



**Friday, May 1, 2020**  
**Report to the USM Board of Regents**  
**Chancellor Jay A. Perman**  
**(AS DRAFTED)**

Thank you, Chair Gooden. And let me echo the words of thanks you expressed earlier. You, the members of this board, our institutional leaders, and professionals throughout the USM have stepped forward and demonstrated tremendous leadership under the most difficult of circumstances.

I don't have to tell anyone that today's Board of Regents meeting—the first scheduled meeting of the full board since COVID-19 disrupted everyone's lives so thoroughly—is very different than we anticipated when it was planned.

As Chair Gooden mentioned, this morning she and I were *supposed to be* co-hosting an event celebrating the USM Regents Faculty Award winners, but that had to be postponed. Linda and I have contacted the award winners, expressed our appreciation on behalf of the entire USM, and let them know that we do intend to reschedule the celebration.

This meeting itself was *supposed to be* at Bowie State University, giving us the opportunity to acknowledge the success of that institution and the leadership of President Aminta Breaux. And while I certainly will be doing that, the restrictions put in place during this pandemic have prompted us to move this meeting online.

Still, even in these unprecedented circumstances, I think it is important that we maintain—to the extent possible—our usual approach.

After all, **the USM is open**. Faculty are teaching, students are learning, research is being conducted, and employees are working.

Yes, the education is taking place from a distance and online, the research is limited in scope, and the work—for the most part—is being done remotely. But it is all happening. We are open and operating.

Likewise, we are livestreaming this meeting as required under the Transparency & Oversight legislation. And shortly after the meeting, we will be issuing the Regents Newsletter, as we have after the last few regularly scheduled meetings of the full board.

And so, after a brief update on where the USM stands on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, I intend to make remarks that are more in line with a traditional report to the board:

- I will highlight some impressive news items from our institutions, some of which will be related to COVID, some of which will not.
- I will provide a brief review of the shortened legislative session.
- And finally, I will outline recent developments related to the USM's budget.

### Beginning with COVID-19 . . .

As Chair Gooden mentioned, from the earliest stages she has stressed that frequent and open communication is absolutely essential to effectively managing institutional instruction and systemwide operations during this period. There is no question that following through on that priority has helped keep everyone on the same page with regard to policies and protocols.

The Board of Regents has held nine special meetings over the past ten weeks. And I know that system office leadership, campus leadership, faculty, staff, and students, and members of the media and general public have joined us on those calls. Along with these, I have held conference calls with all university presidents and regional center directors several times a week and essentially daily conversations with my senior staff.

While it has been only a matter of weeks, the steps we have taken together have been significant.

Early on we acted to recall USM students studying abroad and advise international students attending our institutions, we worked to discourage large gatherings and employee travel, and we implemented distance-learning for students and telework for employees.

As we continued to address the impacts of the pandemic, we worked with the institutions to develop an unified approach for the refund of costs associated with room and board and certain student fees, we restricted research that was not related to the novel coronavirus, and we made the difficult decision to postpone in-person commencement ceremonies.

More recently, as we continue to adjust and adapt to the “new normal,” most of our universities moved temporarily to pass/fail grading and test-optional admissions, we elevated our focus on the mental health needs of our campus communities and the emergency financial needs of our students, and we made USM assets available for Maryland’s COVID-19 response.

All of this was done collaboratively, working as a system. And all of it was done with the mission of the USM as a **public good** front and center in our decision-making process. Thanks is due to literally every member of the USM “family.”

And earlier this week, I highlighted our two most recent actions.

Working with our university leaders, the **Return to Campus Advisory Group** will focus on determining the conditions we’ll need to meet before students can come back to campus. The group will have university-based leaders from across our institutions and across all aspects of our campus operations—academic affairs, administration & finance, enrollment management, student life, and others—so that we can develop a comprehensive planning template. And of course, throughout the planning process, the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff will be of utmost concern.

The **COVID Research and Innovation Task Force**—composed of leaders from the University of Maryland, College Park, the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and the USM—brings together the people and capital that can advance and scale solutions to the COVID-19 crisis. The group, which held its initial meeting last week, will coordinate ongoing projects, leverage each institution’s expertise and assets, target resources, and engage with business and industry at this critical moment to serve Marylanders and save lives.

Moving now to news from USM institutions . . .

As I mentioned, today’s meeting was scheduled to take place at **Bowie State University (BSU)**. So I will start with BSU and President Aminta Breaux, where there is no shortage of impressive news. At the 2020 HBCU Grow LEAD Conference—held “virtually” just last month—President Breaux was honored with the silver award in the Best Leadership category and BSU’s new marketing campaign took silver in its category as well. In another well-deserved honor, *The Daily Record* named President Breaux to its 2020 list of Maryland’s Top 100 Women. Psalmayene 24, a BSU professor and playwright, won a prestigious residency at the Mosaic Theater in Washington, DC, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. And BSU’s graduate programs in education, nursing, computer science, and public administration all received recognition in the latest edition of *U.S. News & World Report’s* “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” Aminta, this is all wonderful news and a tremendous validation of your outstanding leadership. Congratulations.

Joining President Breaux on *The Daily Record’s* list of Maryland’s Top 100 Women for 2020 is **University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)** President Heidi Anderson. Faculty from UMES and Bowie are also both participating in the Second Chance Pell program, which partners an institution with a correctional agency to provide higher education to those who are incarcerated. UMES also distinguished itself as the only HBCU to qualify as a finalist for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s “Driving Change Initiative,” which seeks to help historically excluded groups excel in the STEM disciplines. And, perhaps most significantly, last month UMES received accreditation confirmation to offer its Physician Assistant program.

Some of the congratulations for that great news at UMES also goes to the **University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)**. The Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy, established at UMB in July 2019, was instrumental in this development. Of course, UMB is also on the front lines of our COVID response. In mid-March, two UMB faculty members—Wilbur Chen and David Marcozzi—were named to Governor Hogan’s Coronavirus Response Team. The School of Medicine developed a large-scale COVID-19 testing initiative using robotic platforms with automated technologies to significantly expand testing capability in Maryland. UMB’s School of Nursing is offering qualifying students an “early-exit option” to forgo the remainder of their academic requirements and start working as nurses to bolster the essential workforce during the coronavirus pandemic. I would also note that in the *U.S. News* graduate school rankings, the School of Nursing was highly ranked in seven programs, including its Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Science in Nursing.

The **University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)** has been front-and-center as the move to distance education has become a truly global phenomenon. As President Javier Miyares pointed out in a widely circulated commentary piece in the *Baltimore Business Journal* last month, what is a new environment to so many in higher education is familiar territory for UMGC. That institution has been a tremendous asset to the USM and beyond as we adjust to these conditions. I am also very pleased to report that UMGC has received a record \$16 million gift—nearly doubling the school’s endowment—and has already begun using the money to help students struggling financially during the coronavirus pandemic.

The **University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)** has been demonstrating tremendous leadership addressing COVID challenges. Faculty experts from the School of Public Health are keeping Americans informed through various media outlets and working with regional leaders in their responses. Researchers from the School of Engineering have produced hand sanitizer, developed hands-free, 3D-printed door latches, and are exploring the possibility of sterilizing N95 respirators and other personal protective equipment for reuse. In other news, UMCP's Maryland Energy Innovation Institute will lead the U.S. side of a five-year, \$18.4 million U.S.-Israel Energy Center award from the Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation. The award will support development of lithium and sodium metal solid-state batteries for advanced energy storage. And in the *U.S. News* graduate school rankings, UMCP has more than three dozen schools, colleges, and programs featured in the rankings, including programs from engineering, business, education, and public policy.

At the **University of Baltimore (UB)**, five School of Law alumni were included among those honored in *The Daily Record's* 2020 'Leadership in Law' Awards. In addition, Sharon Glazer, professor and chair of the Division of Applied Behavioral Sciences, has been named a Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology. UB also announced that the Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will fund need-based scholarships—totaling up to \$5 million over five years—for hundreds of full-time UB students who transfer primarily from community colleges, including current or former members of the military. And in the *U.S. News* graduate school rankings, the UB School of Law was among the best law schools and ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in Part-time Law.

At **Coppin State University (CSU)** last month, incoming President Anthony Jenkins made his first public address to campus. In an online virtual town hall, Dr. Jenkins spoke about his vision for the university, including strategic enrollment growth, improved student retention and graduation, enhanced experiential learning, increased research activity, investments in faculty and staff professional development, and greater community service. And while I know this is not the introduction to Coppin that Dr. Jenkins had planned, I want to once again underscore the USM's commitment to his vision for CSU. I also want to again thank Mickey Burnim for his leadership as interim president of Coppin, especially during these challenging times.

At **Towson University (TU)**, Marella Schammel, a chemistry major who has already won national recognition for her undergraduate research, received a 2020 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship to support her as she works toward a Ph.D. Just over a week ago—April 22—Towson held its "Big Give." Now in its second year, this effort exceeded its goal and will be providing emergency support for students, staff, and faculty. In the *U.S. News* graduate school rankings, Towson's Education School was ranked among the best, with programs in fine arts, health, and science also receiving recognition. And, as professors from the health professions and health sciences adjust to online classes, faculty have worked to donate hospital beds and other pieces of equipment to the Greater Baltimore Medical Center and St. Joseph's Medical Center.

**Salisbury University (SU)** has also been active serving its community in response to the COVID pandemic. The dining hall donated surplus and perishable food to a local shelter once distance learning was enacted, SU provided area hospitals with personal protective equipment from science and health labs, and late last week an MOU was signed allowing Salisbury to house patients and employees from Peninsula Regional Medical Center, which is seeing an influx of COVID-19 cases. More than 100 individuals will be housed in a Salisbury University residence hall, where they can be safely quarantined. Also at SU, the Bosserman Center for Conflict Resolution is now the newest

Regional Centre of Expertise recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). And, two Salisbury students, Anna Brennan and Jessica Pierce, became the first SU students recognized with the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the preeminent undergraduate academic award in the fields of natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics.

The **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)** has been active in community outreach efforts as well. The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in southern Maryland donated 400 N95 masks, 40 boxes of gloves, and several reusable face masks to Calvert Memorial Hospital. Researchers at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Science in Baltimore donated more than 200 boxes of gloves, N95 masks, and single-use gowns to the University of Maryland Medical Center. And the Horn Point Laboratory is supporting Dorchester County Emergency Services on the Eastern Shore with bleach, gloves, hand sanitizer, and more.

Alumni from the **University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)** are leading national research on COVID-19. Kizzmekia Corbett led the National Institutes of Health (NIH) team that used the genetic sequence of the virus to develop a potential vaccine. Darian Cash and his team at biotech company Moderna will administer clinical trials. Kaitlyn Sadtler is leading an NIH study to detect how widespread COVID-19 really is in the U.S. population. And, of course, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams is a UMBC alum as well. In addition, new UMBC research has revealed a promising drug target for treating HIV infection, opening a path to new, better therapies. Also at UMBC, three student researchers received Goldwater Scholarships: Jordan Troutman, Dominique Brooks, and Olumide Fagboyegun. And the *U.S. News* graduate program rankings highlight UMBC as having some of the best engineering programs, including environmental, computer, chemical, electrical, and mechanical engineering.

At **Frostburg State University (FSU)**, President Ron Nowaczyk held a Virtual Town Hall last month to keep his campus community up to date. In addition, to help students with their studies, the Ort Library—while physically closed—is still proving assistance for both general and research questions via email. And Jessica Thayer, a junior at FSU, was named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, an honor acknowledging motivation and potential in public leadership. Joining Jessica as a Newman Civic Fellow were Ashlyn Woods from UB and Nihira Mugamba from UMBC.

As I mentioned, Presidents Breaux and Anderson were both among *The Daily Record's* Maryland's Top 100 Women honorees for 2020. Other USM honorees include:

- Susan dosReis from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy at UMB;
- Janine Good, from the University of Maryland School of Medicine at UMB;
- Sarah Guy, Associate Director of BEACON at Salisbury;
- Diane Richardson from Towson;
- And Tenyo Pearl from Coppin, who, as a three-time honoree, joins the Circle of Excellence.

Earlier this week, USM's Maryland Momentum Fund—a \$10 million investment fund to support early-stage companies and commercialization of USM-based research—announced a \$250,000 investment in Datakwip, a rapidly growing green-tech building analytics company. The company's co-founder and Director of Engineering, Brett Boyer, is a graduate of UMCP. To date, the Momentum Fund has made investments in 13 start-ups totaling \$4 million, matched almost four-to-one with \$15.5 million from co-investors.

One last highlight I'd like to mention recognizes the University System of Maryland Foundation (USMF). The COVID-19 pandemic created an urgent need for emergency funds for students and at many campuses and existing student emergency funds were depleted in a matter of days in mid-March. Recognizing this urgency, the USM Foundation contributed \$10,000 to each campus and regional center for a total donation of \$150,000. It also asked its board to contribute individually and prominently featured each institution's emergency fund giving link on its website and through social media. I want to thank Leonard Raley, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and President and CEO of the USMF.

I turn now to the recently completed legislative session . . .

Obviously, many of the actions that took place in Annapolis—especially in term of budgetary decisions—are facing significant revisions and reductions. This, of course, includes funding for the USM. I will have more to say on that in just a moment. But I think it is important to note a couple of points that are pertinent regardless of any revisions.

First, when the size and scope of the pandemic began to make itself clear, the legislature—working in tandem with Governor Hogan—acted swiftly and decisively to make significant funding available **immediately** to address the outbreak of coronavirus. That vision and leadership was important and clearly beneficial to the state. Leadership in Annapolis deserve our thanks.

Second, while the level of state funding supporting the USM will almost certainly be reduced, thanks to several years of the working closely with legislative leaders, aligning USM priorities with those of the state, and the hard work of so many professionals—both at the campus level and in the system office—the USM will be addressing any funding reductions from a position of strength. We are seen as an investment more than an expense, and that will serve us well going forward.

And so, for this most recent legislative session and the cumulative impact of the past several sessions, I thank Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Patrick Hogan, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Andy Clark, and their campus-based government relations colleagues throughout the USM. I also thank the presidents, vice presidents, and other leaders who have worked in support of both their individual institutions and the system as a whole. And I want to thank Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Joann Boughman and her team, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ellen Herbst and her staff, and the entire USM office. I am proud of all of you and proud of the work we have done together.

Lastly, looking at our financial position going forward . . .

We have several variables to estimate and manage as we go forward. The uncertainties we face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic impact our students, faculty, and staff and will inevitably have negative impacts on our financial position.

We need to prepare for the tough decisions ahead of us – we will need to make hard choices regarding our funding sources and the use of our funds. Believe me: Tough decisions are coming. As we continue to gather information, project various scenarios, and continue the planning process, I will keep everyone fully informed.

But I also know that keeping our staff and faculty employed—and keeping them as “whole” as possible—isn’t just good for us as a System; it’s good for rebuilding an economy that’s going to need all of us contributing to it. The USM is central to Maryland’s economic rebuilding and resilience. And that is a point I have made clear throughout this process and will continue to make. The USM can help Maryland through this COVID crisis, not just in addressing our public health emergency but in restoring an economy that will need our power more than ever before.

Madame Chair . . . this concludes my report. I am happy to respond to any questions.

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