



February 6 & 7, 2020
Salisbury University
University System of Maryland FY 2021 Budget Testimony
System Office Response

Page 16 - USMO should comment on whether SU's State fund appropriation is appropriate given its size and mission when compared to other USM institutions.

USMO Response:

First and foremost, it is important to note the University System of Maryland fully supports the Governor's Allowance and acknowledges the historical state support from the Legislature. Salisbury University (SU) has been recognized for its high-quality academic programs and continued student success in both graduation and retention rates. The campus is a model for efficiency and effectiveness that the USM is proud of.

The majority of the state funding increases are required to fund mandated expenditures such as salary and fringe benefits, new facilities operating costs and required legislative initiatives (for example the Maryland Strategic Partnership SB1052/897). In FY 2021, these increases accounted for 88% of the total state funding increment received. The remaining 12% of state funding relates to the Workforce Development Initiative (WDI). The USM has directed WDI funding to SU at a greater ratio than that of other campuses.

When all FY 2021 state funding increases are considered (mandated and WDI increases) Salisbury's state funding grows at a rate of 7.8%, well above the USM average increase of 5.5%.

The USM is required to allocate state funding to institutions that have distinct missions, student demographics and academic programs. Salisbury University is a high-quality institution worthy of the state's investment. That said, the USM recognizes the state funding limitations and competing priorities of the Legislature.

It should be noted that the DLS recommended reductions, if accepted, will exacerbate funding issues and **we urge the committee to reject the USM recommended reductions to preserve funding levels for Salisbury as well as our other institutions.**