



**Board of Regents  
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**

**Minutes  
Public Session**

The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (EPSL) of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents (BOR) met virtually (via Zoom) in public session on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. The meeting was convened at 9:35 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Helal (*non-voting*), Leggett, Peters, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom:

Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Amoussou, Dr. Andersen, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Brewer, Dr. Clark, Dr. Clemmons, Ms. Esters, Dr. Foust, Dr. Goodman, Dr. Henry, Dr. Hurte, Ms. Jenkins, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Joshi, Dr. Kelley, Dr. Lee, Dr. Leisey, Mr. McDonough, Ms. Marano, Dr. Moore, Dr. Olmstead, Dr. Patricio, Dr. Perreault, Dr. Richardson Wilks, Dr. Rous, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Smith, Dr. Spencer, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Ward, Dr. Weill, Ms. Wilkerson, and Dr. Young.

Guests also participated via the public, listen-only line.

Chair Gourdine extended a special welcome to Regent Farah Helal, non-voting student regent, from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Regent Helal thanked Regent Gourdine for the welcome and further introduced herself.

Prior to beginning the action items, Chair Gourdine asked Dr. Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, to explain the steps of the academic program proposal process from campus submission through final MHEC approval. Dr. Boughman briefly described the development of academic program proposals at the campus level; reviews by the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs, institutions within the state, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission; presentation to and decisions by the Board of Regents; and the possibility of objections to the creation of a new degree program. Dr. Boughman noted that prior to a proposal coming before the Committee, the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs team does a thorough review to decrease the possibility of concerns about program duplication and objections from non-USM universities. When issues do arise, the USM staff engages the Chancellor and the Chair of the Committee and, ultimately, shares updates with the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life.

This description and subsequent discussion laid the foundation for and gave context to this critical part of EPSL's work.

## Action Items

### **New Academic Program Proposal**

#### **Salisbury University: Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Dual Certification in Early Childhood Education (PreK-6)**

Dr. Karen Olmstead, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs; Dr. Laurie Henry, Dean, Seidel School of Education; and Dr. Shanetia Clark, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Early and Elementary Education, presented the proposal for Salisbury University to establish a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Elementary Education with Dual Certification in Early Childhood Education (PreK-6). This program will provide graduates with teacher licensure from pre-kindergarten (age 3) through grade 6 offering additional flexibility for job placement and broader workforce options.

The proposed Dual Certification program provides students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to immerse themselves in a more broadly defined Early Childhood and Elementary experience, drawing from a wider range of perspectives, including Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum, and developmentally appropriate pedagogical practices, with foundations in language development, communication, play and creative expression, physical health and motor development, instructional practices, academic interventions, and assessment of learning. The proposed Dual Certification program combines existing courses in the current Elementary and Early Childhood programs into the new major. Across the courses with varied content emphasizing Early Childhood and Elementary Education enhanced by clinical practice in partner schools, the teacher candidates and graduates will obtain and continue to engage with learning outcomes guided by Specialized Professional Associations. The proposed Dual Certification program follows a student-centered learning approach that is the hallmark of SU's approach to postsecondary education (SU Mission and Values, 2019).

With the MSDE-identified teacher shortage, *Blueprint for the Future of Maryland's Schools* legislation's focus on early childhood education, and the 2017-2021 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education, the critical and compelling workforce demand is clear. Regent Leggett reiterated the significant need for more teachers, as the *Blueprint* seeks to transform education. Regent Helal asked if the program's history offerings were too narrow. Dr. Clark shared course options and opportunities for increased exposure students will have. This proposal has gone through the standard review and approval processes with USM institutions having time to submit objections. Via the USM process, there were no objections. It is noted that, via the process conducted by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, other institutions in the state will have the opportunity to object to the establishment of this program. However, the USM staff believes the institution has done its due diligence regarding a state-wide examination of programs to try to ensure there is no duplication.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Salisbury University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Dual Certification in Early Childhood Education (PreK-6). The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Peters, and passed unanimously.

**Vote Count: Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0**

Regent Smarick asked Dr. Boughman to remind the regents of next steps after the committee approves an academic program proposal. Dr. Boughman shared that while the proposal makes its

way through the USM BOR process (EPSL then the full Board in November), it is also going through a process at the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). MHEC circulates the proposal to all higher education institutions in the state. There *could* still be challenges from non-USM institutions of higher education. Challenges and objections go to MHEC, and they will engage the institutions in negotiations. If an agreement is not reached, there would be a formal hearing after which the Secretary of Higher Education would make a recommendation to the Commission, which makes the final decision about whether the program can be established or not.

### **Proposed Amendments to Committee Bylaws and Committee Charge**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report. The Committee on Governance and Compensation asks for an annual review of the Committee's section of the bylaws and the Committee's Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities. This is the regents' opportunity to review these documents and to consider affirming them or making suggestions for amendments. Dr. Lee noted that these documents were reviewed twice in FY 2022 - in September 2021 and January 2022. In January, the committee approved amendments to reflect the establishment of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare, which took intercollegiate athletics functions out of Ed Policy's major responsibilities.

In summary, both the EPSL section of the bylaws and the Charge, Role, and Responsibilities document note that this committee shall perform all necessary business and provide guidance to the Board of Regents on academic affairs and student affairs functions at USM's institutions. In general, work pertains to the overall intellectual, social, and emotional climate of the university, and includes, but is not limited to, academic program development; student services; faculty matters and policies; admissions, recruitment, retention, transfer, and articulation; campus safety and security; student health and wellness; student organizations; many aspects of diversity and inclusion; P-20/pipeline issues; and more. Although the Board now has a standing committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare and an Enrollment Workgroup, EPSL can expect to or request to receive reports on those issues as they pertain to EPSL's focus on health and wellness, academics, and enrollment.

When Chair Gourdine, Dr. Boughman, and the Academic and Student Affairs team reviewed these documents in July 2022, they determined that amendments are not needed.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents reaffirm (1) the EPSL section of the Board of Regent Bylaws and (2) the EPSL Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities guidance. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Peters, and passed unanimously.

***Vote Count: Yeas: 6 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0***

Regent Gooden asked how the USM monitors the functions listed on the guiding documents. Dr. Lee and Senior Vice Chancellor Boughman noted that several items are tied to regular reports that come to the USM or through the USM to the General Assembly or Maryland Higher Education Commission. In other instances, USM staff monitors issues via regular convenings with university leadership including, but not limited to, provosts, vice presidents for student affairs, enrollment management executives, counseling center directors, and health center directors. Regent Gooden requested more details on what issues are connected to reports. She noted that some issues are more sensitive than others and may need more constant and documentable reporting and

accountability structures. Chancellor Perman agreed and shared his hope that the USM team will be thoughtful about what topics can be monitored less frequently if, in fact, issues that need more attention will require new reports. Senior Vice Chancellor Boughman will share a recently compiled list of reports with Regents Gourdine and Gooden to inform further discussion.

Finally, Dr. Boughman and Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Education and Outreach, shared updates key issues that will be at the forefront of the work the Office of Academic and Student Affairs addresses this year:

- Transfer – Transfer with Success Act; revamping of the transfer articulation system (ARTSYS)
- Enrollment
- Workforce development – health services; teacher education
- *Blueprint for the Future of Maryland's Schools*

Regarding the *Blueprint*, Regent Wood asked about salary increases for teachers. Dr. Shapiro noted that minimum salary requirements are part of the Blueprint as well as bonuses for teachers in schools in challenging settings and for teachers who have National Board Certification. Regent Leggett, as chair of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB), shared that the *Blueprint* is a good plan, but that the focus must turn to implementation. Chair of the Council of University System Faculty offered that student loan forgiveness may be an enticing incentive to get people in the profession. Regent Leggett noted that the AIB would explore additional suggestions, which can be sent to him.

### **Information Items**

#### **Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, AY 2021-2022**

Chair Gourdine noted the retirement of Dr. Antoinette Coleman over the summer. Regent Gourdine thanked Toni for her years of service to Maryland and the USM. Regent Gourdine introduced Dr. Darlene Smith, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, who has stepped in to manage critical functions Dr. Coleman previously handled. Dr. Smith presented the annual report on academic program actions delegated to the chancellor. In accordance with Board Resolution III-7.03, this annual report is submitted to the Board of Regents to account for all academic program actions delegated to the Chancellor. Between September 2021 and August 2022, the Chancellor approved 119 actions, including:

- suspension or discontinuation of 17 programs (including eight degree programs, seven certificates, and two areas of concentration within an existing degree);
- 20 title changes; and
- 82 new certificates, areas of concentrates and modified degree programs. The 82 actions included the approval of 38 new certificates, 7 modified certificates, 19 modified degrees, 7 new areas of concentration within existing degree programs, 4 off-site offerings of existing degrees at USM regional higher education centers and 4 off-site offerings at closed sites, a revised general education program, and the reactivation of 2 degree programs.

In addition, the Board of Regents approved 16 new degree programs. The total of 135 approvals is up 41% from last year, with most of the difference at the Chancellor's level of review.

### **Notification of Awards: Regents Scholarships and Elkins Professorships**

Annually, the University System of Maryland Office of Academic and Student Affairs facilitates the distribution of scholarships to students and research funds in support of faculty. Dr. Darlene Smith, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, shared information about the USM Regents Scholars Program and Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor, shared information about the Elkins Professorship.

The prestigious Regents Scholars Program was created to provide outstanding students with the financial freedom to pursue academic studies at one of the nation's finest university systems. Substantial endowments have been established by individuals and corporations in order to cover the estimated cost of attendance for tuition and fees, living expenses, and academic materials. Some Regents Scholarships have no qualifying factor other than merit while others have additional criteria relating to a student's discipline (i.e., field of study) or to demonstrated financial need. It is interesting to note that the new USM Test Optional policy allowed for greater flexibility in defining the academic credentials required for award consideration. This contributed to an increase in the number of USM institutions submitting names of first-year students for this year's Regent's Scholarship awarding process (seven for 2022-23 compared to four in 2021-22).

A typical full scholarship for a first-year student or transfer student for AY 2022-2023 is approximately \$25,605 (average) per year. Partial scholarships were also awarded. For academic year 2022-2023, 18 new and 15 continuing students were awarded a total of \$ 436,500. Dr. Smith indicated how transformational these scholarships are by sharing the story of a current recipients.

The Wilson H. Elkins Professorship began in 1978 at the University of Maryland, College Park as an honor for and to perpetuate the name and contributions of Wilson H. Elkins who became the institution's president in 1954 and served for 24 years. When the new University System of Maryland was formed in 1988, Dr. Elkins agreed that the professorship bearing his name should extend to the entire USM family. The Wilson H. Elkins Professorship is supported by endowed funds and designated to supplement an existing faculty line and/or to support faculty research. Special effort is made to bestow the award in those areas where the Elkins Professor will have an opportunity to make an important contribution to the teaching, research, and public service mission of the institution and the entire University System of Maryland. The Professorship is an opportunity for the faculty member and institution to build on their strengths to be of greater service to its students and to society. Hallmarks of Elkins Professors also include work with students and outreach or partnerships with other institutions within the System. This year, six institutions submitted a total of nine nominations. Four faculty members received awards:

1. Towson's – Dr. Paz Galupo will use her award to continue her project to understand the unique legal and cultural factors that impact the health care experiences of and lead to health disparities for transgender and nonbinary Marylanders. (Part 2 of her award, which was initiated last year; \$30,000)
2. UMB's – Dr. Heather Congdon – Using funds to collaborate with the Kirwan Center to scale up targeted IPE (interprofessional education) recommendations from the 2018 USM report "Strengthening Maryland's Health Care Workforce" through a digital badging initiative. (\$40,000)

3. BSU's – Dr. Karen Cook-Bell – Using funds to establish the W.E.B. DuBois Center for the Study of the Black Experience, which will be integrated with BSU's Thurgood Marshall Library and designed to encourage and disseminate research that is innovative in scope and methods in the fields of African, African American, and African diaspora studies. (\$75,000)
4. UMB's – Dr. Barbara Resnick – Using funds to advance the development of a replicable model for successfully implementing national guidelines on pain management in older individuals in long-term care facilities to improve the assessment, diagnosis, and management of pain among residents. (\$68,000)

### **Tentative Annual Agenda, 2022-2023**

The Tentative Agenda for 2022-2023 comprises anticipated action items, including new academic program proposals and new Board of Regents policies, as well as information and discussion items. Some of the information items are reported on an annual schedule to ensure that the regents are well informed about topics of general interest (e.g. extramural funding, civic engagement and education, academic innovation), while others respond to specific requests for reports and recommendations on a variety of topics of interest to the Committee as previously noted by the regents. Chair Gourdine opened the floor for suggestions.

Regent Peters noted the frequency with which he has always gotten questions about scholarships to USM institutions. Based on work he did as a senator, he offered to assist USM in becoming a one-stop shop for scholarship information.

Chair Gourdine noted that regents and school officials can share additional topics with Regent Gourdine, Dr. Boughman, or Dr. Lee.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive first meeting. She adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair