



**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, January 10, 2023. The meeting was convened at 9:35 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Helal, 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. Allen, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Andersen, Dr. Archie, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Bowden, Dr. Brewer, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Christensen, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Esters, Dr. Goodman, Dr. Gordon-Salant, Ms. Griffin, Dr. Harris, Dr. Harrison, Ms. Herbst, Dr. Jennings, Dr. Joshi, Dr. Lee, Dr. Lewis, Mr. McDonough, Ms. Marano, Dr. Masucci, Dr. Moore, Mr. Morgan, Dr. Muhoro, Dr. Norris, Dr. Olmstead, Dr. Patricio, Ms. Pomietto, Dr. Sahu, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Shapiro, Mr. Skevakis, Dr. Smith, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Travis, Dr. Ward, Dr. Weill, Dr. Welsch, Ms. Wilkerson, Dr. Wilks, Dr. Wrynn, Dr. Young, and Dr. Zenebe.

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

Chair Gourdine extended a special welcome to Dr. Alison Wrynn, incoming Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Candace Caraco, new Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Michele Masucci, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development. Chair Gourdine also offered thanks to Dr. Darlene Smith, Special Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, who stepped in until Dr. Caraco was hired; and a very special thank you for all Dr. Joann Boughman, soon-to-be-retired Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, has done for USM since starting in the role in 2012.

Chair Gourdine announced that EPSL Vice Chair, Andy Smarick, will chair the meeting after she leaves.

**Action Items**

**Academic Program Proposals**

**Bowie State University: B.S. Public Health Informatics and Technology**

Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost, and Dr. Birthale Archie, Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing, presented Bowie's proposal to establish the Bachelor of Science in Public Health Informatics and Technology. US healthcare ecosystems have become increasingly digitalized and connected. The acute shortage of public health informatics professionals is revealed with the recent efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid crisis. There is a national emphasis on educating and training more underrepresented students and workers to diversify the workforce in this area. This multidisciplinary curriculum incorporates nursing, management information systems, and computer science courses. Specific learning outcomes will include critical thinking and problem-solving skills, professional-level

oral and communication skills, and soft skills needed for the workplace. Special topics include health equity, data science, epidemiology, public health analytics, public health reporting, and emergency preparedness and response. The program is designed to prepare students to be public health informatics specialists, system analysts, data analysts, managers, consultants, or designers/developers in different health systems, hospitals, academia, insurance, pharmacy, and other organizations with an average yearly salary of \$104,000. The proposed program will be funded for the first four years by a \$10M grant obtained through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Health and Human Services that aims to ensure health informatics efforts and increase representation. Industry partners are willing to help with internships, and BSU has received great support for the proposal.

The 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. Regent Gooden applauded the program and believed the list of potential jobs may be understated.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Bowie State University to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Public Health Information and Technology.

The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved.

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

#### **Bowie State University: P.B.C. Public Health Informatics**

Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost, and Dr. Azene Zenebe from the Department of Management Information Systems presented the proposal for Bowie State to offer a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Public Health Informatics (PHIS). The PHIS would focus on public and population/community health, disease prevention, and health promotions. The program is founded on the existing Master of Science in Information Systems and Master of Science in Nursing programs and would be suited for students who hold a bachelor's degree in public health, health science, healthcare, behavioral science, business, information systems and sciences, computer science, IT, or other related fields. It is a multidisciplinary program designed to prepare students with a bachelor's degree (or higher) in relevant fields for careers, particularly in PHIS. The program may be completed either as a complement to existing BSU graduate programs in information systems, computer science, nursing, MBA, and other graduate programs or as a postbaccalaureate advanced specialization training for those who are presently working in these fields. Graduates from this program may work as public health informaticians, managers, specialists, system analysts, data analysts, consultants, or designers/developers in different health systems, hospitals, academia, insurance, pharmacy, and other organizations.

This type of multidisciplinary, graduate certificate program is rare. The 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 Bowie State University to offer the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Public Health Informatics.

The motion was moved by Wood, seconded by Peters, and unanimously approved.

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

**Bowie State University: B.S. Health Services Administration**

Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost, and Dr. Birthale Archie, Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing, presented Bowie's proposal to establish the B.S. in Health Services Administration (HSA) to contribute to the university's mission by empowering "a diverse population of students to reach their potential by providing innovative academic programs". This program combines nursing and business courses to create a unique program that is designed to provide a foundation in health services administration and will prepare students for entry level careers in health care industry, developing knowledge and skills in leadership, communication, health care systems, economic and socioeconomics of healthcare, management theory and community health policy or for continuing graduate studies. It will also serve as a support major for pre-nursing students who may be seeking other career options in the health disciplines. Bowie State University is among the top five universities in Maryland known for graduating African Americans with bachelor's degrees in Nursing, Biology, and Computer/Information Sciences. Therefore, the addition of the Health Services Administration program will prepare underrepresented minorities for employment in healthcare facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, and group medical practices, which is critical, as minorities are underrepresented in health care administration. Related careers have an outstanding marketing forecast, especially in Maryland where there is a high concentration of health care jobs. Salaries are estimated to start in the \$70,000 range.

The 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. Chair Gourdine wondered if the program was likely to get objections from other institutions in the state, because, although there were no objections from USM institutions, there appear to be several similar programs in the state. The presenters shared that the full process, including review by non-USM institutions, has concluded and that there were no objections.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Bowie State University to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Health Services Administration.

The motion was moved by Gourdine, seconded by Gooden, and unanimously approved.

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

**Coppin State University: B.S. Cybersecurity Engineering**

Provost Pamela Wilks; Dr. Leontye Lewis, Dean, College of Arts, Sciences, and Education; and Dr. Atma Sahu Chair, Mathematics and Computer Science, presented the proposal to create the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering (CYSE). The program will provide knowledge and skills for the

development of cyber-resilient systems that include the protection of intended human users, hardware and accompanying computing devices, and the networks that connect them (i.e., the internet). It would provide students with the currently rare combination of highly technical knowledge and skills, cybersecurity expertise, with a system engineering approach. Systems engineering is an interdisciplinary field of engineering and engineering management that focuses on how to design and manage complex systems over their life cycles. The CYSE program has a specific emphasis on securing Medical Cyber-Physical Systems. Degree recipients will be postured to fill most cybersecurity titles, which are in desperate demand today and for the foreseeable future. Graduates will be trained to work on emerging trends, designing, and developing comprehensive trustworthy architectures to accommodate MCPS telecommunication and telemedicine devices. Coppin is the first in the State of Maryland to undertake engineering cybersecurity systems, and this emphasis on medical cyber is unique and will ensure students are ready to fill a broad range of jobs. Regent Gooden noted that this field has a wealth of jobs with good salaries (over \$100k at the median). The work is aligned with the marketplace and economic needs of students. Sr. Vice Chancellor Boughman and Regent Gooden complimented Bowie and Coppin for strategically using the HBCU funding to focus on areas where they have great foundational knowledge and, hence, the ability to create and grow programs in high-need areas.

The 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 Coppin State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering.

The motion was moved by Gourdine, seconded by Gooden, and unanimously approved.

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

**Frostburg State University: B.S. Elementary Education/Special Education Dual Certification Major**  
Dr. Traki Taylor, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Jodi Welsch, Professor of Educational Professions presented the proposal for Frostburg to establish a Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Special Education dual certification program. Currently, there are two existing dual certification majors at Frostburg: 1) Early Childhood/Elementary Education and 2) Elementary/Middle School Education. The new dual certification program includes 129 credits of coursework and field experiences, focused on both general and special education at the elementary level (the additional nine credits over 120 are necessary for a program that prepares candidates for two grade bands of teacher certification). The program must also meet the approved program requirements from the Maryland State Department of Education, as well as requirements of accrediting and professional standards organizations. Additionally, the new dual certification option provides preparation in special education for elementary candidates who, upon completion, will be prepared for certification in general education for grades 1-6 and in special education for grades 1-8. The proposed major would also be desirable for new teachers and prospective employers, given documented needs for general education teachers who are highly qualified in the areas of special education as well as certified special education teachers, both at the state and national levels. Hundreds to thousands of teachers will be needed over the next five

years, and there are not enough in the pipeline to fulfill this need. Most Maryland teachers are educated outside of the state, so this program would be another offering within the state to educate and, hopefully, employ teachers within the state. There are similar programs in Maryland, but this is unique due to the region and partnerships in WV and PA. Moreover, despite similarities, the need for teachers is so overwhelming that there is no expectation of objections. The 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.

Regent Gooden asked if the Blueprint has funding to help students who pursue degrees in education. Dr. Boughman and Dr. Nancy Shapiro (Associate Vice Chancellor for Outreach and Engagement) noted that overall, there is very robust funding, but higher ed is unsure how easily accessible the money will be to the universities and colleges that train teachers. They explained that the programs are critical and must be flexible, and that Frostburg's proposal does that well. They also noted that it would be beneficial if funding was used to pay students during the semesters they intern in the classroom. Regent Gooden suggested further discussion on the funding and how our colleges and universities can access it to help the state meet its teacher preparation goals.

The Chancellor recommends that the Education Policy and Student Life Committee recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposal from Frostburg State University to offer the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Elementary Education / Special Education Dual Certification Program.

The motion was moved by Smarick, seconded by Gooden, and unanimously approved.

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

**Frostburg State University: Master of Environmental Management in Sustainability w/ UMCES**

Dr. Traki Taylor, Provost and Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Benjamin Norris, Interim Associate Provost, both from Frostburg, and Dr. Larry Sanford, Professor and Vice President for Education for the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science presented the proposal to create a joint Master of Environmental Management (MEM) in Sustainability degree. As a vibrant, regional comprehensive university in Mountain Maryland, Frostburg plays a leadership role in regional workforce development. Frostburg has a long-standing relationship with UMCES via the Appalachian Laboratory and through an existing joint M.S. degree program in Wildlife/Fisheries Biology. UMCES has strong standing in the environmental field, particularly as it relates to research, policy, and programming aimed at improving and preserving Maryland's physical environment. A joint Master of Environmental Management will help meet growing demand in the regional workforce. Environmental jobs in the region (e.g., staffers and agency personnel in corporate sustainability, resource management, environmental engineering, and non-governmental organizations) are frequently being filled by graduates from non-regional institutions. The MEM will be offered as an accelerated 4+1 pathway for baccalaureate students at Frostburg to reduce burden and increase benefits for learners by lessening debt load, reducing time to degree, and providing a skills-driven degree. In this way, the joint MEM will grow a pipeline of employees for the regional environmental workforce where new jobs are growing faster than the creation of workers. Dr. Sanford shared his appreciation for the partnership and the benefits of "systemness", since UMCES can only offer degrees jointly. Collaborations now exist with Frostburg State, UMB, and UMCP, and UMCES is committed to expanding cross-system partnerships. The MEM curriculum

leverages the strengths of both institutions by including experiential preparation, interdisciplinary studies, internships/apprenticeships, and beyond.

The 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 proposals from Frostburg State University (with UMCES) to offer the Master of Environmental Management in Sustainability.

The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Peters, and unanimously approved.

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

**Towson University: Master of Science in Economic Analytics**

Dr. Cynthia Cooper, Interim Provost; Dr. Judy Harris, Interim Dean of the College of Business and Economics; and Dr. Finn Christensen, Program Director and Professor of Economics made the proposal to launch a Master of Science in Economic Analytics. This program will teach students to combine economic methods with data analytic techniques to assess the causal impact of policies, laws, business practices, natural events, and other interventions on economic outcomes of interest. This innovative curriculum will prepare graduates for positions such as economists, analysts, or statisticians, and will help position Maryland build a highly qualified and highly skilled workforce. In enhancing access to the knowledge economy for TU's diverse student population, including racial minority groups and first-generation college students, the proposed program aligns with TU's mission as well as the goals of the 2022 Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education. The program also supports TU's goal of achieving R2 status as it will increase measured research activity by increasing grant opportunities and research assistants. The program leverages the strength and expertise of current departmental faculty. All courses in the program can be taught by existing faculty, and existing faculties to support the program. The program will be financially self-sustaining. Towson's related undergraduate programs will serve as a pipeline for this MS program. Graduates would be prepared for jobs in financial services consulting, health care, and more.

Existing programs are more policy and agriculture related; the combined computation and data analytics aspects of this program are what make it unique. Further, the 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 Towson University to offer the Master of Science (M.S.) in Economic Analytics.

The motion was moved by Gourdine, seconded by Wood, and unanimously approved.

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

**University of Maryland, College Park: M.A. Hearing and Speech Services**

Dr. Elizabeth Beise, Associate Provost, and Dr. Sandra Gordon-Salant, Professor and Director of the Doctoral Program in Clinical Audiology, proposed the establishment of the Master of Arts in Hearing and Speech Sciences. This would be a companion degree to two existing doctoral programs, the Ph.D. in Hearing and Speech Sciences, and the accredited professional Doctor of Audiology within the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences. UMD's Graduate School has advocated that all doctoral programs have an early exit path that will lead to a credential for students who cannot or choose not to complete their doctoral studies. A formal master's degree will recognize the students' advanced level understanding of hearing and speech sciences. Students who earn the M.A. will be more marketable than those who only have bachelor's degrees, thereby leading to greater career opportunities than if they were to exit the doctoral program with no degree at all. Typically, only one student per year has left their doctoral program prior to completion, so no additional resources are needed for this new program. The M.A. in Hearing and Speech Services will not have a direct admission process and will only serve as an optional credential for students in the aforementioned two doctoral programs. The curriculum consists of 36 graduate credits from the existing courses in the doctoral programs, has a thesis and a non-thesis option, and can be completed in two years. Graduates would be prepared for administrative and research positions in government, health agencies, professional organizations, and beyond. Regent Wood asked if students in other doctoral programs who need an alternative could use this option. The presenters note that this M.A. is an alternative only for the two doctoral programs mentioned above. There are other options within other departments and programs at UMCP.

The 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 the University of Maryland, College Park to offer the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Hearing and Speech Sciences.

The motion was moved by Regent Gourdine, seconded by Regent Peters, and unanimously approved.

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

**Chair Gourdine noted her need to be excused and thanked Vice Chair Smarick for finishing the meeting.**

**University of Maryland Global Campus: B.S. Applied Technology**

Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Blakely Pomietto and Dr. Doug Harrison, Vice President and Dean of the School of Cybersecurity and Information Technology, presented the proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Applied Technology. This degree would allow students to focus on computing technology. The program is cross-disciplinary, requiring the synthesis and application of computing skills

to other technology-adjacent areas selected by students, based on interest, experience, and career goals. Students must develop the essential skills of critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and the ability to incorporate diverse perspectives – all skills that are a focus of the program. The major in Applied Technology requires students to complete 30 credits, of which nine credits (including 3 upper-level credits) are within a specific computing discipline currently offered by the School of Cybersecurity and Information Technology. Students take an additional 18 credits in areas that are distinct from the specific computing discipline. Students complete the degree with a capstone course that requires the integration and application of the knowledge from the secondary area(s) to the computing skills acquired from the primary (computing) discipline. The program's structure gives students a high degree of flexibility to maximize the application of prior learning and college credits, while also ensuring that they have meaningful learning in the application of technology skills to real world business problems across the diverse range of careers and fields that rely on technology. UMGC anticipates that this program is one of many that will increase college completion for adult learners, as there are 40 million (and rising) adults in the US with some college and no degree. Additionally, jobs in tech fields are poised to steadily grow over the next decade, especially in Maryland. Upon approval of the program, UMGC will partner with community colleges to establish articulation pathways.

The 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 University of Maryland Global Campus to offer the Bachelor of Science in Applied Technology.

The motion was moved by Smarick, seconded by Gooden, and unanimously approved.

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

### **Information Items**

#### **Results of Periodic (7-Year) Review of Academic Programs**

Dr. Darlene Smith, Special Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, presented this report to the committee. COMAR requires that existing academic programs are reviewed every seven years. A format for the reports is standardized and includes information on enrollments and degrees awarded, internal and external reviews, and institutional recommendations and actions. The periodic program review process includes an internal self-study that is conducted by the program at the departmental level and reviewed by external reviewers. The respective dean and the provost review the recommendations and draft full report prior to submission for additional review by staff in the USM Academic and Student Affairs. Comments are shared with the institutions for appropriate action prior to final submission. Institutional action plans are decided upon primarily by the provost or dean, both of whom are responsible to monitor academic quality and productive use of resources. Copies of the complete program review summaries are available from the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs.



Dr. Smith shared that 145 academic degree and certificate programs were reviewed in 2021-2022. The 2021-2022 reports represent an 11.5% increase in programs reviewed compared to the 2020-2021 period of 130 programs reviewed. Approximately half are baccalaureate degrees, 40% are master's and doctorates, and 10% are certificates. The increase in reviews represents the seven-year schedule when programs come due, adjustments to align programs with reaccreditation/accreditation self-studies, and the number of new programs approved seven years prior to address growing workforce means. Specific programs at the following schools underwent program accreditation reviews: Coppin State University; Frostburg State University; Salisbury University; Towson University; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and the University of Maryland Global Campus. According to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the following thresholds designate programs as low productivity programs: Bachelor's: < 5 in most recent year or a total of 15 in last three years; Master's: < 2 in most recent year or a total of 6 in last three years; Doctorate: < 1 in most recent year or a total of 3 in last three years. Accordingly, 12 of the 145 reviewed programs are considered low degree producing programs. These 12 comprise 8.3%, which is an improvement over last year (although it should be noted that last year's review was of a different set of programs). The programs identified in this report as low productivity include five bachelor's degree programs, three master's degree programs, one combined master/doctoral or doctoral degree programs, one postbaccalaureate certificates, and two post master's certificates. The report also includes three programs that have been suspended and discontinued since their last seven-year program review. These actions were taken by the institutions and are the result of low enrollments and low degree productivity.

Senior Vice Chancellor Boughman thanked Dr. Smith and the campus teams for their work and noted that this is where program quality is assessed. Chancellor Perman noted that this is evidence against commonly held perception that higher education is reluctant to change. Programs are discontinued when they are no longer viable. Regent Gooden echoed those comments remembering when she also asked how and when programs are discontinued. She appreciates this view that shows we stay as contemporary as possible. Regent Peters shared his thanks for the report and noted that many reports he saw as a senator did not drill in on quality and that that should be the overriding factor in all reports we do. Vice Chair Smarick agreed and would like to share this with the full Board of Regents to illustrate this important and well-functioning quality control measure.

### **Report: Workload of the USM Faculty – Academic Year 2021-2022**

Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman presented the report on the workload of the USM faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year. This year's report is the fourth of a multi-year transition between reports generated under the earlier policy and reports that will reflect the format of the new policy which was passed by the Board of Regents in June 2019. We are close to having all institutions accounted for in this report. The report summarizes faculty workload, which includes teaching, research, and service activities at all USM degree-granting institutions with tenured or tenure-track faculty. Key findings include:

- Despite the extraordinary circumstances that faculty and students endured during the global pandemic, total credit hours produced in 2020-21 kept pace with total student headcount enrollment.
- Full-time tenured/tenure track and full-time, non-tenure track instructional faculty accounted for 69.15% of all credit hours produced (down slightly from the previous year).
- Over the five years since 2016-17, credit hours produced by part-time faculty dropped by -0.96%.
- Four-year undergraduate graduation rates improved again in 2021-22 to the best performance since this measure was first tracked. Six-year graduation stayed steady.
- Faculty secured over \$1.57 billion in research funding, representing a 1.78% decrease over the previous year.

- Average student credit hour production for core instructional faculty was down somewhat from 2020-21, but on par with 5-year averages.

While there are variations across institutions, production of SCH kept pace with overall enrollment trends, suggesting there are enough courses available for students to graduate in a timely fashion despite the extraordinary circumstances that faculty worked in during the global pandemic. This is further substantiated by the fact that the number of degrees awarded continues to rise and four-year and six-year graduation rates continue to improve. To ensure we are keeping pace with longer-term enrollment trends, the USM continues to track SCH generated by core instructional faculty. The data indicate that teaching responsibilities continue to shift, but less-so over to part-time faculty as is commonly thought and more-so over to full-time, non-tenure track instructional faculty whose primary responsibility is teaching. At the same time, non-instructional productivity in the form of scholarship, service, and external research funding remained very high.

### **Report on Extramural Funding – FY 2022**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this report to the committee. This annual report details extramural awards received by USM institutions in support of specific initiatives in research, education, or service in FY 2022. This report provides information on how many proposals each institution generated, how many awards were received, and the total amount of funding. In addition to detailed information by institution and funding source for FY 2021 and FY 2022, the report also provides five years of summary data by institution for comparison purposes. In FY 2022, when accounting for funding received by USM institutions from sources other than another USM institution, the System received a total of \$1,573,438,515.81 in extramural funding, a 1.58% decrease from the FY 2021 total of \$1,598,843,604.81. UMB and UMCP garnered the largest extramural funding totals among System institutions. BSU, CSU, FSU, SU, TU, UBalt, UMBC, UMCES, and UMCP obtained higher levels of extramural funding than in FY 2021.

Dr. Lee cautioned against too much analysis on specific institutions in a given year, as big shifts up or down in funding can be caused by one or two large grants or other factors that aren't detailed in the data we gather. One of those, UMES, is a shift back to their pre-FY 2021 totals. FY 2021 was the standout year for UMES; their FY 2022 total is more standard. UMB's and UMGC's decreases are nominal. On the other end of the spectrum, Coppin and Frostburg posted over 100% increases in funding from FY 2021 totals, and several other institutions realized double-digit percent increases over FY 2021. As alluded to earlier, some of these increases can be because of a few big awards, but it's also possible that the improvements many schools are putting in place will begin to steadily take hold. As has been the case for years, the federal government accounts for the majority (60% this year) of USM's grand total. However, without funding from the state government, corporations, foundations, and other sources, our faculty and institutions would not be as successful as they are. Institutions whose funding levels increased this year attribute those increases to the diversification of funding streams, staffing improvements in sponsored research offices, more efficient tracking of faculty awards, a focus on increasing the number of proposals with attention to higher-dollar value awards, and an increase in sponsors' releasing funding to resume projects that were on hold or extended during the height of COVID.

Dr. Michele Masucci, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, added comments noting that virtually every funding source has increased with corporate funding increasing substantially. Outside of this report, focusing on the HERD Survey for FY21 (tracking expenditures) MD did very well and increased in expenditures. She noted that the current report of awards gives us a picture of what's coming. Dr. Masucci noted that she is not concerned about the 1.58% decrease from last fiscal year. She

also shared that future gains are likely due to Towson's pursuit of R2 status and UMBC's move to R1. Regent Helal asked if this report also goes to Advancement. Dr. Lee noted that this is not on the Advancement agenda but that it could be shared with the chair of that committee, Regent Breslin.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive meeting. She read the required statement to go into closed session and called for a motion to adjourn and reconvene in closed session to address the BOR Faculty Awards and honorary degree nominations. The motion was moved by Regent Gooden, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Michelle Gourdine  
Chair

Regent Andy Smarick  
Vice Chair



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

**Minutes  
Closed 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 closed session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The meeting was convened at 11:42 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Smarick (vice chair; presiding), Gooden, Helal, Leggett, Peters, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom: Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Lee, Dr. Masucci, Mr. McDonough, Dr. Wrynn, and Ms. Wilkerson.

**Action Items**

**Board of Regents Faculty Awards Recommendations**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. The Council of University System Faculty's (CUSF) Regents Faculty Awards guidelines underwent updates since last year. Those changes include:

- The elimination of an Innovation category
- The inclusion of a Creative Activity category, which separates it from Scholarship/Research/Creative Activity, which was a category that combined disciplines that were too distinct
- A clear indication of criteria being evaluated: innovation; attention to diversity, inclusion, and equity principles; and local, regional, national, and/or international impact.

The Regents Faculty Awards Committee reviewed 46 nominations from 11 institutions and recommends 19 awards to honor 19 individuals. The committee is recommending the maximum of 4 awards in each of the following categories - Mentoring, Public Service, Teaching, and Research/Scholarship and 3 awards in the Creative Activity category. Those approved will receive a \$2,000 award and a plaque. Summaries of the backgrounds of prospective award recipients were given to the regents, and nominees' full portfolios are available upon request. Dr. Lee served as USM liaison to the review process and affirms that all proper protocols, as outlined in CUSF-developed guidelines, were followed to ensure a fair and honest review and selection process.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the recommendations of the CUSF Regents Faculty Awards Committee and present the awards to the faculty members during the April 2023 BOR meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Smarick, seconded by Regent Wood, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 5    Nays: 0    Abstentions: 0

### **Honorary Degree Nominations**

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff for Academic and Student Affairs, presented this item to the committee. In accordance with the Board of Regents Policy on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees (III-3.00), institutions have submitted nominations for honorary degrees. As the policy stipulates, the full Board will act on the nominations at its February meeting based upon EPSL's recommendations. After the final approval of the nominations, presidents may begin to arrange for the awarding of the honorary degrees. The degrees may be conferred at any time within five years of approval unless withdrawn by the Board for cause. Institutions and USM staff have vetted the nominees and there are no reputational concerns. Additionally, as required by the policy, institutions have identified the internal processes used to obtain these nominations from the faculty, college or department, or a sanctioned Honorary Degree Committee, which includes faculty.

The Committee was presented with 41 nominations from nine (9) institutions. The names of the nominees and the degrees being recommended, as well as nomination letters and supporting documentation, were made available to the regents prior to the meeting.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve institutional nominations for honorary degrees as listed on the slate from Bowie State University; Frostburg State University; Salisbury University; Towson University; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and University of Maryland Global Campus.

The motion was moved by Regent Smarick, seconded by Regent Gooden, and unanimously approved.

Vote Count: Yeas: 5    Nays: 0    Abstentions: 0

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Regent Smarick called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Regent Wood, seconded by Regent Gooden, and unanimously approved. Regent Smarick adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully,

Regent Andy Smarick  
Vice Chair