



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM *of* MARYLAND

Friday, February 22, 2019
Report to the USM Board of Regents
Chancellor Robert Caret
AS DRAFTED

Thank you, Chair Gooden. Welcome all to our first Board of Regents meeting of 2019.

Let me begin my report today by thanking our host this morning, Bowie State University (BSU) and President Aminta Breaux. These are certainly exciting times for BSU:

- Two Bowie State University counseling degree programs—Master of Arts in mental health counseling and Master of Education in school counseling—recently achieved full, eight-year accreditation.
- Six BSU students, attending a regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival last week, were honored for outstanding performance and new play development.
- The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)—the nation’s first African American athletic conference—has selected Baltimore as the official home of 2021-2023 Men’s & Women’s Basketball Tournament. And as Maryland’s only CIAA school, Bowie State University, will serve as Host Institution.
- And, of course, throughout Black History Month BSU has been celebrating the African American community’s historical and cultural connection to the African Diaspora.

I commend and congratulate the entire BSU “family” on these achievements.

Elsewhere across the USM, I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to highlight some rankings news in my report.

Last month *U.S. News & World Report* unveiled its 2019 Best Online Programs rankings for both bachelors and graduate degrees. Six USM institutions were recognized for a total of ten programs:

- Frostburg State University (FSU) was recognized in the online rankings for Bachelor's Programs, Graduate Education Programs, and MBA Programs.
- Salisbury University’s (SU) MBA and Graduate Nursing Programs were both included.
- Towson University (TU) was listed among the best Online Graduate Education Programs.
- The University of Baltimore (UB) was included with the best Online MBA Programs.
- The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Graduate Computer Information Technology Program was ranked 19th.
- And from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), the Online MBA program was ranked 8th and the Online Graduate Engineering Program was ranked 20th.

I am also pleased to note that the 2019-2020 Military Friendly Schools list—the longest-running and most comprehensive review of college and university investments in serving military and veteran students—included Frostburg, Bowie, and Salisbury.

For the ninth time, UMCP was included in the Best Value College listing released by *The Princeton Review*.

Top RN to BSN—a leading online information source for nursing students—named Coppin State University’s (CSU) Helene Fuld School of Nursing as the number 6 HBCU Nursing School for 2019. Coppin was also featured in a wonderful story in *The Baltimore Sun* earlier this year profiling “Winky” and “Peaches” Camphor, both Coppin graduates and retired educators who have donated \$200,000 to the university in scholarships for some 200 students.

The University of Baltimore received tremendous news coverage as well, as Clarence Shipley Jr., who had spent 27 years in prison for a murder he didn’t commit, was exonerated of all charges and freed thanks to the UB School of Law Innocence Project Clinic.

Likewise, UMBC was in the spotlight as *Times Higher Education* reported extensively on that institution’s advancements in graduating more low-income and minority students in the sciences. As UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski noted in the report, lessons learned in one area can inform another, and UMBC’s work to support underrepresented students in STEM fields has led to investments in support programs for students of all backgrounds. Also, UMBC is one of six universities nationwide selected to host a science and faith dialogue project through the American Association for the Advancement of Science. UMBC’s “Engaging Scientists” events will be held March 25 – 26 and will be open to the entire UMBC community.

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and the National Security Agency (NSA) recently signed an agreement to expand their alliance and offer pathways for NSA employees and active-duty military personnel to earn a bachelor’s or master’s degree in cybersecurity from UMUC.

UMCP and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) last month celebrated the launch of the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices. With support from both universities and the state of Maryland, the institute brings together engineers, clinicians, scientists, and students working to design and build biomedical devices that address many of today’s most pressing human health challenges.

Both UMCP and UMB also added to their national leadership portfolios recently:

- Claire Fraser, director of the Institute for Genome Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, has been chosen as president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).
- And at UMCP, Darryll Pines, dean of the Clark School of Engineering, has been elected to the 2019 Class of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), one of the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

Salisbury University nursing students once again achieved the highest pass rates of all USM campuses on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, with a first-time pass rates at a near-perfect 98.8 percent. In addition, Salisbury boasts 13 semifinalists for U.S. Fulbright Student awards for the 2019-20 academic year – the university’s largest number to date.

Students at Towson celebrated top honors at the 21st Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium held at UMBC, winning first place in seven competitions. In addition, Towson's cybersecurity leadership was recognized with a \$500,000 Maryland E-Innovation Initiative grant to help the university create a world-class cyber education and research center.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) is part of the new, multi-institution Center for Oceans and Human Health and Climate Change Interactions. Funded by a \$5.7 million grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the center will be headquartered at the University of South Carolina and involve more than 20 researchers from five colleges and universities, including the University of South Carolina, the College of Charleston, The Citadel, Baylor University, and UMCES.

Earlier this month, educational leaders from Hagerstown, Frederick, and other area institutions joined faculty and staff from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) to discuss articulation agreements and pathways for students as plans progress for the UMES hospitality and tourism management program to be offered at USMH this fall. Signed articulation agreements between the community colleges and UMES will allow for a seamless transfer for students by providing the most efficient path to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is also focused on growth, recently hosting staff from UMB, UMBC, and UMCP on a "hard hat" tour of the new Biomedical Sciences and Engineering (BSE) Education Facility that will be opening in fall 2019. USM leadership is working closely with USG to promote the programs that will be housed in the building when it opens and to support the USM's Workforce Development Initiative.

With the Governor's inclusion of \$12 million in capital funds to design and construct the University of Maryland Academic and Research Center at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center—and with legislation passed last year—we are close to adding the USM's third regional higher education center, which we are tentatively referring to as the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). The center currently hosts educational programs sponsored by nine universities, including five USM institutions. The USMSM also boasts a major research component through a partnership with the University of Maryland Unmanned Aircraft System Test Site.

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In news from the USM office, with the recent \$300,000 investment in Zest Tea, the USM's Maryland Momentum Fund has now made four investments totaling \$1.1 million that have been matched by \$3.3 million in private funds. The fund is designed to identify and help launch promising startups emerging from the work of faculty and students on our campuses.

In addition, the three primary bond rating agencies—Standard and Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch—reaffirmed the system's high bond ratings, each only **1 notch** down from AAA. The system's strong record of stewarding financial resources enables the USM and our institutions to save millions of dollars annually in borrowing costs.

Thanks to the rating agencies' recent vote of confidence, the USM recently auctioned \$115 million in revenue bonds to finance ongoing capital projects at institutions across the state and realized \$6 million in reduced interest costs than had been initially projected.

Turning now to Governor Hogan's proposed budget for the USM.

In brief, the Governor has proposed state support for the USM of \$1.5 billion, coming from the General Fund and the Higher Education Investment Fund. This represents an increase of \$110 million—or 8 percent—over the revised FY 2019 appropriation. It should be noted, however, that the vast majority of this increase—\$78 million (or 70 percent)—is targeted to the statewide salary increase and fringe benefit increases going to every state employee in every state agency.

The portion of the budget increase available to the USM for enhancements is significantly smaller. Nevertheless, the USM is very much in support of the Governor's budget and encourages its adoption.

I am pleased to point out that the funding provided by the Governor's budget plan will once again enable the USM to limit our tuition increase to a modest 2 percent for in-state, undergraduate students. Working in conjunction with our partners here in Annapolis, the USM is doing its part to advance the causes of excellence and affordability.

The budget also supports operating expenses for new USM facilities, many STEM-related. It honors commitments incorporated into SB 1052, in particular support for both UMBC and Towson to continue their progress toward the state-established funding guidelines and budget adequacy. It funds additional faculty enhancements and student success efforts at UMBC.

And it provides \$20 million in funding to support year two of the USM's Workforce Development Initiative. This 3-year, \$30 million USM-state partnership will ultimately generate 3,000 new high-demand credentials per year, targeting key workforce needs in cybersecurity, healthcare, engineering, autonomous technology, robotics, artificial intelligence, and other critical and emerging fields.

The bottom line is that this budget proposal demonstrates—once again—Maryland's commitment to higher education. It also underscores Maryland's embrace of bipartisanship, which is becoming increasingly rare in legislative bodies across the country. The fact is, the USM has forged a genuine partnership with leaders in Annapolis to help advance our mutual priorities of providing affordable, high-quality higher education, performing groundbreaking research, meeting key workforce needs, fostering economic growth, and elevating our quality of life.

I thank Vice Chancellor for Government Relations Patrick Hogan and his outstanding team in the state relations office in Annapolis for their hard work. In addition, I want to recognize our Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Ellen Herbst, and our Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Joann Boughman. Jo, Ellen, and their teams are instrumental in the work getting done in Annapolis. And, of course, I thank our presidents and campuses. Together, we will be working to generate support for this budget. And, of course, I ask all of you to voice your support. I encourage you to talk with your colleagues and associates to support this budget as well.

Let me close my comments with a few final items.

Late last year Coppin President Maria Thompson announced that she will be stepping down at the end of June. As you know, Maria has successfully battled a serious health challenge recently. Concurrent with her intention to step down from CSU, Maria also announced her plans to marry her long-time partner and relocate to Nashville. President Thompson's career has been marked by a strong commitment to the mission of higher education and historically black colleges and universities, with a focus on both the students and the communities they serve. She brought this approach to Coppin, and we are better for it. A presidential search committee will be announced soon.

Likewise, a presidential search committee will soon be named—chaired by Regent Gary Attman—to identify a successor for UMCP President Wallace Loh, who will be leading Maryland's flagship campus through June 2020. We will have ample time to celebrate Wallace's contributions and achievements in the months ahead, but there is no doubt that he has been a truly transformative leader for that campus and the surrounding community.

Jeff Neal, USM's Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing, informed me after the winter break that he will be stepping down. Jeff plans to return to the Boston area, where his partner of ten years still lives, and from which he has been commuting every weekend. Jeff's impact has been significant, and his communications leadership has been invaluable. He worked closely with me, with the Board of Regents, presidents, and senior leaders across the system to support our mission and priorities. I want to thank Jeff for his service.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to remember Don Langenberg—Chancellor of the USM from 1990 to 2002—who passed away last month. Don will certainly be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues in higher education. But his truly was a life well lived, with a proud legacy of accomplishments, that touched countless others over the years. As many of you know, there is a memorial service for Don on Saturday, March 2. In addition, Don's legacy will also continue through the Langenberg Lecture and Award, which has become an annual "call to action" from a nationally renowned educational leader to inspire and motivate those of us who value teaching. I look forward to joining many of you for this year's very special Langenberg Lecture on Tuesday, April 2nd.

Madame Chair . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the Regents may have.

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