



***CUSF/CUSS/USMSC Joint Councils Meeting***  
**University of Maryland, Baltimore County**  
**University Center Ballroom**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

**8:30 AM to 1:30 PM**

**In Person & Webinar**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Presiding:** Heather Haverback (CUSF), Kalia Patricio (CUSS), and Vainavi Gambhir (USMSC)

Attendance not taken, non-voting meeting. Meeting available in person and via webinar.

**8:30-9:00 AM: Breakfast**

**9:00-9:05 AM: Welcome Dr. Kalia R. Patricio (Chair - CUSS)**

**9:05-9:20 AM: Dr. Valerie Sheares Ashby (President – UMBC)**

President Sheares shared her professional and personal background as well as her journey that led her to select UMBC. She shared how UMBC's vision statement, which states we "are redefining excellence in higher education through inclusive culture" led her to UMBC and continues to inspire and shape her presidency.

**9:21-10:15 AM: State of the USM & Shared Governance Dr. Jay Perman (Chancellor - USM)**

Chancellor Perman shared that he is thankful for all the hard work and dedication from faculty and staff across the USM campuses.

*USM Climate Culture* – our students, faculty and staff have family members that are in harms way in Gaza, Israel, and surrounding countries. Dr. Perman encourages civility and respectfulness.

*Leadership transitions:* 1) Patrick Hogan is leaving USM to join Cornerstone Government Affairs. Susan Lawrence, currently Director of Government Affairs at UMB, will replace Patrick Hogan. She will start at USM on December 4<sup>th</sup>; and 2) Tim McDonough, Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications, is also departing USM. Nan McQueen, will become interim Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications.

*Student-Centeredness.* Dr. Perman seeks to facilitate student success. Students want to belong. USM has programs in place to enhance student-centeredness. We need to give students flexibility on campus, foster innovation at USM, and access credentialed pathways for work, and give credit for prior learning. Dual enrolled students (high school & college) need a seamless transition, need to smooth transfer process from community colleges to 4-year campuses. USM campuses also need to share best practices in mental health services, provide opportunities to share courses and experiences across campuses (inter-institutional registration).

### **9:50 Questions on Student Centeredness.**

Regent Bill Wood shared that with USM's 12 universities and three research campuses there is opportunity here for everyone. Student Board of Regent Parker stated we need academic programs that are more personable and tailored to student interests, more degree programs, and more mentorships.

Audience comment – dual enrolled students (high school to college) need to be treated differently than transfer students. Chancellor Perman believes that the wall between K-12 and college needs to be blurred to strengthen coordination. We don't want students to end at high school, students need more opportunities. He would like to better define USM's role, responsibilities, and partnership with K-12.

Megna – she reported that USM international students struggle with affordable housing and housing restrictions (# of people and family members who can reside in house). International students can't afford to live in Maryland. Chancellor Perman advised that international students enrich our campuses and their needs are important. In support, Zakiya Lee advised that USM has been participating in numerous meetings with various stakeholders regarding international student needs including housing, and these dialogues will continue in the future. A second audience member shared that some states have purchased apartment complexes and subsidized them to make housing affordable for students.

### **10:20-11:15 AM: USM Board of Regents Updates & Panel. Vice Chair Regent Geoff Gonella, Regents Bill Wood, Louis Pope, Farah Hela (Student, UMBC), and Parker.**

Regent Geoff Gonella provided a brief introduction. USM is a major asset to the state of Maryland, a ladder of opportunity for our citizens. He provided an overview of the Board of Regents (BOR), its role (academic scope) including the approval of the chancellor and USM presidents. The BOR has seven standing committees. Each USM campus has a BOR liaison. The BOR's values and decisions are based on shared governance and transparency. USM's Vision 2030 is built on 5 pillars. Each of the BOR members then provided a self-introduction.

The BOR serves as a catalyst. BOR Parker shared that we need better marketing and use of social media. The BOR promotes student centeredness and seeks to move USM from excellence to preeminence. Campus safety is paramount. Goal is to have a diverse, inclusive, and safe environment.

Mirasol Janowski, CUSF representative, asked how the BOR can promote research and reduce road blocks. BOR Farah Hela advised that resources have increased for students and faculty for

research, and **USM recently hired a staff person who addresses research (Zakiya, did I capture this accurately?)**. It's also 1 of 5 pillars of the BOR Strategic Plan. BOR Bill Wood reported that 20% of the USM budget is from research grants.

Amy Froide (UMBC, CUSF) asked about Universities of Shady Grove. We need more resources for students at USG (library, food services, mental health, etc.). BOR stated that USG has been a huge success, but was challenged by Covid like other institutions. BOR suggested faculty go directly to the USG executive director.

Jay Zimmerman (TU, CUSF), advised that graduate students across the country are unionizing due to concerns (pay, treatment, etc.). The BOR advised they can bring the issue up at the next BOR meeting during the 15-minute public comments, and groups have brought up this issue at BOR. The BOR also has a public email account to receive issues or concerns.

#### **11:15-11:30 AM: BREAK**

#### **11:30 -12:00 Legislative Session Strategy Mr. Andy Clark (Assistant Vice Chancellor – USM Government Relations)**

Mr. Clark reported that Patrick Hogan is leaving USM and that Susan Lawrence, his replacement, will start in December 4<sup>th</sup>. Andy stated that USM has one of the best public systems of higher education systems in the country. Andy provided an overview of legislative process. Each campus has a government relations staff person. He predicts that the following will be issues for the upcoming legislative session: campus safety, food insecurity, religious accommodation, free speech, collective bargaining, higher education access and affordability. When the legislative session starts Andy will provide updates on Mondays at 9:00 am.

#### **12:00-1:00 PM: LUNCH**

#### **1:00-1:30 PM:**

#### **1:00-1:05 Heather Haverback, CUSF President**

**Heather can you please type a couple of sentences here.**

#### **1:06- 1:15 Kalia Patricio, CUSS, President**

Kalia shared that USM staff are doing more than ever since the pandemic with mental health continuing to be an issue. 3 issues: 1) access to ombudsman (neutral party). In 2018, Chancellor Perman requested that each USM campus have access to an ombuds staff person. CUSS wants to ensure this suggestion gets implemented and is seeking funding; 2) payment of duplicative fees for staff and faculty be waived (library fees, gym fees, etc.); 3) leave donation program, wage compression, mental health services, and telework. They will be planning on advocacy day. Kalia and Heather may coordinate an awareness survey on shared governance.

#### **1:16 – 1:21 Vainavi Gambhir. USMSC President**

USMSC is working on three issues this year: 1) revise the annual student regent process; 2) creating a USM Student Speaker Forum – opportunity for students to share issues could be presentation, dance, art, etc.; and 3) in May 2024 they are planning a ceremony to honor students who received excellence awards to be hosted by the Chancellor Perman. Broadly speaking, there general meetings have focused on campus safety, international students, food insecurity, and affordable housing. They are working on a resolution regarding international graduate student for affordable housing.

**1:22 Meeting Adjourned.**