



USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Public Session
January 29, 2026
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, January 29, 2026. The meeting was convened at 9:31 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Leggett, Lewis, Mirani, 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, Dr. Caraco, Ms. Chadwick, Dr. Clark, Dr. Delury, Dr. Farley, Dr. Garrard, Dr. Hall, Dr. Haywood, Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Jennings, Dr. King, Dr. King-White, Vice Chancellor Lawrence, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lynch, Dr. Marano, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Mathias, Dr. Matuszek, Dr. Miller, Vice Chancellor Minor, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Muntz, Dr. Nesbary, Dr. Nobles, Dr. O'Neill, Dr. Parrish-Harris, Dr. Perreault, Dr. Pittman, Mr. Prouty, Dr. Reed, Mr. Sandler, Dr. Shin, Dr. Skevakis, Dr. van Dulmen, Mr. Vasquez-Reyes, Dr. Ward, Dr. Whitehead, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Younis.

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

Action Items

Approval of Minutes from October 17th and December 3rd Public Session Meetings

Regent Gourdine moved and Regent Lewis seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the October 17th and December 3rd meetings of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety. The motion was unanimously approved.

Academic Program Proposals

University of Baltimore: Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Storytelling

Dr. Ralph Mueller, Provost, and Jane Delury, Professor, Yale Gordon College of Arts and Sciences, presented University of Baltimore's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Storytelling. This program is a humanities-based interdisciplinary program that combines narrative theory and analysis with visual design, digital media production, and professional and creative writing.

Regent Wood asked about program duplication concerns. Professor Delury noted that they believe their program is unique and Senior Vice Chancellor Wrynn noted that there are no duplication concerns at the undergraduate level. Regent Mirani asked about social media and the perception that you do not need a college degree for social media. Professor Delury said that graduates of this program come to social

media with more depth and creativity. She said that it's not a degree in social media but a degree to USE social media.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from University of Baltimore to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Storytelling.

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

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

University of Baltimore: Master of Science in Social-Organizational Psychology

Dr. Ralph Mueller, Provost, and Sally Farley, Professor, Director, BA in Psychology, presented University of Baltimore's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Social-Organizational Psychology. This program examines how human behavior is shaped by social systems, both within a workplace context as well as in broader social systems. It integrates insights and skills from social psychology, such as group dynamics and conflict resolution, with those of organizational psychology, such as leadership and change management, to equip students with a robust toolkit for addressing complex organizational issues.

Professor Farley noted that this program replaces the longstanding industrial psychology program and is the first truly interdisciplinary graduate program.

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 University of Baltimore to offer the Master of Science in Social-Organizational Psychology.

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

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

University of Maryland Global Campus: Bachelor of Science in Extended Reality Design

Dr. Kimberly Whitehead, Acting Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Michelle Pittman, Portfolio Director, and Dr. Calvin Nobles, Vice President and Dean, School of Cybersecurity & Information Technology, presented University of Maryland Global Campus's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Extended Reality Design. This program will equip students with technical and creative skills to design immersive virtual, augmented, and mixed reality experiences. Dr. Pittman noted that this program will transform healthcare, education, manufacturing, and defense.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from University of Maryland Global Campus to offer a Bachelor of Science in Extended Reality Design.

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

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

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Manfred van Dulmen, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Matuszek, Associate Professor, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, and Mohamed Younis, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, presented the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s proposal to offer a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence. The program focuses on the fundamental principles of AI and, upon completion, students will be able to begin successful careers in research, academia, and industry.

Regent Wood noted that Johns Hopkins University has a similar program that is online. He asked if UMBC has any feedback from JHU and Dr. Younis noted that they have no objection. Regent Smarick asked if students will be required to take an ethics course. Dr. Matuszek noted that the courses will cover ethical issues and questions.

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 the Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

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

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

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: School of Education

Dr. Manfred van Dulmen, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Sarah Shin, Professor and Chair of the Department of Education, presented the University of Maryland, Baltimore County’s proposal to create a School of Education. The change requires no new resources and overall is little beyond a name change from “Department” to “School.” Dr. Shin noted that this change demonstrates that UMBC is committed to teacher preparation.

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 create a School of Education.

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

Vote Count: Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

Information Items

Federal Regulations: Data and Metrics for Completion, Debt, and Earnings

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Chad Muntz, Associate Vice Chancellor for Decision Support and Chief Analytics & Insights Officer, presented an overview of work being undertaken by the U.S. Department of Education and its “Accountability in Higher Education and Access through Demand-driven Workforce Pell (AHEAD)” advisory committee on regulations that would require all postsecondary programs to pass a single earnings test.

They provided an overview of the federal accountability timeline and framework and a summary of the potential impacts. Dr. Wrynn said that it was important to provide this information since it has been in the news lately. Dr. Caraco noted that the rules are not final yet.

Regent Smarick asked about Workforce Pell and Dr. Caraco said that there are very strict requirements for Workforce Pell and it is unclear what programs may fall under this. Dr. Wrynn said that USM and its campuses are paying attention to and thinking about this.

Report: Workload of the USM Faculty – Academic Year 2024-2025

Ms. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, presented the Report of the Workload of USM Faculty for the 2024-2025 academic year. The report summarizes faculty workload, which includes teaching, research, and service activities at all USM degree-granting institutions with tenured or tenure-track faculty. Key findings include:

- The total credit hours produced in 2024-2025 was above total student headcount enrollment.
- When disaggregated by level of the courses taught (lower- and upper-division, undergraduate and graduate), total credit hours produced appropriately aligned with the unique mission of the USM institutions.
- Full-time tenured/tenure track and full-time, non-tenure track instructional faculty accounted for 71.85% of all credit hours produced (up from five years ago).
- Further, over the five years since 2020-21, credit hours produced by part-time faculty dropped slightly from 29.1% to 26.42%.
- Full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty carried the appropriate instructional load at the upper-division undergraduate and graduate levels as compared to all other faculty types.
- Average student credit hour production for core instructional faculty increased in 2024-25.
- The number of bachelor’s degrees awarded increased by 7.28%. Across the institutions reported here, 28,521 degrees were awarded – up from last year’s total of 26,586.
- Four-year and six-year undergraduate graduation rates decreased slightly (down 2% for each) in 2024-25, though have remained fairly steady over a five-year period.
- Faculty publication and scholarship continued at high levels and at appropriate levels according to faculty type.
- Faculty secured over \$1.8 billion in research funding in the 2023-2024 academic year, representing a 10.4% increase over the previous year.

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive meeting. She read the required statement to go into closed session and called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in closed session to address the BOR Faculty Awards and honorary degree nominations. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Lewis, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

USM Board of Regents
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety
Minutes from Closed Session
January 29, 2026
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 Thursday, January 29, 2026. The meeting was convened at 10:55 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Leggett, Lewis, Mirani, 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: AAG Boyle, Ms. Beckett, Dr. Masucci, and Ms. Wilkerson.

Action Items

Board of Regents Faculty Awards Recommendations

Ms. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. The Regents Faculty Awards Committee reviewed 55 nominations from 11 institutions and recommended 20 awards to honor 20 individuals. The committee is recommending the maximum of 4 awards in each of the following categories - Mentoring, Teaching, Research/Scholarship, Public Service, and Creative Activity. Those approved will receive a \$2,000 award and a plaque. Summaries of the backgrounds of prospective award recipients were given to the regents and nominees' full portfolios are available upon request. Ms. Beckett served as USM liaison to the review process and affirms that all proper protocols, as outlined in CUSF-developed guidelines, were followed to ensure a fair and honest review and selection process.

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 CUSF Regents Faculty Awards Committee and present the awards to the faculty members in Spring 2026. The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved.

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

Honorary Degree Nominations

Ms. Kelsey Beckett, Chief of Staff and Director of Operations in the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. In accordance with the Board of Regents Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00), institutions have submitted nominations for honorary degrees. As the policy stipulates, the full Board will act on the nominations at its February meeting based upon EPSLS's recommendations. After the final approval of the nominations, presidents may begin to arrange for the awarding of the honorary degrees. The degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval unless withdrawn by the Board for cause. Institutions and USM staff have vetted the nominees and there are no reputational concerns. Additionally, as required by the policy, institutions have identified

the internal processes used to obtain these nominations from the faculty, college or department, or a sanctioned Honorary Degree Committee, which includes faculty.

The Committee was presented with 25 nominations from eight (8) institutions. The names of the nominees and the degrees being recommended, as well as nomination letters and supporting documentation, were made available to the regents prior to the meeting.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety recommend that the Board of Regents approve that the Board of Regents approve institutional nominations for honorary degrees from Bowie State University; Frostburg State University; Towson University; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County, University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and University of Maryland Global Campus.

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

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

Motion to Adjourn

Regent Gourdine moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Regent Smarick, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair