



## Regents Report | June 2020

### Greetings from the Board of Regents

Last Friday, the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents held its June meeting, which traditionally includes the Chancellor's [Annual Report](#)—a year-in-review for the USM and its institutions. We are acutely aware that our meeting fell on June 19—Juneteenth—a day commemorating the end of slavery. As we acknowledge the significance of this day, we must also acknowledge how much work remains to end slavery's horrific and abiding legacy of violence, oppression, inequity, and injustice.

[The USM acknowledges with one voice the structural racism](#) that's taking the lives of Black Americans. We stand in solidarity as we fight anti-Black racism and bigotry of every kind. We recognize the responsibility of public universities to advance equity, opportunity, and social justice, and to work every day to protect—and *perfect*—our democracy. The time for talking has passed; we must act. As a System, we pledge we will.



Of course, we confront other grave challenges as well. COVID-19 has brought widespread job losses and acute financial stress to our students and families. It's taken the lives of nearly 3,000 Marylanders and has sickened tens of thousands more.

As we prepare for the fall semester, our highest priority is safeguarding the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. We are thankful for the strong team of university leaders who came together to develop a [unified vision for returning students to campus this fall](#). And we are deeply grateful to every member of the USM family who has worked tirelessly in difficult circumstances to continue our mission of providing an education that is both excellent and affordable, and creating opportunities for all who want them.

By every measure, this academic year was extraordinary—full of great challenges, but also unprecedented collaboration, remarkable achievement, and promising growth. The USM's leadership and strength have shone throughout this crisis, and our institutions are well prepared to meet the coming year—with excellence and innovation, with courage and grace, and with compassionate humanity.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman, MD  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland

### Board Actions & Decisions | June 19, 2020

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on June 19, 2020, with public access available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the board included:

**Approval of a Freeze of Tuition and Room and Board Rates for FY 2021.** In recognition of the financial stress that many students and families are experiencing as a result of the

COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn, the Board voted to freeze tuition and room and board rates for the upcoming 2020-21 academic year. Under this policy, the USM will maintain the same tuition, room and board rates, and fees that were in place during the recently completed 2019-20 academic year for all undergraduate and graduate students. [Read more.](#)

**Approval of the USM Operating Budget for FY 2021.** The Board voted to approve the system's \$6.1 billion, FY 2021, operating budget as authorized by the Maryland General Assembly last March. Since the USM budget was authorized by the legislature, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the economy, forcing the USM to reassess its financial situation and make revisions as state and federal budgetary actions evolve. The Chancellor will submit an updated FY 2021 Operating Budget to the Regents later this summer. [Read more.](#)

**Approval of Resolution Authorizing Institutions to Take Certain Personnel Actions in FY 2021.** The Board voted to give Chancellor Perman and the USM presidents authorization to take personnel actions, including the use of temporary salary reductions and furloughs for employees, in order to address the financial losses and additional costs the USM incurred and will incur as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The USM sustained sizeable losses during the spring semester and, in the coming academic year, nearly every other source of system revenue will face reduction, including federal and state funding, tuition and fees, auxiliary services, and other income. [Read more.](#)

**Approval of Seven New Degree Programs.** After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life, the board voted to approve seven innovative new academic programs.

- Bowie State University will offer the [Master of Education in Culturally Responsive Teacher Leadership](#) program to meet workforce demands for culturally-responsive, teacher-leaders, particularly for the districts with the most culturally and linguistically diverse students.
- Frostburg State University will offer a [Bachelor of Science in Life-Cycle Facilities Management](#), which will focus on techniques critical to responding to climate-change forecasts. Innovative instruction will prepare industry leaders to plan and build environments that are sustainable for the lifetime of structures.
- Salisbury University will offer a [Bachelor of Science degree in Integrated Science](#), which provides a new pathway for students who discover completion barriers in traditional STEM-discipline majors.
- Towson University will offer a [Master of Science in Athletic Training](#) in response to the Athletic Training Strategic Alliance's mandate that the professional degree for athletic training programs must be a Master of Science by 2022. This new program will be anchored in the foundation of Towson's successful undergraduate program in Athletic Training.
- The University of Baltimore will offer a [Bachelor of Science in Cyber Forensics](#) to provide students with a broad-based practical understanding of cybercrimes and cyber investigations.
- The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) will offer a [Master of Science in Global Health](#), a predominantly online program designed to instruct students in the best practices of global health education, research, and practice. UMB will also offer a [Master of Science in Vulnerability and Violence Reduction](#). This program, which is the first of its kind in the United States, will prepare students to organize, lead, and support effective violence and vulnerability reduction initiatives in their communities.

**Approval of the FY 2021 Contract Between UMB and the University of Maryland Medical System Corporation (UMMS).** Each year, the Board of Regents and the UMMS Board of Directors are asked to approve an annual contract between UMB and UMMS concerning the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). For FY 2021, there is a net increase of \$10,199,530 in UMMS compensation to UMB. Adjustments relate to variations in the service needs of UMMC, adjustments to fringe benefit rates for UMB salaries in FY 2021, and the addition of public safety services. [Read more.](#)

**For more information about the most recent Board of Regents meeting, you may view the [meeting agenda](#) or [video archive](#). The [meeting minutes](#) will be posted once approved.**

## Welcome and Farewells

During the June 19 meeting, the Board of Regents welcomed the system's newest university president, [Dr. Anthony Jenkins](#), who assumed leadership of Coppin State University on May 26, 2020. For the past four years, Jenkins served as president of West Virginia State University. He is a U.S. Army veteran, a first-generation college graduate and, in Chancellor Perman's words, "The right leader at the right time."

The Board also presented [Resolutions](#) recognizing two USM leaders who have made outstanding contributions to their institutions and will be moving on from their current roles:

**Dr. Wallace Loh, President of the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)**, will step down from his position on June 30, 2020. During his tenure as president, which began on November 1, 2020, Dr. Loh oversaw a period of transformational change at the university, including a dramatic expansion of UMCP's research enterprise, energized innovation and entrepreneurship, expanded partnerships, enhanced community service, and a continued rise in national and international recognition and acclaim. The entire USM community thanks Dr. Loh for his service!

**Drew Needham, Student Regent**, will complete his one-year term on June 30, 2020. As a member of the Board, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the quality of public higher education in Maryland and represented the Board with distinction at numerous events.

The Board also recognized the retirement of **Don Spicer, USM chief information officer and associate vice chancellor for Information Technology**, and thanked him for nearly 22 years of service to the system.

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## Other News from the System

### **USM Institutions Prepare for the Return of Students to Campus this Fall**

All USM institutions will welcome students back to campus this fall with instruction offered in a hybrid fashion, combining at least some in-person classes with online courses. Each USM institution developed fall semester timelines and plans that conform to the health and safety guidelines determined by the systemwide Return to Campus Advisory Group. [Read more.](#)

### **The USM Kirwan Center and University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) Form Partnership to Expand and Enhance Online Learning Across the USM.**

To help USM institutions deliver a hybrid of online learning and in-person instruction this fall, the USM's William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation has formed a \$2.6 million partnership with UMGC, a global leader in online education. Through this partnership, known as *USM OnTrack*, universities will receive expert support as they implement instructional technology and teaching methods designed to produce an optimal online learning environment, with improved student engagement and faculty effectiveness. [Read more.](#)

### **USM Center Receives a National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant to Boost High-Speed Networks in Underserved Areas of Maryland.**

The Maryland Research and Education Network (MDREN), an important technology service provider at the USM, has received a \$799,767 NSF grant that will allow the system to support the state by providing high-speed networking infrastructure to a number of underserved areas. MDREN will significantly increase network bandwidth for several institutions, including Frostburg State University, Salisbury University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and four research labs at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. [Read more.](#)

### **USM COVID Research & Innovation Task Force Launches Mobile App Competition.**

To inspire USM community members to apply their expertise in the fight against COVID-19, the Task Force is running a COVID App Challenge. USM students, faculty, staff, and personnel from USM-affiliated research parks and incubators are invited to work in teams to develop a mobile app solution to a problem caused by COVID-19. Cash prizes will be awarded to three winning teams in both the Student Category and the USM Community Category. [Read more.](#)

**Maryland Momentum Fund Announces Two New Portfolio Companies.** Earlier this month, the [Maryland Momentum Fund](#) made a \$300,000 investment in KaloCyte, Inc., a healthcare biotechnology company developing ErythroMer™, a synthetic, bio-inspired red blood cell substitute for use in settings when stored red blood cells are unavailable. KaloCyte was founded by a distinguished team of researchers in physiology, bioengineering, and trauma care, including Allan Doctor, MD, who also founded the Center for Blood Oxygen Transport and Hemostasis at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Dipanjan Pan, PhD, who holds a joint appointment at UMB and UMBC. [Read more.](#)

In May, the Maryland Momentum Fund announced a \$150,000 investment in pathOtrak, a company that developed a rapid test to detect salmonella and E. coli in food. pathOtrak founder and chief executive officer Javier Atencia, PhD. was formerly an assistant professor in the Fischell Department of Bioengineering at University of Maryland, College Park. [Read more.](#)

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## News from USM Institutions

**Bowie State University.** Professor of Computer Science Sharad Sharma is the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant-funded project using data visualization and analysis to determine reasons why the Black community has been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

**Coppin State University.** The university held a virtual town hall, *Minds on Justice*, moderated by White House correspondent and CNN political analyst April Ryan that explored racial justice, the state of our community, and where we go from here. [View the video recording.](#)

**Frostburg University.** The university is moving forward with thoughtful, comprehensive plans for a safe return to campus and will continue to release information as details are finalized throughout the summer. [Read more.](#)

**Salisbury University.** A record six Salisbury University students earned the prestigious U.S. Fulbright Student Award for the 2020-21 academic year. [Read more.](#)

**Towson University.** The Towson University community has mobilized in a variety of ways to help Maryland and Marylanders during the COVID-19 crisis. [Read more.](#)

**University of Baltimore.** The Schaefer Center for Public Policy at the University of Baltimore relaunched *BeHEARD Baltimore*, a way for local citizens to speak their minds about policy and important issues. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore.** Researchers at the School of Medicine became the first in the United States to begin testing experimental COVID-19 vaccine candidates. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** Professor Lucy Wilson, an infectious disease physician and graduate program director of emergency health services at UMBC, worked with the National Governors Association to develop a roadmap for governors to determine what safe reopening would look like. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.** For the first time, Chesapeake Bay watershed health was scored as part of the [2019 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Report Card](#) issued by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, College Park.** The Office of Diversity and Inclusion launched a Week of Solidarity and Reflection with events organized to express and listen to the pain, frustration, grief, and other emotions that many in our communities are feeling. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore.** The university has been awarded a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that will be used as seed money to modernize the university's archives and make them more accessible for research and scholarship. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Global Campus.** UMGC has received an \$825,000 grant from Ascendium Education Group to develop a new, innovative curriculum to prepare the next generation of community college leaders through its doctoral program in Community College Policy and Administration. [Read more.](#)

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## News from USM Regional Centers

**Universities at Shady Grove.** With the transition to remote services and the cancellation of all in-person events, the Universities at Shady Grove's Center for Recruitment and Transfer Access moved swiftly to create a comprehensive "USG 101" web page and video presentation to help in recruiting prospective students. [Read more.](#)

**University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.** Planning is underway for hybrid learning this fall at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown. [Read more.](#)

**University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM).** USMSM hosted a virtual tour, featuring the University of Maryland Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) test sight, research hangar, aircraft, and workshop. [Read more.](#)

## Dates to Remember

*Please verify location of meetings prior to attendance as changes may occur due to COVID-19 policies.*

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**

10:00 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

**Committee on Finance**

10:30 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

**Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization**

12:30 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

University of Maryland Global Campus  
College Park Marriott Hotel  
& Conference Center

9:00 a.m.

**OCTOBER 28, 2020**

**Committee on Advancement**

11:00 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

Salisbury University

8:30 a.m.

**For the complete schedule of meetings, please visit the USM website at:**

[www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/](http://www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/)



## Useful Resources and Contacts

**Regents Meeting Minutes** [View](#)

**Regents Meeting Video Archive** [View](#)

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**University System of Maryland**

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