



Regents Report | November 2021

Greetings from the Board of Regents

Without question, the last 20 months have been difficult, requiring a lot of work to assure the safety of the University System of Maryland's people. But as hard as that work has been, the pandemic never succeeded in distracting us from our central missions—preparing students for engaged citizenship and productive careers; creating the knowledge that improves our lives and the world in which we live; enriching Maryland's communities and serving the public good.



Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden with Chancellor Jay Perman at the Board's recent meeting at Salisbury University. In accordance with the university's COVID-19 protocols, all individuals were required to wear masks. The masks were removed for the posed photos shown in this newsletter.

As we draft and refine our [Strategic Plan](#)—a plan that will shape the USM's priorities and goals over the next several years—we've heard again and again that the University System has long been excellent. And, in fact, institutional excellence has *defined* this entire academic year. For just a snapshot of what that excellence means in terms of the education our universities provide, the scholarship they produce, and the service in which they engage, we urge you to read the [Chancellor's Report](#).

But it must be said that the same people who tell us that the USM is excellent tell us, too, that excellence is no longer enough; that we must move from excellence to *preeminence*. We have the talent, the inventiveness, and the drive to take our place at the very top of American higher education. And our universities continue to earn [national rankings](#) that put them within reach of it.

Preeminence, however, requires more than the raw materials of success. It takes sustained investment in the people, the ideas, and the environments that bring those materials together in ways that compound their value—that make the USM even greater

than the sum of its parts. That investment, pushing us from excellence to preeminence, is our mission going forward. And we invite *all* of you to join us in it.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | November 12, 2021

The USM Board of Regents met at Salisbury University on November 12, 2021, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:



Salisbury University President Wight welcomed Chancellor Perman and the Board of Regents to SU's Guerrieri Academic Commons, which was recently named one of the top 20 college and university libraries in the U.S.

Praise for Retiring Salisbury University President Charles Wight and an Update on the Presidential Search. In his opening remarks, Chancellor Perman recognized the announcement of President Wight's retirement at the end of the academic year and thanked him for leading "an impressive chapter in Salisbury's history," which included the establishment of the new College of Health and Human Services and the Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion.

Last month, the Board of Regents launched the SU presidential search by naming Regent Robert Rauch, assistant secretary of the Board, as the chair of the search and screening committee. The [SU website](#) includes more information on the presidential search process and information on submitting nominations for the search committee.

Approval of Three New Degree Programs. After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life, the Board voted to approve the following new degree programs proposed by USM institutions. Pending approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the following programs will be offered:

- **[Bachelor of Arts in Technology and Information Design, University of Maryland, College Park.](#)** This program is designed to teach students to frame important problems at the intersection of people and information; to design solutions for those problems; and to realize, deploy and iterate on those solutions.
- **[Bachelor of Science in Computer and Mathematical Science, Towson University.](#)** This program consists of two concentrations: an Applied Mathematics and Computer Science concentration and a Computer and Mathematical Sciences

Secondary Education concentration addressing Maryland's growing need for mathematics and computer science educators.

- **[Master of Science in Clinical Informatics, University of Maryland, Baltimore.](#)** The program will focus on biomedical data, computational systems, and clinical process improvement, which students will apply to the practice of medicine, to enhance health outcomes, improve patient care, and strengthen the clinician-patient relationship.

Presentation of the USM Fall 2021 Enrollment Update. The Board received an update on Fall 2021 enrollment from Chad Muntz, USM assistant vice chancellor of institutional research, data, and analytics. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the historic enrollment patterns across the USM. Total Fall 2021 enrollment (undergraduate and graduate) was down 3.2 percent compared to Fall 2020, for an estimated total of 164,797 students. All but four institutions were affected by the [nationwide declining enrollment trend](#). A positive development is that enrollment by first-time, full-time students increased by 1,131 students. [Read the full report.](#)

MPower Presentation by Presidents Jarrell and Pines. For the educational forum, University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce Jarrell and University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) President Darryll Pines shared an update on milestones achieved by *MPowering the State* (or *Mpower*), the strategic partnership between their two research institutions. Since its founding in 2012, *Mpower* has engaged in numerous multidisciplinary research collaborations, resulting in a combined, top-ten ranking for the two institutions in the FY2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) Higher Education Research and Development Survey. The partnership encompasses 25 joint programs and centers and has fostered research in a wide range of fields, including brain injury, virtual reality and medicine, opioid use disorders, victims of human trafficking, and data informatics. [Read more.](#)

Approval of Revisions to the USM Presidential Search Guidelines. At the recommendation of the Committee on Governance and Compensation, the Board approved revisions to the guidelines for the selection of institutional presidents. These revisions include clarification that the Board Chair appoints the search committee chair and that Board must approve the membership of a search committee. [Read more.](#)

Discussion of Vaccine Protocols for Upcoming Semesters. For the current semester, the chancellor, with the support of the USM presidents, implemented a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for all students, faculty, and staff. During Friday's meeting, the regents voted to authorize Chancellor Perman to extend the USM vaccination requirement for the 2022 Winter Term and 2022 Spring Semester. Systemwide, vaccination rates on USM campuses this Fall ranged between 80 – 94 percent for the Fall semester, resulting in lower infection rates on USM campuses than in the communities where the institutions are located.

For more information about the November Board of Regents meeting, you may view the [meeting agenda](#), [video archive](#), and [full report by Chancellor Jay Perman](#).

Other News from the System

National Rankings Continue to Recognize the Excellence of USM Institutions.

Several recent rankings of colleges and universities have affirmed the sustained excellence, affordability, and overall value of USM institutions. USM institutions were recognized across a broad spectrum of categories, including rankings of national universities, regional universities, and HBCUs. In addition, several USM institutions were recognized in rankings of best colleges for veterans and top performers in social mobility, demonstrating the USM's commitment to making higher education accessible for all.

[Read more.](#)

USM Institutions are Among the Nation's Most Affordable Colleges and Universities.

The recent release of the College Board's *Trends in College Pricing* report confirms that Maryland families continue to benefit from affordable college options offered by USM institutions. For the 2021-22 academic year, public in-state tuition and fees in Maryland came in below the national average—\$10,245 versus \$10,740. Student-debt levels for USM institutions also remain below national averages. In fact, 50 percent of the USM's 2020 in-state baccalaureate recipients graduated with zero debt. [Read more.](#)

2021-2022 Elkins Professorships Awarded to Faculty Members at Four Institutions.

The Wilson H. Elkins Professorships support the work of professors and researchers whose professional and scholarly endeavors make a positive impact at their institutions, across the USM, and beyond. In September, the USM awarded these endowed professorships to five faculty members who are engaged in research initiatives in cancer immunotherapy, ocean sciences, oral health care, transgender health disparities, and strengthening the health care workforce. The 2021-2022 awardees are: Dr. Heather B. Congdon, UMB; Dr. Don DeVoe, UMCP; Dr. Paz Galupo, Towson University; Dr. Radi Masri, UMB; and Dr. Lora A. Harris, University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Science.

[Read more.](#)

News from USM Institutions



Bowie State University. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Bowie State [a \\$10 million grant](#)—the largest award to the school in two decades—to improve public health information technology.

Coppin State University. BGE recently announced partnership with Coppin State, providing \$200,000 to support 15 "[BGE Scholars](#)," full-time STEM majors from the local community.

Frostburg State University. The university announced [approximately \\$1.5 million](#) in federal funding to advance clean energy, information technology, and biotech training at FSU through the Western Maryland Advanced Technology Center.

Eleven of the 12 USM presidents joined Chancellor Perman at the November meeting of the Board.

Salisbury University. A new brand initiative, "[Make Tomorrow Yours](#)", is both a charge for the university and a promise to its students.

Towson University. The university is enhancing its place as a national leader in cybersecurity with a [\\$2.2 million grant](#) from the National Security Agency to lead a task force dedicated to cataloging and improving U.S. cybersecurity curricula.

The University of Baltimore. UBalt's [Schaefer Center for Public Policy](#) recently hosted an event at Baltimore's Inner Harbor to celebrate the 100th birthday anniversary of William Donald Schaefer.

University of Maryland, Baltimore. As part of President Bruce Jarrell's installation ceremony, Lawrence Hayman announced [an \\$18 million gift](#) to expand health care access and scholarships on Eastern Shore.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County. UMBC received \$38 million as part of a \$72 million NASA-funded Earth science research collaboration with Morgan State and other partners known as [GESTAR II](#).

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Researchers at UMCES mapped the [DNA of a blue crab](#) for the first time.

University of Maryland, College Park. The university's "Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland" announced that it raised a record [\\$1.5 billion](#) from more than 110,000 donors.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore. President Heidi Anderson is now [chair-elect of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities](#) (AASCU). She will serve as chair in 2023.

University of Maryland Global Campus. UMGC announced a new transfer partnership with [California Community Colleges](#) that will make UMGC's online academic programs available to more than two million students enrolled in California's 116 community colleges.

News from USM Regional Centers

Universities at Shady Grove. USG recently hosted the 9th annual induction ceremony for the [Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame](#), raising nearly \$200,000 for USG scholarships.

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown. USMH will host its [Elizabethtowne Feaste & Frolic - Feaste at Yuletide](#) next month.

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland. USMSM celebrated the opening of the [new SMART Building](#), a 84,000-square foot academic and research facility.

Dates to Remember

Meetings below will be virtual unless a location is listed. For the complete meeting schedule, visit:

www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 30, 2021

Committee on Governance and Compensation

8:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 2, 2021

Committee on Finance

10:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 2, 2021

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization

12:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 10, 2021

Board of Regents Meeting

Bowie State University

8:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 13, 2021

Committee on Audit

10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 11, 2022

Committee on Education Policy and Student Life

9:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Committee on Governance and Compensation

8:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Committee on Advancement

11:00 a.m.



Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive: [View](#)

Board of Regents

Phone: 301.445.2701

Email: regents@usmd.edu

Web: www.usmd.edu/regents

Chancellor's Office

Phone: 301.445.1901

Email: chancellor@usmd.edu

Web: www.usmd.edu/usm/chancellor/

Office of Academic and Student Affairs

Senior Vice Chancellor: Joann Boughman

Phone: 301.445.1992

Email: jboughman@usmd.edu

Web: usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/

Office of Administration and Finance

Vice Chancellor: Ellen Herbst

Phone: 301.445.1923

Email: eherstb@usmd.edu

Web: usmd.edu/usm/adminfinance/

Office of Government Relations

Vice Chancellor: Patrick Hogan

Phone: 410.269.5085

Email: phogan@usmd.edu

Web: usmd.edu/usm/government-relations/

Office of Economic Development

Phone: 410.576.5730

Web: usmd.edu/usm/economic-development/

Office of Communications & Marketing

Vice Chancellor: Tim McDonough

Phone: 301.445.2722

Email: tmcdonough@usmd.edu

Web: usmd.edu/usm/office_of_communications