



## Regents Report | September 2021

### Greetings from the Board of Regents

The meeting of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents took place in person this month. It was the first meeting of the new academic year, and the first in-person meeting since February 2020. It's gratifying to know that, because of the hard work of the entire USM community, reunions like ours are taking place on University System campuses across Maryland.



Indeed, the USM is approaching this academic year as one remarkable *not* for how different it is from years past, but for how similar we hope it will be. Our universities have full campuses and classrooms. They're hosting activities that engage learners in college life and community service. They're doing what they do best: delivering on their mission to educate Maryland's students and serve its people; using their assets, influence, and expertise to solve the greatest challenges of our age; and—always—advancing equity, opportunity, and justice.



Of course, the pandemic isn't over, and we'll monitor public health guidance and local conditions, enforcing COVID protocols to protect campus and community safety. In the meantime, we're excited for some semblance of "normal," after a year that was anything but.

Clearly, the USM's students are excited for it, too. After a year that saw college enrollment shrink nationally, the USM is expecting more than 169,000 students this fall, fewer than 1,000 students shy of last year's total. And over the next decade, we're preparing for gradual growth.

That growth comes not just from enrolling more *new* students, but supporting and retaining those we already have. In all, 87 percent of USM freshmen who entered in fall 2019 returned for their sophomore year. Our six-year graduation rate in spring 2020 was 72 percent, well above the national average and an all-time high for the University System.

Of course, at the USM, *who* we educate is just as important as how many. Seventy-nine percent of all USM students are Marylanders, because serving the state matters to us; 58 percent are students of color, because living our core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion matters to us.

Our students are our strength, as are the faculty and staff wholly dedicated to their achievement. And if the last year of crisis has taught us anything, it's that the only thing better than celebrating our success is celebrating it *together*.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland

## Board Actions & Decisions | September 10, 2021



The USM Board of Regents met at University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) on September 10, 2021, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:

**Presentation of the 2021 Regents Staff Awards:** The Board of Regents celebrated the achievements of the seven winners of the 2021 Board of Regents' Staff Awards. These

annual awards honor exemplary staff members in five categories: Contribution to the Institution; Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment; Public Service to the University or the Greater Community; Effectiveness and Efficiency; and Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice. During the meeting, Chair Linda Gooden and USM Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Joann Boughman introduced each of this year's winners, representing five different USM institutions, and presented them with their awards. [Read more.](#)

**Condolences on the Passing of Former Board of Regents Chair James T. Brady.** On behalf of the entire USM, Board of Regents Chair Gooden offered heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of James T. "Jim" Brady, who passed away on September 9, 2021. From 2015 to 2018, Brady was a member of the Board of Regents, serving first as the chair of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and later as Board chair. Following the meeting, Chair Gooden and Chancellor Perman [issued a statement](#) paying tribute to Brady's contributions to the USM and the state of Maryland.

**Presentation by UMGC President Gregory Fowler.** President Fowler welcomed the USM regents, presidents, and guests to UMGC, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2022. He highlighted UMGC's mission of "meeting students where they are," and its tradition of serving working adults, as well as military servicemembers through [contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense](#). President Fowler introduced UMGC alumna Lauren Warner, who received [UMGC's Pillars of Strength Scholarship](#), a full tuition scholarship for caregivers of recovering servicemembers. [View the presentation.](#)

**Approval of Revisions to the Board of Regents' Bylaws.** After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Governance and Compensation, the Board voted to approve two revisions to the Board of Regents' bylaws. The first makes student regents eligible for up to the value of two semesters of in-state tuition at their constituent institution (excluding any tuition differentials) in the second year of their term. The second revision authorizes regents to participate by telephone or video conferencing in a special Board meeting or a regular Board meeting being held during extreme weather, public health, or similar emergency. [Read more.](#)

**Update on the Presidential Search at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** Last month, UMBC President Freeman A. Hrabowski, III announced his [plans to retire](#) at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. During the Board meeting, Chair Gooden and Regent Michelle Gourdine expressed the USM's gratitude for his leadership and many lasting contributions to the university, the City of Baltimore, the state of Maryland, and to higher education throughout the nation. Regent Gourdine also discussed the UMBC presidential search process, stating that the Board will vote in October to approve the roster for the UMBC President Search and Screening Committee, which Gourdine will chair. [Read more.](#)

**Report on The University of Baltimore Task Force by President Kurt Schmoke.** President Schmoke shared an update on the implementation of the work of The University of Baltimore Task Force, which was established by the Regents in 2020 to further define the identity of the university and its unique role within the USM, the city, and the region. In its final report, the Task Force concluded that the university should aspire to be "the premier regional university for career advancement," with a student body that is 60 percent graduate students. The Task Force also recommended that the university refer to itself as "The University of Baltimore" and "UBalt" to distinguish itself from other nearby USM institutions with similar names. [View the presentation.](#)

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

## Welcome and Farewells

### The USM Welcomes New Regents to the Board

Since the Board's last meeting in June, seven new regents have been appointed. Their impressive range of qualifications will provide new perspectives, ideas, and solutions that will guide the ongoing work of the Board. The USM welcomes:

[Hugh J. Breslin, III](#), recently retired after a 41-year TV broadcasting career, most recently in a senior management role for Nexstar Media Group, the largest TV broadcasting company in the United States

[Robert K. Hur](#), has decades of legal experience in government and private practice, and is currently a partner in the D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, specializing in crisis management.

[Douglas J. J. Peters](#), is a former Maryland State Senator from 2007 to 2021 where he served as Majority Leader and Chair of Capital Budget.

[Signe Pringle](#), serves as Deputy Secretary at Maryland Department of Commerce, where she leads a team of economic development professionals focused on attracting companies to Maryland.

[Andy Smarick](#), was previously the chair of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and president of the Maryland State Board of Education.

[Ada Beams](#), is a junior at University of Maryland, College Park, pursuing a dual degree in integrative healthcare and French. She will serve a one-year term as the voting student member of the board.

[Ayotola Oludayo](#), is an undergraduate student at Bowie State University pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. He is beginning a two-year term on the Board.

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## Other News from the System

### USM Enrollment Goals Remain on Track Heading into the Fall Semester.

Drawing on the collective strength of our 12 institutions, the USM managed the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing comprehensive health and safety protocols at each institution and developing creative solutions to continue high-quality education throughout the past academic year. The close collaboration between USM institutions continued as they prepared for a safe return to campus for the Fall 2021 semester—and the rewards of this preparation are beginning to show. Total Fall 2021 enrollment across the USM is expected to be around 169,000—about the same as last fall—based on early estimates by the USM Office of Institutional Research. About 13,000 students systemwide will enroll as first-time, full-time freshmen. Between now and 2030, the USM expects a gradual return to steady enrollment growth, reaching an estimated enrollment of 181,877 in 2030. There is good news across the system. For example, the University of Maryland, College Park, welcomed the [largest first-year class](#) in its history and Towson University enrolled its [most diverse first-year class ever](#). [Read more](#).



**Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation Exceeds 1 Million Enrollments on edX.** Five years ago, the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, led by Dr. MJ Bishop, launched the system's USMx initiative to help USM institutions leverage the efficiencies and advantages of

online learning. Through a partnership with edX, a massive open online course (MOOC) provider, the USMx initiative has offered more than 271 courses from USM institutions to a worldwide student body, resulting in a cumulative 1,059,389 enrollments (as of July 1). These courses have generated over \$2.8 million dollars in revenue for the Kirwan Center and USM institutions. [Read more.](#)

**The USM Maryland Momentum Fund Announces Investments in Veralox Therapeutics and AquaLith Advanced Materials.** The USM Maryland Momentum Fund continues to support USM-affiliated startups and help them attract outside investors. This month, the Fund was among a consortium of investors making a \$750,000 investment in [AquaLith Advanced Materials](#), a company developing environmentally-friendly lithium ion battery materials. AquaLith's technology is based on the work of Professor Chunsheng Wang, of the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory. The Momentum Fund also joined several venture capital organizations in a \$16 million funding round for [Veralox Therapeutics](#), a biotechnology company with connections to the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Veralox develops small molecule therapeutics to treat the underlying causes of diseases and recently submitted an application to initiate a Phase 1 clinical trial of their lead product.

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## News from USM Institutions



**Bowie State University.** The university opened its \$42 million [Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community](#), which will support development of student start-up businesses and growth of an entrepreneurial mindset across the campus.

**Coppin State University.** Through its Student Debt Relief Initiative, funded by the federal government's 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, Coppin State will provide about [\\$1 million in student relief](#).

**Frostburg State University.** This month, the university will launch its [Forging Futures](#) capital campaign, the largest fundraising effort in its history.

**Salisbury University.** During its Pride Month celebrations last June, the university announced the [William Church and John Washburn Endowment for Equity, Justice, and Inclusion](#), a planned endowment providing LGBTQIA+ activities.

**Towson University.** Erin Moran has been named as the [inaugural executive director of the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute](#), which will drive research and programs related to leadership development.

**University of Baltimore.** Three graduates of the University of Baltimore School of Law have been named to [judgeships across the state](#).

**University of Maryland, Baltimore.** The university's [Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) has once again received the highest designation from the National Cancer Institute.

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** UMBC joined the [University Innovation Alliance](#), a national consortium moving the dial on student success.

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.** UMCES graduate students have been named finalists of the 2022 [John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship](#) program sponsored by Sea Grant and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**University of Maryland, College Park.** President Darryll Pines was the subject of an extensive—and complimentary—[profile in The Washington Post](#).

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore.** President [Heidi Anderson testified on Capitol Hill](#), making the case for additional federal funding in support of scholarships and infrastructure at the university and other HBCUs.

**University of Maryland Global Campus. The U.S. Department of Defense** awarded a new [Five-Year Contract](#) to UMGC for continuing to provide educational services to military personnel in the Middle East and North Africa.

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## News from USM Regional Centers

**Universities at Shady Grove.** The Universities at Shady Grove hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the USM, Montgomery County, and Montgomery College, establishing a partnership to expand region's leadership role in [life and regulatory sciences](#) education and innovation.

**University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.** The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown announced its [scholarship recipients](#) for the 2021-2022 academic year.

**University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM).** Next month, the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) will cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the transformative [SMART Building](#).

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### Dates to Remember

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

[www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/](http://www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/)

**OCTOBER 7, 2021**

**Committee on Advancement**

11:00 a.m.

**OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**Committee on Audit**

10:00 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

**Committee on Governance and Compensation**

8:30 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

**Committee on Finance**

10:30 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

**Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**

9:30 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 12, 2021**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

Salisbury University

8:30 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

**Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare**

1:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 2, 2021**

**Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization**

12:30 p.m.



### Useful Resources and Contacts

**Regents Meeting Video Archive:** [View](#)

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