



Regents Report | September 2020

Greetings from the Board of Regents

As we begin a new academic year at the University System of Maryland (USM), we welcome new members of the USM family and extend our good wishes to our students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and neighbors. In this difficult time, our relationships with one another matter more than ever before.

And so we're deeply grateful that we can come together again—whether on our campuses or in our virtual classrooms—to advance our shared goals. Despite the pandemic, the USM remains dedicated to our guiding missions: to educate students for productive work and engaged citizenship, to drive discovery and innovation, to fuel inclusive economic growth, and to serve the people of Maryland.



During the past few months, our universities have grappled with many complex challenges as they prepared for a fall semester unlike any we've seen. We are enormously proud of the university leaders, faculty, and staff who have dedicated long hours to providing effective and creative remote instruction, to supporting students in this new environment, to protecting the safety of their people and their communities, and to ensuring that this crisis does not inhibit their ability to do the daily work that makes a real and lasting difference in Maryland.

At our Board of Regents meeting last Friday, we provided an update on the fall semester and on several significant USM initiatives. We also shared information on our progress toward racial justice. On this front, USM and university leaders are working together to redress racial inequities within our System, to promote diversity and inclusion on our campuses, to elevate our scholarship in race and racism, and to engage with our communities to eliminate race-based disparities and promote social justice. You may view the latest presidents' reports on these efforts in this [video recording of the Board meeting](#).

Finally, we congratulate several newly appointed USM leaders. Dr. Bruce Jarrell was named president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, after serving as interim president since January. Dr. Anne Khademian was selected as the next executive director of the Universities at Shady Grove. And the Board of Regents welcomed two new student regents, Nate Sansom and Aaliyah Edwards. You can read more about these appointments and other recent Board actions in this newsletter.

As always, we thank you 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 | September 18, 2020

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on September 18, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:

Recognition of Staff and Faculty Award Winners: In her opening message, Chair Gooden congratulated the recipients of the annual [Board of Regents Staff Awards](#), presented to nine staff members at various USM institutions. In his remarks, Chancellor Perman recognized four faculty members who have been awarded [2020-2021 Wilson H. Elkins Professorships](#).

Approval of Three New Degree Programs. After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life, the Board voted to approve new degree programs at Coppin State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore:

- Coppin State University will offer a [Master of Science \(M.S.\) in Applied Molecular Biology and Biochemistry](#) program, which will provide advanced study in molecular biology and biological chemistry and prepare students to pursue PhD programs or seek employment opportunities in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry.
- Coppin State University also will offer a [Master of Science \(M.S.\) in Polymers and Materials Sciences program](#), which will provide an in-depth understanding of the relationships between the structure and properties of materials and explore research areas driven by industry-university partnerships.
- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will offer a [Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media Studies](#). The program will include coursework in media writing, video and audio production, computer generated graphics, and media law to prepare students for a wide variety of positions in the information and entertainment industries.

Approval of Revised USM Enrollment Projections. The Board voted to approve the 2021-2030 systemwide enrollment projections, which replace the projections developed in March 2020 before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic could be fully assessed. The updated projections include student registration data for the Fall 2020 semester and reflect enrollment changes caused by the pandemic and the downturn in economic conditions. The projections report an overall enrollment decrease of 2,404 students for Fall 2020, with fewer graduate and full-time students but more in-state students. [Read more.](#)

Update on the USM COVID Research and Innovation Task Force. Dr. Laurie Locascio, Vice President for Research at University of Maryland, College Park, and University of Maryland, Baltimore, and Tom Sadowski, Vice Chancellor for Economic Development, shared the progress of the Task Force, which was launched in April 2020 to bring together USM expertise and resources to rapidly advance solutions to the current pandemic and future crises. They highlighted several COVID-related research initiatives across the System, shared details on the recent COVID App Challenge, and discussed future plans to partner with industry and government agencies on pandemic response initiatives. [Read more.](#)

Report on Initiatives to Advance Cultural Diversity, Social Justice, and Racial Equity. The Board received the annual [Progress Report on Institutional Programs of Cultural Diversity](#), which is submitted each year to the Maryland Higher Education Commission as mandated by the Maryland legislature. The Board also heard from six of the 12 USM presidents about their universities' marquee program related to social justice and racial equity issues. (The other six presidents provided their report during the special Board meeting on August 26). The latest presidents' reports may be viewed in the [video archive of the meeting](#).

For more information about the most recent Board of Regents meeting, you may view the [meeting agenda](#), [video archive](#), and [full remarks from Chancellor Jay Perman](#).

Welcome to New USM Leaders

The Board of Regents is excited to congratulate the following individuals on their appointments to leadership roles within the USM.



[Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS](#), was appointed president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) effective September 11. Dr. Jarrell had served as UMB interim president since January 6, 2020. Since joining the university in 1997, Dr. Jarrell served in a variety of capacities, including chair of the Department of Surgery in the School of Medicine, chief academic and research officer, and executive vice president and provost.

Anne Khademian, PhD, was named the next executive director of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) following an extensive, nationwide search. A professor at Virginia Tech, Dr. Khademian is a Presidential Fellow in the Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington, VA, where she worked across the university's campuses and stakeholder committees to support organizational innovation and growth. She will begin her tenure at USG on October 19 following the departure of Stewart Edelstein, who has served as the USG executive director since 2002. Thank you to Dr. Edelstein for 18 years of transformative leadership at USG!



In June, **Nathaniel Sansom** and **Aaliyah Edwards** joined the Board of Regents as student regents. Sansom, a senior at Salisbury University will serve a one-year term as a voting member of the Board. Edwards, a junior at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, will serve a two-year term. She will begin as a non-voting member of the Board and then become a voting member in June 2021.

Other News from the System

USM Institutions Prominently Featured in National Rankings.

USM institutions continue to rank among the nation's best in the most recent local, national, worldwide and specialty college rankings. These include top listings in areas such as best value, undergraduate teaching, public colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, social mobility, best colleges for student voting, and more. [Read more.](#)

USM Manages Financial Challenges in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On September 9, the USM issued a statement outlining the steps it will take to deal with the negative impact to the finances of USM universities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic crisis. In order to close the revenue gap caused by the loss in areas such as tuition and fees, auxiliary services, grants and contracts, and state appropriations, in FY 2021 the USM will reduce spending in both personnel and non-personnel areas (depending on the USM institution). USM leaders have committed to minimizing the impact such cuts will have on students, employees, and academic programs as much as possible. [Read more.](#)

USM OnTrack Supports Enhanced Online Teaching and Learning.

This fall semester, USM students taking courses online will enjoy a more engaging and fulfilling experience due in part to innovations resulting from USM *OnTrack*, a partnership between the USM's William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation and University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). Through USM *OnTrack*, more than 1,300 faculty members across the USM participated in professional development summer workshops to help build online teaching strategies and skills. USM universities also received more than 750 hours of instructional design support to help them adapt classroom-based courses for effective online delivery. [Read more.](#)

Voter Engagement Initiative Launches on USM Campuses. To advance civic engagement and civic education, USM institutions have been actively involved in efforts to promote participation in the 2020 elections. As part of the effort, each USM institution is reaching out to students and staff to encourage voter registration, and many have student organizations working on get-out-the-vote activities. The USM also is responding to a special request from the Governor's office, MHEC, and the Maryland Congressional delegation to help recruit election judges for polling places in Maryland. [Read more.](#)

Maryland Momentum Fund Invests \$500,000 in Portfolio Companies. Last month, the Maryland Momentum Fund announced significant investments in biological and medical technology companies. The Fund invested \$250,000 in the seed round of [MiRecule, Inc.](#), a biotech company that is developing breakthrough RNA therapies for cancer and muscular dystrophy. The fund also made a second \$250,000 investment in portfolio company [NextStep Robotics, Inc.](#), as part of a \$500K bridge round that included the Abell Foundation and University of Maryland Global Campus. The company is developing foot drop rehabilitation therapeutics that combine a wearable device with the company's proprietary artificial intelligence.

News from USM Institutions

Bowie State University. The university enjoyed a record year in grant funding, primarily aiding retention programs and research efforts, including research to better understand COVID-19's disproportionate impact on minority communities. [Read more.](#)

Coppin State University. The annual STEM Day was held online this year and drew middle and high school students from around the globe to participate in a science trivia competition and oral presentations on renewable energy and nanotechnology. [Read more.](#)

Frostburg State University. Last month, the university held two significant ceremonies: the dedication of the Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument commemorating the largely Black community displaced as the campus grew between the 1920s and 1960s, and the groundbreaking for the new Education and Health Sciences Center, which is scheduled to open in 2022. [Read more.](#)

Salisbury University. Two longtime supporters of Salisbury University announced a \$1.5 million planned endowment to benefit the Honors College, now named the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College in recognition of their commitment. [Read more.](#)

Towson University. Towson University surpassed its fiscal year 2020 fundraising goal of \$12 million by more than \$400,000, with more than \$100,000 raised specifically for student emergency relief. [Read more.](#)

University of Baltimore. One year after death of Katrina Dennis, a member of the USM Board of Regents and graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law, the university's scholarship named for her is approaching its \$100,000 goal. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, Baltimore. The university's CURE Scholars Program, which helps West Baltimore students excel in STEM education, was honored with a "2020 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award" from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Researchers at UMBC are collaborating with the Chicago-based MxD to develop a program to help manufacturing professionals develop cybersecurity skills and protect manufacturing plants from cyber breaches. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation—a consortium of scientific, professional, educational, and engineering organizations—awarded President Emeritus Don Boesch its 2020 Sustained Achievement Award for his contributions to the conservation of natural resources. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, College Park. President Darryll Pines announced several actions supporting his pledge to create a more inclusive environment at the university, including the honorific naming of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and the hiring of a new program coordinator for immigrant and undocumented student life in the Division of Student Affairs. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The university has welcomed a charter class of 17 students to its new graduate-level physician assistant program, which will prepare them for the front lines of healthcare at a critical time in history. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Global Campus. UMGC is launching a certificate program this fall to prepare students to work in the hottest segment of the marketing industry—digital marketing. [Read more.](#)

News from USM Regional Centers

Universities at Shady Grove. USG has partnered with business leader and philanthropist David Blair to launch the new Lab for Entrepreneurship and Transformative Leadership to provide educational and economic resources for students, entrepreneurs, and small business owners. [Read more.](#)

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown. USMH will host the second annual University Spirit Run virtually later this month. Three distance options are available, with all proceeds from the event benefiting the USMH Scholarship Fund. [Read more.](#)

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). In July, Chancellor Perman visited the USMSM to meet with the center's Board of Advisors and tour the center,

including the construction site for the new academic building. [Read more.](#)

Dates to Remember

For the complete schedule of meetings and public access information, please visit the USM website at:

www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/

OCTOBER 28, 2020

Committee on Advancement

11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 30, 2020

Committee on Audit

10:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Committee on Education Policy and Student Life

9:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Committee on Finance

10:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization

12:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Board of Regents Meeting

8:30 a.m.



Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive [View](#)

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University System of Maryland

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