



Regents Report | May 2020

Greetings from the Board of Regents

These are unprecedented times for our university system, our state, and our nation. As we reflect on the challenges of the recent weeks and plan for the future of the University System of Maryland (USM), our first thought is for the continued health and well-being of our USM family and the citizens of our state. We are enormously grateful to the university leaders, faculty, staff, state officials, and public and private partners who have worked tirelessly to steer us through the COVID-19 crisis and to support those in need.

Although the Board of Regents has held several special meetings via conference call over the past two months, Friday, May 1, was the first regularly scheduled session of the full board since February, so there is much to outline in this issue of the *Regents Report*.

In recent weeks, our board has taken decisive action concerning the continuation of instruction through distance learning, the transition to telework for USM employees, the partial refund of room, board, and certain student fees, the postponement of in-person commencement ceremonies, and a number of other urgent issues. While these decisions were complex and difficult, they were made with the best interests of our students and employees in mind. You may [read the official statements](#) detailing these decisions on the USM website.

Our universities are fulfilling their academic mission through distance learning for the remainder of the spring semester and for at least the first summer session. Turning our attention to the fall semester, the USM has formed a **Return to Campus Advisory Group** that will guide our timeline and decisions regarding the resumption of on-campus classes (read more below).

Throughout this crisis, we have reaffirmed that the USM is a public good with a vital role to play in the state's COVID-19 response. To ensure that the full power of the USM is engaged in finding solutions to this pandemic, we have formed the **USM COVID Research & Innovation Task Force** (read more below). In doing so, we not only apply our resources and expertise to solving today's crisis; we also position our institutions to confront the next crises that emerge.

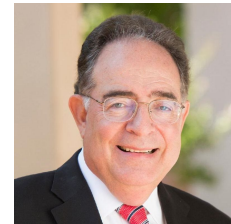
Finally, if you are able to help, we invite you to [donate to one of the student emergency funds](#) established by our 12 institutions and the USM Foundation. These funds help students struggling financially due to the [#COVID19](#) pandemic.

Thank you again for your support of the USM.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman, MD
Chancellor
University System of Maryland



Board Actions & Decisions | May 1, 2020

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on May 1, 2020, with public access available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the board included:

Recognition of 2020 USM Regents' Faculty Award Winners. Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden recognized the 17 faculty members who have been selected as the winners in each of five categories: Public Service; Scholarship, Research or Creative Activity; Mentoring; Teaching; and Innovation. Chair Gooden also noted one Posthumous USM Commendation presented to Dr. Katherine Ann Cameron, a Coppin State University faculty member who passed away in December 2019. [Read more.](#)

Approval of Three New Degree Programs. After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life, the board voted to approve three new degree programs at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD): a Bachelor of Science in Biocomputational Engineering, a Master of Arts in International Relations, and a Master of Science in Applied Political Analytics. [Read more.](#)

Approval of Building Upgrades and Renovations. The board voted to authorize a \$6.55 million project to repair or replace roofing, gutters, masonry, and other structural elements at the Institute of Human Virology (University of Maryland, Baltimore) to mitigate water infiltration. The board also voted to approve a mechanical system replacement at Devilbiss Hall, Salisbury University's oldest science building. This \$8 million project will replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. [Read more.](#)

Approval of the Formation of the UM New Ventures Initiative, LLC. The Board of Regents approved UMB's request to establish a limited liability company named UM New Ventures Initiative, LLC, which will develop commercialization of promising early stage technologies owned and/or managed by UMB and licensed or optioned to NVI for early stage development. UMB will wholly own the company. [Read more.](#)

Approval of Revisions to the Policy Concerning the Naming of Facilities and Academic Programs. In accordance with the recommendations of the Advancement Committee, the Board of Regents approved changes to the policy to clarify that non-academic and virtual or online programs may require Board of Regents approval, as these programs carry the same reputational risk as academic programs. Also, the policy now addresses naming requests related to fundraising appeals that honor a specific individual. [Read more.](#)

Annual Update on USM P-20 Programs. The Board received the annual update on the P-20 (PreK to graduate school) initiatives that are housed within the Office of Academic and Student Affairs and encompass partnerships between USM universities, community colleges, independent universities, and the Maryland public schools. [Read more.](#) One of these P-20 initiatives, the [Maryland Center for Computing Education](#), has been assisting Baltimore City schools with technology issues by working with its partners in the Baltimore City Computing Education Ecosystem Workgroup. This group was formed to assist Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Community College, the University of Baltimore, and other institutions with device acquisition for K-12 students, connectivity issues, and instructor training.

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.

Other News from the System

Chancellor Jay A. Perman Announces the Formation of the *Return to Campus Advisory Group*. During a special meeting of the Board of Regents on April 27, Chancellor Perman called for the creation of a systemwide advisory group that will determine the conditions that USM universities should meet before students can return to campus. The Return to Campus Advisory Group will include university leaders from across all aspects of campus operations—academic affairs, administration and finance, enrollment management, student life, and others. The advisory group will develop a proposed timeline and recommend protocols that must be in place to safeguard the health of students, faculty, staff and nearby communities. [Read more.](#)

USM Establishes the COVID Research & Innovation Task Force to Coordinate University Initiatives to Develop Solutions to COVID-19. On April 13, Chancellor Jay A.

Perman announced his plans to assemble a task force to leverage and mobilize systemwide research and innovations and collaborate with policymakers, business leaders, and the entrepreneurial community in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force will bring together USM people, expertise, and resources to rapidly advance and scale solutions to the current pandemic and future crises. [Read more.](#)

Maryland Momentum Fund Announces New Investment in Datakwp. The [Maryland Momentum Fund](#) has made a \$250,000 investment in Datakwp, a rapidly growing greentech building analytics company. UMD alumnus Brett Boyer is the co-founder and director of engineering for the company, which created a data integration software platform to manage energy across buildings. [Read more.](#)

News from USM Institutions

Bowie State University. BSU President Aminta Breaux and the Bowie BOLD marketing campaign were honored with silver awards at the 2020 HBCUGrow LEAD Conference and Awards. [Read more.](#)

Coppin State University. Incoming President Anthony Jenkins made his first public address to campus through a virtual town hall. [Read more.](#)

Frostburg University. FSU junior Jessica Thayer was named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact, an honor which acknowledges motivation and potential in public leadership. [Read more.](#)

Salisbury University. SU signed an agreement with the Peninsula Regional Medical Center to provide space for recovering COVID-19 patients in an SU residence hall. [Read more.](#)

Towson University. Marella Schammel, a TU chemistry major, received a 2020 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. [Read more.](#)

University of Baltimore. The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will fund need-based scholarships, totaling up to \$5 million over five years, for hundreds of full-time University of Baltimore transfer students and military veterans. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, Baltimore. The University of Maryland's School of Medicine (UMSOM) developed a large-scale COVID-19 testing initiative using robotic platforms with automated technologies to significantly expand testing capability in Maryland. [Read more.](#) In addition, the School of Medicine recently produced this [Frontline News](#) video to highlight the work of UMSOM faculty and researchers working on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County. New UMBC research has revealed a promising drug target for treating HIV infection, opening a path to new, better therapies. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, UMCES campuses across Maryland made donations of personal protective equipment and emergency supplies to hospitals and local health departments. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, College Park. More than three dozen UMD schools, colleges, and programs are featured in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2021 Best Graduate School rankings, including programs in engineering, business, education, and public policy. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore. UMES received accreditation confirmation to offer its Physician Assistant program. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Global Campus. UMGC has received a record \$16 million gift, nearly doubling the school's endowment, and has begun using the money to help students struggling financially during the coronavirus pandemic. [Read more.](#)

News from USM Regional Centers

Universities at Shady Grove. The Universities at Shady Grove announced its annual Student Achievement and Leadership Awards. [Read more.](#)

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown. USMH created a virtual open house to allow prospective students to learn about the USM programs in Hagerstown. [Read more.](#)

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland. Work is moving forward on the new 84,000-square-foot Academic & Innovation Center (third academic building). [Read more.](#)

Dates to Remember

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

MAY 5, 2020

Committee on Education Policy and Student Life

Via Conference Call
9:30 a.m.

MAY 5, 2020

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization

Via Conference Call
1:30 p.m.

MAY 13, 2020

Committee on Advancement

USM Office, Elkins Building
11:00 a.m.

MAY 13, 2020

Committee on Governance and Compensation

Via Conference Call
1:00 p.m.

JUNE 3, 2020

Committee on Audit

USM Office, Elkins Building
10:00 a.m.

JUNE 4, 2020

Committee on Governance and Compensation

University of Maryland, Baltimore
8:30 a.m.

JUNE 4, 2020

Committee on Finance

University of Maryland, Baltimore
10:30 a.m.

JUNE 4, 2020

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization

University of Maryland, Baltimore
12:30 p.m.

JUNE 19, 2020

Board of Regents Meeting

Frostburg State University
8:30 a.m.

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