



**BOARD OF REGENTS
Virtual Meeting
February 13, 2026**

MINUTES FOR PUBLIC SESSION

8:30 A.M.

Call to Order

Chair Gooden

Chair Linda Gooden called the public meeting of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents to order at 8:32 a.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026. The meeting was conducted virtually. Those in attendance were: Chair Gooden; Regents Atticks, Blount, Coker, Edwards, Fish, Gonella, Gourdine, Hasan, Leggett, Lewis, McMillen, Mirani, Rivera-Forbes, Smarick, Speaks, Stebbins, Wood; Chancellor Perman; Presidents Anderson, Breaux, Fowler, Ginsberg, Jenkins, Lepre, Miralles-Wilhelm, Pines, Schmoke, Sheares Ashby, and Smith; Provost Ward; Senior Vice Chancellors Herbst and Wrynn; Vice Chancellors Lawrence, Masucci, Minor, and Sandler; Ms. Mulqueen, Ms. Wilkerson, and AAG Boyle.

Chair Gooden opened the first meeting of 2026 by welcoming Regents, system and institutional leaders, and members of the public, and noted appreciation for participation in the virtual format. Chair Gooden also announced and congratulated the Board's 2026 executive officers, expressing appreciation for their leadership and partnership in the year ahead. Chair Gooden acknowledged that the state's legislative session is underway and noted that the weeks ahead will bring policy discussions and budget deliberations with meaningful implications for the System.

Public Comment: Chair Gooden opened the period for public comment. Three public comments were provided. The comments addressed the USM Board of Regents Policy Workgroup Charge. In consideration of the virtual nature of the meeting, the speakers submitted written comments in advance, which were read by Chief of Staff Wilkerson. Speakers were also given the option to submit a pre-recorded video. The written comments were submitted by Amira Abujuma (Student – UMCP), Sabhee Rehman (Student -TU), and Jasmine Alrayes (Student – TU).

Educational Forum: The Board held an educational forum on the Higher Education Sector Financial Outlook, featuring presentations from Michael Osborn and Emily Raimés of Moody's Ratings. Presenters shared insights on the evolving financial landscape and key factors affecting higher education institutions. The forum included a robust period of questions from the Board and provided context to inform the Board's understanding of current sector trends and challenges.

Chancellor's Report: Chancellor Perman reported that seven USM universities earned the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, reflecting the System's strong commitment to civic engagement, community partnerships, and public impact. He also highlighted institutional initiatives advancing workforce development, community investment, research innovation, student success pathways, and notable faculty, student, and athletic achievements across the System. With regard to budget, Chancellor Perman provided a state

budget update, noting the Governor’s FY27 proposal maintains overall System funding while supporting key priorities, including research, HBCUs, and employee cost-of-living adjustments. Finally, he gave an update on the federal research landscape, including grant cancellations and funding uncertainty, alongside ongoing efforts to sustain and strengthen USM’s research enterprise. The written report is available at [\[LINK-Page 19\]](#).

I. Report of Councils

Council of University System Faculty: Dr. King-White summarized the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) activities. Key events included recent Executive Committee and General Body meetings, advocacy efforts, policy work on professional conduct and workplace bullying, and continued collaboration with USM leadership. Discussions included budget and legislative priorities, campus updates, faculty concerns such as safety and shared governance, and progress on initiatives related to artificial intelligence and faculty engagement. CUSF will continue meeting through spring 2026 to finalize leadership rosters, advance policy work, and report future updates to the Board. The written report is available at [\[LINK-Page 26\]](#).

Council of University System Staff: Mr. Roy Prouty summarized the Council of University System Staff (CUSS) activities. CUSS met January 13, 2026, and received legislative updates, reviewed draft Paid Family/Medical Leave policies, and formed an ad-hoc committee on tuition remission exemption policies. CUSS also advanced staff initiatives including the Board of Regents Staff Awards process, a forthcoming shared governance survey, and ongoing review of staff benefits, tuition remission practices, and ombuds services. Staff concerns were noted regarding wage compression for non-bargaining employees and the need for clearer campus guidance on immigration enforcement policies and communications. The written report is available at [\[LINK-Page 32\]](#).

Council of University System Presidents: President Aminta Breaux summarized the Council of University System Presidents (CUSP) activities. The presidents met January 12, 2026 and February 2, 2026. The presidents reviewed revisions to family leave and support policies, received budget and legislative updates, and discussed system initiatives including a potential USM common application. They also participated in presentations on topics such as Coppin State University’s “No One Goes Hungry” initiative, expressive activities, and digital accessibility and reporting requirements. Additional discussions included collective bargaining legislation, capital and operating budgets, and the biennial review of the exempt salary structure. The written report is available at [\[LINK-Page 33\]](#).

University System of Maryland Student Council: Mr. Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes summarized the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) activities. USMSC met February 1, 2026, with Graduate and Undergraduate Councils and discussed student concerns, including anxiety related to federal law enforcement presence on campuses. Student leaders reported ongoing advocacy efforts, scholarship review preparations, and initiatives to expand representation, support graduate students, and enhance student resources. The written report is available at [\[LINK-Page 34\]](#).

2. Consent Agenda

Chair Gooden

The Consent Agenda was presented to the Regents by Chair Gooden. (Moved by Regent Gooden; seconded by Regent Fish; unanimously approved). The items included were:

- a. Committee of the Whole
 - i. Approval of meeting minutes from December 12, 2025, Public and Closed Sessions (action)

- b. Committee on Audit
 - i. Audited Financial Statements FY 2025 (information)
 - ii. FY 2025 Independent Audit of USM's Financial Statements, SB & Co, LLC (information)
 - iii. Completed Office of Legislative Audit Activity (information)
 - iv. Follow-up of Action Items from Prior Meetings (information)
 - v. Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025 (information)

- c. Committee on Education Policy & Student Life
 - i. Program Proposals (action)
 - 1. University of Baltimore: Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Storytelling
 - 2. University of Baltimore: Master of Science in Social-Organizational Psychology
 - 3. University of Maryland Global Campus: Bachelor of Science in Extended Reality Design
 - 4. University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence
 - 5. University of Maryland, Baltimore County Proposal for School of Education (action)
 - ii. Federal Regulations: Data and Metrics for Completion, Debt, and Earnings (information)
 - iii. Report: Workload of the USM Faculty – Academic Year 2024-2025 (information)
 - iv. Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2025 (information)

- d. Committee on Finance
 - i. University of Maryland, Baltimore: North Campus Vibrancy Initiative – West Lexington Corridor Development Project (action)
 - ii. University of Maryland, College Park: General Purpose Classroom Renovations (action)
 - iii. Salisbury University: Facilities Master Plan (information)
 - iv. FY 2025 Audited Financial Statements and USM Financial Planning (information)
 - v. University System of Maryland: Educational Overview of Procurement (information)
 - vi. University System of Maryland: FY 2027 Operating Budget Update (information)
 - vii. University System of Maryland: FY 2027 Capital Budget Update (information)
 - viii. Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2025 (information)

- e. Committee on Governance & Compensation
 - i. Review of USM Board of Regents Expectations of Conduct (action)
 - ii. Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2025 (information)

- f. Committee on Research & Economic Development
 - i. Research Report for Frostburg State University (information)
 - ii. Research Report for Bowie State University (information)
 - iii. Salisbury University Innovation (information)
 - iv. Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2025 (information)

3. Committee Reports

- a. Committee on Governance and Compensation Regent Leggett
Regent Stebbins
 - i. Review of USM Board of Regents Policy Regent Leggett
Regent Stebbins

Workgroup Charge (information)

Chair Gooden introduced an update on the Policy Workgroup launched in December, which is charged with reviewing and modernizing Board policies to reflect the evolving higher education landscape and current governance expectations. Chair Gooden emphasized that the effort responds to significant changes since the System's founding and is intended to ensure policies provide clear guidance for effective governance. Regent Stebbins, who chairs the workgroup, presented the charge and structure of the workgroup, which will review the current policies and recommend updates to ensure policies remain clear, contemporary, and aligned with the Board's responsibilities and long-term System interests. The workgroup will follow a phased process including foundational planning, policy assessment, review and revision, and identification of emerging policy needs. Upon completion, ongoing policy review will become a regular responsibility of the Governance & Compensation Committee.

- b. Committee of the Whole

- i. Update on FSU Presidential Search Regent Smarick
Chancellor Perman
(information)

Chair Gooden reviewed the presidential search process, which included national outreach, campus listening sessions, and a structured review that advanced four finalists from an initial pool of applicants. Following interviews by the Chancellor and Board, one candidate was selected. Regent Smarick serves as chair of this search and emphasized the Board's responsibility to select institutional leaders. Regent Smarick noted a thorough, inclusive process that engaged campus and regional stakeholders. Regent Smarick expressed appreciation to the search committee and participants. Chancellor Perman first expressed gratitude for Interim President Darlene Smith. Chancellor Perman then announced Shadow Robinson as the next president of Frostburg State University, beginning his appointment on July 1, 2026. Chancellor Perman noted that Dr. Robinson is recognized as a scholar-leader with strong experience in enrollment growth, student success, workforce alignment, and community engagement. The announcement highlighted his Appalachian background, academic leadership accomplishments, and commitment to expanding educational opportunity and regional impact.

- ii. Affirmation of Selection of Frostburg State Chancellor Perman
University President (action)

The Board of Regents celebrated the conclusion of a thorough search process to select the next president of Frostburg State University. Chair Gooden concluded by offering the Board's gratitude for Interim President Smith's service to FSU. The Board voted to affirm its selection of Dr. Shadow Robinson as Frostburg State University's next president.
(Moved by Chair Gooden, seconded by Regent Smarick; unanimously approved.)

4. Reconvene to Closed Session (action)

Chair Gooden

Reconvene to Closed Session Reconvene to Closed Session. Chair Gooden read the "convene to close" statement citing the topics for the closed session and the relevant statutory authority for closing the meeting under 3-305(b) and 3-103(a)(1)(i). (Moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Speaks; unanimously approved.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.