

**Friday, April 20, 2018**

**Report to the USM Board of Regents**

**Chancellor Robert L. Caret**

**(AS DRAFTED)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the faculty awards earlier and the legislative update I will deliver shortly, I will keep my report fairly brief. There were, however, some important achievements across the USM that I would like to highlight.

I begin with our “host” institution, the **University of Maryland University College (UMUC)** and President Javier Miyares. There have been a number of exciting developments here at UMUC since we last met.

* President Miyares—and University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) President Wallace Loh—were both honored as "Outstanding Educator of the Year" by the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
* Dr. Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of cybersecurity and information assurance in the Graduate School at UMUC, won the “People’s Choice Award” from the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland.
* UMUC continues to expand its partnerships and its impact:
  + A new agreement with the National Security Agency’s National Cryptologic School will create additional pathways for NSA employees, including active-duty military personnel, to increase their skills and gain academic credit toward degrees in cybersecurity and foreign languages from UMUC.
  + A new partnership with American Water—the largest and most geographically diverse U.S. publicly traded water utility company—will offer members, their spouses, and dependents more affordable options to complete degrees or pursue higher education at UMUC.
  + And just up the road at the new Odenton Town Center, UMUC has signed a lease, establishing a permanent, quality, adult education facility serving Fort Meade and other Anne Arundel County communities.
* And earlier this week, “Over There,” an impressive documentary about the history of UMUC’s overseas traveling faculty aired on Maryland Public Television.

Javier, I want to commend and congratulate you and the entire UMUC “family” on these achievements.

Elsewhere across the USM . . .

Dr. Charles Wight has been named president of **Salisbury University (SU)**, beginning July 1st of this year. Dr. Wight will succeed Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach, who is stepping down after 18 years. Since 2013, Wight has been president of Weber State University in Utah, a public regional campus with 28,000 students. His priorities there have been college affordability, diversity and inclusion, campus sustainability, student success, and positive community relationships. Clearly, he is an ideal fit to build upon the foundation of success established by President Dudley-Eshbach. In fact, evidence of her impressive impact was recently published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, which spotlighted SU as one of the nation’s top producers of Fulbright students. I thank Regent D’Ana Johnson, chair of the search committee, and the other members of that committee.

Earlier this month, Chairman Jim Brady and I had the honor of attending the inaugural of Dr. Aminta Breaux as the 10th president of **Bowie State University (BSU**). While she has been in office for less than a year, Aminta has proven herself to be an inspiring, determined leader with an expansive vision for Bowie State. Her vision for expanding access to high-quality higher education opportunities was on display recently as BSU signed an agreement that will allow students pursuing associate degrees at Prince George's Community College and Howard Community College to take courses in BSU's accredited program at the Laurel College Center, which can lead to a bachelor's degree in business administration. BSU will be the only university offering a four-year degree program in business administration at the Laurel College Center.

In another piece of presidential good news, **Coppin State University (CSU)** President Maria Thompson was a featured speaker at the 2nd Annual HBCU “Day of Action” earlier this week. At the national HBCU Advocacy Day press conference, President Thompson spoke to advocates from around the country about the importance of HBCUs. And while I will be providing a full legislative recap shortly, I wanted to note that CSU alum and founder of Digit All Systems, Lance Lucas, successfully championed the Cyber Warrior bill. The legislation will establish—and support—the Cyber Warrior Diversity Program at Baltimore City Community College, Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to train students in computer networking and cybersecurity.

Continuing with presidential honors, **University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)** President Freeman Hrabowski was awarded a lifetime achievement award from the American Council on Education, recognizing his accomplishments as a campus leader at UMBC. As Council President Ted Mitchell noted, Freeman has made “an indelible mark on his institution and the entire higher education community." And, of course, I can’t mention UMBC without acknowledging the Retrievers’ amazing 74-54 victory over the University of Virginia; the first time a 16 seed has defeated a 1 seed in the NCAA men’s basketball championship tournament. And, as Freeman has noted, the worldwide visibility generated by UMBC’s *athletic* excellence helps shines the light on that institution’s *inclusive* excellence.

Just last week, **University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)** president Jay Perman received the “Commitment to Community Award” at the Paul’s Place’s 35th Anniversary Gala. Paul’s Place, a catalyst for positive change impacting Southwest Baltimore communities, issues this award once every five years. UMB’s commitment to serving the broader community is further underscored by its comprehensive approach to addressing Maryland’s opioid epidemic. At a panel held earlier this week featuring top experts in medicine, pharmacy, and social work, UMB leaders shared some of the ways they are working to overcome pain and addiction. These include the development of new, innovative drugs that are specifically designed to provide pain relief with lower dosages and without creating physical dependency, as well as the Center for Addiction Research, Education, and Service’s work to address the impact of addiction on individuals, families, and communities.

In one last piece of decidedly more subdued presidential news, **University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)** President Juliette Bell has announced that she will step down as president in June. There can be no doubt that she has established a proud legacy in many ways. During her presidency, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education reclassified UMES as a Doctoral Research University; UMES was given its highest ranking among the Top 20 HBCUs by *U.S. News & World Report*; and UMES established a doctor of pharmacy program that has produced almost 200 graduates and is one of the top ten producers of African-American pharmacists. Furthermore, the university's four-year graduation rate is the highest it has been in 14 years. I thank Dr. Bell for her dedication to UMES over the past six years and wish her the best in her future endeavors. As you know, a search, led by Regent Michelle Gourdine, is underway.

Late last month, the **University of Baltimore (UB)** unveiled a new logo as part of a new branding campaign, designed to both celebrate the university's home in central Baltimore and underscore UB as a center for hard-working, determined, and academically focused students. The UB team worked on this initiative over the past year, getting input from a wide array of internal and external audiences. I also want to note that The Marshall Project, a nonprofit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system, prominently featured the impressive and important work being done through UB’s Second Chance Pell Pilot Program, which works with individuals in prison as they prepare to re-enter society.

The **University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)** was also recognized by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the nation’s top producers of Fulbright students. UMCP has also been named a top Peace Corps volunteer-producing university for the seventh consecutive year. With 49 alumni currently volunteering worldwide, UMCP ranks 16th among large universities. Finally, UMCP hit a record number of donors on last month’s Annual Giving Day, raising more than $1.25 million from more than 7,750 total gifts.

Chairman Brady and I were pleased to take part in a ground-breaking ceremony earlier this week as **Towson University (TU)** celebrated the beginning of construction on its new Science Complex, which is expected to be completed by the fall of 2020. The 320,000-square-foot complex will house the Jess and Mildred Fisher College of Science and Mathematics and more than 50 classrooms, 50 teaching laboratories, 30 research laboratories, and much more. Also at TU, the Towson University Dance Team won its **18th** national championship earlier this month. The team claimed the 2018 National Dance Alliance Collegiate National Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida. Finally, I know President Kim Schatzel was very proud this morning as Towson was honored with five Board of Regents Faculty Awards.

Earlier this month, **Frostburg State University (FSU)** hosted more than 1,300 middle school students on campus to witness a live downlink from the International Space Station from FSU alumnus and NASA astronaut Ricky Arnold, who is living, working and doing research aboard the International Space Station. They were joined by about 400 College of Education students, at special invitation from Ricky, who was a classroom teacher before he became an astronaut. The goals were to excite pre-service teachers about their chosen profession and spark an interest in science and space among Maryland’s rural middle school students. Astronaut Ricky Arnold isn’t the only piece of FSU that is rendezvousing with the International Space Station this year. A mission patch designed by FSU art and design major Donovan Carter will be on its way to space in June. Carter won the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Mission Design Competition with his Maryland-inspired patch.

In news from our two—soon to be three, more on that in a moment—higher education centers, **The Universities at Shady Grove (USG)** has announced that it will be adding four new degree programs for the upcoming 2018 – 2019 academic year. UMCP will bring its B.S. in Information Science and UMBC will bring three new programs: B.S. in Translational Life Sciences Technology; M.P.S. in Technical Management; and M.P.S. in Data Science. These programs have been specifically selected and designed to meet the needs of the region’s workforce. At **USM Hagerstown (USMH),** the multi-milliondollar downtown urban improvement project—which involves expansion for USMH—continues to progress, with the city of Hagerstown set to receive $1.1 million in grants and state bond bill funding.

Finally, before I move to the legislative session review, there are a few systemwide honors I would like to highlight:

The USM was once again well represented in *The Daily Record’s* Maryland's Top 100 Women honorees for 2018:

* Maureen Black from the School of Medicine at UMB;
* Cassandra Jones Havard from the UB School of Law;
* Kathleen Maletic Neuzil also from the School of Medicine at UMB;
* Tenyo Pearl from Coppin;
* And Michele Wolff, from UMBC.

Six USM students were named Newman Civic Fellows by the Campus Compact, which acknowledges motivation and potential in public leadership:

* Monica Davis from CSU;
* Benjamin Forrest from FSU;
* Sophie Bertrand from TU;
* Mikita Thompson from UB;
* Taryn Jones from UMES;
* And Stephanie Milani from UMBC.

And graduate programs from across the USM received high marks in 2019 *U.S. News and World Report* Graduate School Rankings that came out last month:

* UMCP has more than three dozen schools, colleges, and programs featured in the rankings, with two #1 ranked graduate programs:
  + The Criminology program in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
  + The Counseling/Personnel Services program in the College of Education
* UMB’s professional schools boast some two-dozen acknowledgements, with 13 Top 10 rankings overall.
* The rankings recognize a dozen UMBC graduate programs across all three UMBC colleges.
* Towson is recognized with five ranked programs, UMES with three, UB with three, and Salisbury with two.

Turning now to the just-completed legislative session . . .

**OPERATING BUDGET**

The Governor proposed and the General Assembly approved state support for the USM totaling $1.39 billion, coming from the General Fund and the Higher Education Investment Fund.

* This is an increase of $39 million—or approximately 3 percent—over the FY 2018 revised budget.

First and foremost, the operating budget will allow the USM to limit our tuition increase for in-state undergraduate students to a modest 2 percent. In addition, the $39 million increase in state funds will enable USM to:

* Fund new facilities operating costs, especially new STEM facilities that support academic and research capacity across the system.
* Implement year 2 of SB 1052, the strategic partnership between UMB and UMCP designed to generate collaborative academic and research programs, spur technology commercialization, and support economic growth.
* Fund the USM’s Workforce Development Initiative, which is committed to addressing critical workforce shortages by generating hundreds of new STEM and healthcare degrees.
* And provide a cost of living salary adjustment (COLA) for faculty and staff.

**CAPITAL BUDGET**

Turning now to the FY 2019 capital budget, the General Assembly allocated funds for capital construction projects across the USM. Critical projects that have been funded or advanced include:

* At UMCP:
  + $22 million for the new Cole Field House
  + $3.9 million for the Iribe Center for Computer Science and Innovation
  + $3.6 million for A. James Clark Hall New Bioengineering Building
* At UMBC:
  + $62.8 million for the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building
* At Towson:
  + $60.7 million for the new Science Facility
* At UMB:
  + $2.5 million for the Maryland Institute for Advanced Molecular Analysis
* At Frostburg:
  + $2 million for the Education and Health Sciences Center
* At Bowie:
  + Pre-Authorization of the Communication Arts and Humanities Building
* And through the USM Office:
  + $17 million for facilities renewal systemwide
  + And $23.1 million for USG’s Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Building

**LEGISLATION**

Finally, in terms of legislation, there were more than 160 individual bills considered that would have had varying impacts on the system, faculty, staff, and students. For the most part, legislation the USM supported passed and legislation the USM opposed did not. There were also several bills on which the USM offered amendments.

There is one particular piece of legislation I want to highlight: The Southern Maryland – University System of Maryland Partnership Act of 2018. This legislation creates a partnership to support new educational opportunities for students and the workforce in Southern Maryland, with an emphasis on STEM-related research and development, particularly in the growing field of unmanned autonomous systems. It formalizes the working partnership that the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC) and the USM have developed since 2013. Ultimately, the partnership will help create an expanded regional higher education center that responds more fully to the needs of the Southern Maryland region, incorporating the strengths of the current institutional partners operating at SMHEC with the value of USM leadership, including the best operating practices in effect at the USM’s two existing regional centers.

The bottom line is that this budget and legislative action again demonstrate Maryland’s commitment to higher education. It is this commitment that sets us apart from—and above—our competitors in the knowledge economy. As Maryland continues to position itself as the best choice for the location of Amazon’s new HQ2 facility, this investment will help make the case.

I thank Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Patrick Hogan, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Andy Clark, and their colleagues throughout the USM, including many in the system office, presidents, and the campus-based government relations members. I also want to thank Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ellen Herbst and her staff, particularly Monica West and Mark Beck, for their work in support of the USM’s operating and capital budgets. Thanks as well to Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Joann Boughman and her team, for the incredible effort they put forth on the legislative front.

This was yet another challenging legislative session. But thanks to the leadership and hard work of so many professionals, the USM once again emerged as a genuine funding priority, with strong support from the Governor’s office and both the House and the Senate.

Finally, I must close with a very somber note. Last month, when we lost Cliff Kendall, we lost a true friend to higher education and the USM. Cliff’s impact on higher education in Maryland is unsurpassed. His dedicated service to both the USM Board of Regents and the USM Foundation underscore his level of commitment. In addition, his incredible generosity to his alma mater, the University of Maryland, College Park, and to The Universities at Shady Grove’s Clifford M. and Camille E. Kendall Scholarship, has transformed the lives of countless students. On a personal note—beyond his achievements as a business and civic leader or his support for higher education—Cliff was a truly good and gracious man. He will always be remembered and always be missed.

Mr. Chairman . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the regents may have.

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