted that this will allow students to start and end their education in nursing at Bowie State University. Regent Wood asked about the federal government’s impact on the nursing profession and Dr. Alston noted that national advocacy groups are working to ensure that the profession continues to move forward. Chancellor Perman and several Regents expressed how critical this program is.

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 Ph.D. in Nursing Education.

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

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

University of Baltimore: Bachelor of Arts in Law, Philosophy, and History

Dr. Ralph Mueller, Senior Vice President and Provost, and Dr. Joshua Kassner, Professor, Philosophy, presented the University of Baltimore’s proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Law, Philosophy, and History. This is a humanities-based interdisciplinary undergraduate pre-law program that integrates three existing undergraduate pre-law programs: Legal Studies (LEST); Philosophy, Law, and Ethics (PLE); and History (HIST)—at the only university in Maryland that is home to both a law school and pre-law bachelor's degrees.

Regent Smarick said that he wishes more students going to law school had this foundation and that students from other USM institutions may be interested in the courses. Chancellor Perman applauded the interdisciplinary approach of the program.

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 Baltimore to offer a B.A. in Law, Philosophy, and History.

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

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

Policy on Appointment, Rank, and Tenure of Faculty – Section C.7. Revisions

Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented proposed revisions to section C.7. of the Board of Regents Policy II-1.00 on Appointment, Rank, and Tenure of Faculty. A workgroup consisting of three Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) members, two provosts, and an associate provost proposed revisions to this section which were then reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General.

The proposed amendments provide clarification on the options for a hearing, the role of the chief executive officer, compensation after Notice of Termination, and the appeal process.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposed revisions to the Policy on Appointment, Rank, and Tenure of Faculty.

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

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

Revisions to Policy on Graduate Assistantships

Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented proposed revisions to the Board of Regents Policy III-7.11 on Graduate Assistantships. The proposed revisions come after meetings with the students on what they would change regarding the meet and confer process.

The proposed revisions to the policy aim to strengthen the “meet and confer” process. The following principles and guidelines are proposed:

- Formalize the structure and expectations of the meet and confer process
- Mandatory training for all involved in the process
- Involvement of an ombudsperson
- Accountable follow-up process

Chancellor Perman reiterated that the USM is committed to the meet and confer process.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposed revisions to the Policy on Graduate Assistantships.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Information Items

Update on Prison Education

Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and Dr. Zakiya Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, presented an update on the prison education program. They provided an overview of the work being done across the system starting in 2015 with the expansion of the Second Chance Pell Initiative. They detailed the programs at University of Baltimore and Bowie State University, as well as a program getting ready to launch at Towson University.

Drs. Wrynn and Lee discussed the work that Julep Consulting performed to review the national landscape and outline the potential for prison education and reentry services in Maryland. In October 2025, the University System of Maryland was awarded a \$4.1 million grant by Ascendium to expand the prison education program across the USM and the state of Maryland. They ended their presentation with an overview of the current priorities of this work, which will be supported by the Ascendium grant.

Regent Wood thanked Drs. Wrynn and Lee for their work and noted that these types of programs have positive impacts on incarcerated individuals such as reducing recidivism. Chancellor Perman thanked Regent Wood for being the Regent champion for this work and recognized the institutions that have been doing this work. Regent Gourdine asked about evaluation and Dr. Wrynn noted that Westat is the evaluation partner in the grant.

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 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair