



**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 26, 2023. The meeting was convened at 10:05 a.m. Committee members present were: Regents Gourdine (chair), Gooden, Helal, Leggett, Parker (*non-voting*), Peters, Smarick, and Wood. Chancellor Perman and Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn were also present.

The following were also in attendance on Zoom:

Dr. Allen, Dr. Alvarez, Ms. Bainbridge, Dr. Beise, Dr. Caraco, Dr. Cook Bell, Dr. Cooper, Dr. Couch, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Dauvalder, Dr. Haverback, Ms. Herbst, Dr. Hurte, Dr. Kersh, Dr. Khademian, Dr. Lee, Mr. McDonough, Dr. Masucci, Ms. Marano, Dr. O'Neill, Mr. Pace, Dr. Patricio, Ms. Pomietto, Dr. Reed, Dr. Sanford, Dr. Shapiro, Dr. Skevakis, Dr. Travis, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Ward, Ms. Wilkerson, and Ms. Yaukey.

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

Chair Gourdine extended a special welcome to Regent Josiah Parker, non-voting student regent, from Salisbury University. Regent Parker thanked Regent Gourdine for the welcome and further introduced himself.

Action Items

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 Charge, Role, and Responsibilities. Dr. Lee shared that 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.

When Chair Gourdine, Dr. Wrynn, and the Academic and Student Affairs team reviewed these documents in July 2023, they decided to propose the following:

- Article X, Section 4, Subsection B of the Bylaws – Proposing to add ***college readiness***, which better describes higher education's concern for students' preparation for college.
- Article X, Section 4, Subsection C of the Bylaws – Proposing to remove ***research*** and the phrase ***alumni engagement*** from the list of expected reports and detail those topics in Subsection D where research can be appropriately connected to USM's Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development and alumni engagement can be appropriately connected to the Board's Committee on Advancement.
- Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities – Proposing to add (1) ***libraries, global engagement, and student awards and scholarships*** to the list of matters of interest and (2) reword diversity and inclusion to ***diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility***.

Dr. Lee noted that the Article X proposed amendments do not take research and alumni engagement out of EPSL's reach, but the work is or should be considered by other committees/units who were consulted on the proposed amendments. Additionally, none of these proposed changes reflect new work. Instead, the amendments more accurately reflect the breadth and depth of the academic and student affairs work within the USM Office and our institutions.

Regent Wood asked if the committee can consider recommendations to establish academic programs that will improve higher education's alignment with workforce and public needs and, subsequently, enhance the perceived value of higher education, which has been recently questioned in the media. Board Chair Gooden shared that a workgroup is exploring those issues and that the workgroup's forthcoming recommendations may be appropriate for EPSL's review.

The Chancellor recommends that the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve amendments to (1) the EPSL section of the Board of Regent Bylaws and (2) the EPSL Committee Charge, Role, and Responsibilities guidance.

Vote Count: Yeas: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Information Items

Report on Academic Program Actions Delegated to the Chancellor, AY 2022-2023

Dr. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, 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 2022 and August 2023, the Chancellor approved 138 actions, including:

- the suspension or discontinuation of 52 academic programs (including 9 degree programs, 1 degree program at a regional higher education center, 10 certificates, and 32 areas of concentration within an existing degree);
- 25 title changes;
- 9 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code changes;
- 16 programs moved to or added online modality (9 degrees and 7 certificates);
- 19 new certificates and one new iteration of a PBC of Professional Studies;
- 10 substantial modifications (9 to existing degree programs and 1 to a certificate);
- 4 new offerings at USM Regional Higher Education Centers; and
- 2 closed-site locations of programs approved for the main campus.

In addition, the Board of Regents approved 27 new degree programs. The total of 165 approvals is up from last year's total of 135 approvals. A chart detailing the Chancellor's actions and programs approved by the Board was in the meeting materials.

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. Candace Caraco, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, shared information about the USM Regents Scholars Program and Dr. Zakiya Lee, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, 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 within the USM. Substantial endowments have been established by individuals and corporations to cover the 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 criteria relating to a student's field of study or financial need. This scholarship cycle, eight USM institutions with comprehensive undergraduate programs submitted nominations for first-year students for Regents Scholarships. This number compares to seven for AY 2022-23 awards. This year the System's three HBCUs all submitted nominations, and the institutions' students are among the scholarship recipients (two full scholarships and one partial scholarship).

A typical full scholarship for a first-year student or transfer student for AY 2023-2024 is approximately \$25,238 per year. Partial scholarships range from \$1,500 to \$7,783 per year for educational expenses. For academic year 2023-2024, 14 new and 20 continuing students were awarded a total of \$490,382.00 (up from last year's total of \$436,500).

Regent Peters congratulated the scholarship winners and thanked the USM staff for enhancing the scholarship portion of the USM webpage, which now includes a BOR Scholarship Guide he suggested last year.

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.

Bowie State University's Dr. Karen Cook-Bell, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History and Government, joined the meeting to share a little about her research, work, and activism that have been funded in part by the Elkins Professorship.

Dr. Lee noted that several years ago, USM began dedicating some of the proceeds to an Elkins Academic Transformation Professorship. And, this year, for the first time, part of the academic transformation funds were for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning fellowships. This year's awardees include:

Traditional Elkins

Award to Bowie State University to support the work of Dr. Karen Cook-Bell, Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History and Government – Using funds to continue work she started last year (with Elkins Funds) to further enhance the DuBois Center for the Study of the Black Experience, which is designed to encourage and disseminate research that is innovative in scope and methods in the fields of African, African American, and African diaspora studies. \$30,000

Award to the University of Maryland, Baltimore to support the work of Dr. Norbert Myslinski, Associate Professor in the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry – Using funds to expand access to organizations, programs, and resources for youths who have brain disorders such as autism, blindness, deafness, dyslexia. He will also launch a monthly speaker's series focusing on neurological and psychological disorders or conditions such as memory, pain, emotion, and featuring celebrity guests and the expansion of this work to other universities in the USM. \$60,000

Award to Salisbury University to support the work of Dr. Michèle Schlehofer, Professor of Psychology – Using funds to expand on the successes of the REACH (Re-Envisioning Ethics Access and Community

Humanities) Initiative and create institutional change by creating the Center for Ethical Responsibility and Transformation, whose mission will be to develop and support SU's capacity to conduct interdisciplinary community-based action-research projects and outputs. \$50,000

Award to the University of Maryland, College Park to support the work of Dr. Miao Yu, Professor and Director of the Sensors and Actuators Laboratory within the Department of Mechanical Engineering – Using funds to support a collaborative project (at the interface of engineering, computer science, biology, and aquaculture) investigating novel sensing and robotics tools for the study of marine ecosystem dynamics to promote sustainability. The collaboration includes the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the research team will include graduate, undergraduate, and high school students. \$30,000 – Year 1 of 2

Elkins Academic Transformation Professorships

Award to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science to support the work of Dr. K. Halimeda Kilbourne, Associate Research Professor at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory – Using funds to deepen the work she undertook to develop learning outcomes and implement program learning outcome assessment for the MEES program to help ensure continual improvement of the MEES curriculum and meeting the needs of current and future students. Elkins Academic Transformation Award ~ \$30,000

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Fellows

The William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation welcomes Dr. Kelly Elkins of Towson University as a Senior Fellow, to lead system support of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). SoTL focuses on systematic investigation of student learning, instruction, and teaching innovations. Findings from SoTL research studies can help inform educators as they decide which instructional methods to use with students and as they design courses, helping to improve student performance and contributing to the knowledge base related to effective educational practices.

Charles Grattan Baldwin, associate professor of education, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Billy Brocato, assistant professor of sociology, with co-principal investigator Victoria Wolf, instructional designer in the Center for Instructional Technology and Online Learning, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Samuel Clevenger, assistant professor of kinesiology, Towson University

Amr Kadry, adjunct faculty in the Merrick School of Business, with co-principal investigators Jessica Stansbury, Director of Teaching and Learning Excellence, Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, and Technology (CELTT), University of Baltimore, and Sarah Lausch, Educational Development Specialist, Center for Teaching and Learning, Boise State University (formerly of CELTT)

LaShawn Nastvogel, assistant professor of kinesiology, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Cory Stephens, assistant professor of nursing informatics, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Courtney Thomas, clinical assistant professor of chemistry, Towson University

Beth Towle, assistant professor of English and associate director of the University Writing Center, Salisbury University

Libraries Across the USM

Mr. Andrew Pace, Executive Director of the USM and Affiliated Institutions Library Consortium (USMAI), and current council chair, Ms. Suzanna Yaukey (Dean of University Libraries at Towson University), presented this report to the committee. Mr. Pace shared that a library consortium is a group of libraries that coordinates activities to achieve greater gains collectively than each individual library could achieve alone. The USMAI Consortium includes the USM institutions as well as the libraries at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Morgan State University, and Loyola University of Maryland/Notre Dame of Maryland University. The USMAI staff includes Mr. Pace, librarians, developers, and staff for product management, project management, community engagement, and more. The Council of Library Directors (CLD) and CLD Executive Committee are major parts of the governance, management, and strategic operations of the USMAI. The consortium and its members benefit because of enhanced buying power, cost avoidance and containment; increased impact and shared experience; greater efficiency; shared expertise; equity across a system; and joint problem solving.

In response to questions from regents, Mr. Pace and Ms. Yaukey shared:

- There are many factors in place to help ensure cyber security for users of these services.
- Each institution has a variety of ways they inform students of these resources.
- Processes for users to obtain assistance (virtually, in-person, etc.) vary by institution.
- USM does not currently have a publishing facility, but the consortium has looked at publishing platforms where libraries are acting as the publisher in an effort to understand the costs and revenue needed to sustain.

Health Equity Across the USM

Chair Gourdine shared her personal and professional interest and dedication to health equity and how she initiated conversations about how USM institutions were or could dedicate themselves to ensuring health equity for the citizens of Maryland and beyond. Dr. Gourdine and members of USM's Academic and Student Affairs team gathered a group of knowledgeable stakeholders from several USM institutions and began talking about how they were addressing health equity from academic affairs, student affairs, and community-focused lenses. The workgroup gave way to two amazing system-wide health equity convenings organized by the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation within the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

Acting Director of the Kirwan Center, Dr. Nancy O'Neill, joined the presentation to share details of those convenings. For the past two years (May 2022 and April 2023), the Kirwan Center staff have organized systemwide convenings (*Empowering Students to be Agents for Change in Promoting Health Equity*) bringing campus teams together to work on action plans, engage in cross-institutional learning, and grapple with key issues related to making education for health equity pervasive and intentional for students and empowering graduates of our healthcare programs to be agents of change in promoting health equity. Participants also explored the ways the system can enhance its impact in relation to that goal. The Kirwan Center also connected colleagues at two USM institutions in June 2023 to explore funding for a partnership to enhance a long-standing preventative health community outreach program. The Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and the Acting Director of the Kirwan Center are looking at how to ensure sustainable leadership for health equity out of the system office. In the meantime, Dr. O'Neill is in conversation with a USM institution about their organizing a third convening (as requested by campus stakeholders), in Spring 2024, with the Kirwan Center playing an advisory role.

Senior Vice Chancellor Wrynn noted the importance of finding more ways to marry academic program needs with societal factors (languages, social work, health care, etc.) as ways to promote better health outcomes. Chancellor Perman noted that education is the best way to address the social determinants of health for individuals and society. He and Board Chair Gooden agree that expansive thinking regarding possible funders is critical to this work. Regent Helal reflected that there seem to be connections between USM's civic engagement/civic education and health equity work. Drs. Nancy Shapiro and Nancy O'Neill agreed and shared that they would think more about possible connections.

Chair Gourdine thanked Dr. O'Neill; former Director of the Kirwan Center; Dr. MJ Bishop; and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs for being responsive to her inquires and the issues and needs of our communities.

Tentative Annual Agenda, 2023-2024

The Tentative Agenda for 2023-2024 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 Helal asked that the committee hear and consider a presentation about international students, as she is hearing concern about international students' residency classification, resources, housing, visa statuses, and reintegration post COVID.

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

Motion to Adjourn

Before adjourning, Chair Gourdine shared details about and encouraged the regents to attend the forthcoming USM Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference on Nov 3rd. They should contact Dr. Nancy Shapiro if they have questions.

Regent Gourdine thanked all for a productive first meeting and called for a motion to adjourn. Regents Helal and Smarick made and seconded the motion. Regent Gourdine adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Regent Michelle Gourdine
Chair