Council of University System Staff Meeting Minutes May 19, 2020

# 1) Call Meeting to Order

# 2) Poll to Approve Minutes

- a. Legislative committee: change "FU" to "FSU"
- b. April minutes approved.

# 3) Chancellor's Liaison Report

# a. <u>USM Chancellor Perman Appoints Presidential Search Committee for University</u> of Maryland, Baltimore

Dr. Perman, MD, chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM), appointed the search and screening committee for the new president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). Interim UMB President Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, has been leading UMB since Jan. 6, 2020.

16 members of the committee have been appointed to include; 4 regents, 2 deans, 3 professors, 1 executive director, president of university student government, president of Staff senate, president of faculty senate, UMB foundation board, president and CEO of UMMS and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the USMO.

UMB town halls—held virtually until social distancing restrictions ease—will help the firm narrow its search. The committee's work will conclude with its recommendation of finalists for consideration by the chancellor and the Board of Regents. The board will make the final selection.

## b. TITLE IX REGULATIONS

The new regulations alter the way that colleges and universities must handle sexual assault and sexual harassment complaints—for instance, requiring that universities hold live hearings and allow cross-examination when adjudicating sexual misconduct cases; narrowing the scope of complaints that universities must investigate; allowing universities to raise the standard-of-evidence constituting a violation of campus policy; and reducing the number of employees considered "mandatory reporters" of sexual misconduct claims.

The University System is concerned about these new regulations, and that concern is twofold: First, the new rules impose a costly, expanded regulatory burden on our institutions, and we believe they may discourage survivors of sexual assault from coming forward; and second, the timing of the regulations' release in the midst of a pandemic greatly complicates our ability to fully implement the new rules in time for the coming academic year.

Despite this, we remain committed to reducing incidents of sexual misconduct on campus, respecting the rights of every student, and providing an adjudicatory process that's fair to all parties. We will continue our work to ensure that the University System is a safe and inclusive community, and to ensure that Title IX

remains an effective tool for promoting fairness in our policies, equity in our programs, and justice for our people.

#### PLANNING FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

As you know, the Governor last week lifted restrictions on outdoor recreational activities and elective medical procedures. If conditions permit, we anticipate that further rollbacks of the stay-at-home order may be coming soon. At the same time, we're mindful that certain ZIP codes and counties in Maryland bear a disproportionate share of COVID cases. Prince George's and Montgomery counties, where we have a considerable number of students and employees, account for fully half of Maryland's disease burden. This tension—between reopening the state and staying shuttered, between safeguarding lives and preserving livelihoods—has only increased speculation about the USM's fall semester.

The University System is planning to resume at least some in-person teaching and learning this fall, though our delivery of instruction will include a variety of approaches, both online and face-to-face. Of course, our primary consideration as we undertake this planning is the health and safety of the USM's students, faculty, and staff, as well as our university neighbors.

As you know, the Chancellor has convened a USM Return to Campus Advisory Group made up of university-based leaders, including our own CUSS Chair, Dr. Lailah Shishineh. Each campus—based on its student population, its size, its type, its location—will have very different considerations determining how it might accomplish in-person instruction for the Fall.

#### c. Questions:

• I know we don't have the full budget yet for the coming year but am wondering if there is a USM wide policy governing layoffs for individuals or units. For instance, is it encouraged to provide HR-type assistance to folks who are facing layoff to find another job within their institution or even across the system.

Answer: No System-wide plan. Decisions would be campus level. Will bring up to HR leaders. HR discussions include more than just the system schools

• Is there any discussions about not fully refunding fees if students are remote since students services still occur even in a remote environment?

Answer: not sure, Laila will take back to the "Campus Advisory Group"

Salisbury is charging \$50 for credit (summer session)

Has there been any coordination with the NCAA on opening dates

Answer: There has been communication, but no date yet.

## **COVID RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TASK FORCE**

Last week the USM unveiled a website for the System's COVID Research and Innovation Task Force, with information on activities in medicine and clinical care, public health policy, engineering and physical science, and computer and data science.

On the site is a prominent link where public and private partners can connect with us, and find places where our respective activities could intersect—in improving treatment, or inhibiting disease spread, or developing public policy.

What we want most of all is for this to be a collaborative undertaking, so that we can scale and deploy projects for the biggest impact possible on medical capacity, technological innovation, and, of course, community and population health. So, we'll continue to build out this site as our work progresses.

# 4) Chair's Report

- a. Return to Campus Advisory Group
  - Group consists of: Chancellor, Academic Affairs (Towson Provost), Admin & Finance (UMBC VPAF), Enrollment Management (Salisbury VP), Public Health (UMB Interim President), R&D (UMCP President Elect), Student Life (UMBC VPSA), USM Presidents (BSU President – Chair of CUSP), CUSF Chair, CUSS Chair, USMSC Chair, and USM Senior Staff (Jo Boughman, Ellen Herbst, and Denise Wilkerson).
  - Met three times since launch. Standing Friday morning meeting
  - Tasked to determine what "Return to campus" will look like in the fall
  - Guiding principles include: health and safety of all campus communities, working within state laws and executive orders, and present a unified approach keeping in mind that campuses have unique needs. A template was created to be sent out to each campus. The group plans to have some results available in the next month.
  - Questions

Have they discussed how they would reopen the resident halls?

Answer: yes, they are looking at all the possibilities

Since the classroom capacity will be drastically reduced due to social distancing, has it been suggested to perhaps allow special needs, learning disabled or challenged students to have first "dibbs" on inperson classes while the class is also live streamed for students needing to take the class online?

- Answer: yes, part of the template, discussing needs and types of student issues
- How are they handling the return of k-12? Will that limit the ability of people to go back?

Answer: flexibility available to people who might not have the ability to come back. Team in Aca. Affairs doing research with Kirwin Commission and the various counties. 54 page report on PG County. USM is heavily involved in all aspects of Covid-19 issues.

- Concerns to take back to the Campus Advisory Committee
  - Towson construction workers not following PPE requirements. (What are we doing on campus when people are not following requirements, employees, contractors, visitors?)
  - UMCP Dining services how do we resume when the students come back? (no self-service, students come in all at once)
  - CDC issued a report that shared ventilation systems (like using central air/heating) may be a mechanism that can transmit viral particles. Are there any considerations with regards to this if we open in the summer and may need to use AC units or using heat in the fall??? Especially for smaller spaces/buildings.
  - What is the cost of switching back to fully online if there's a spike in cases?
  - SU's president told our SS last week that he wanted everyone to be flexible on telework and respect those who had fear of returning. Thinking that should be a system wide policy?
  - Concern from Departments that are service-based and working from home is difficult. How will that affect morale in the long run. How can ordering be done for fall when we don't know when we're returning.

- Budgetarily, it is not going to be possible for people to continue to be paid if they are not able to perform their functions through teleworking.
  Now is the time to innovate ways that people can learn new skills.
  - there are some ADA/EEOC guidelines on that
  - When and where possible, a staggered in person office arrangement could be beneficial
- Office Equipment concerns if this becomes longerterm work from home assignments.
- Is there a USM policy where it is necessary to have a hard copy of files in addition to digital files or is that an institution or department decision?

# 5) New Business

- a. CUSS Executive Committee Nominations
  - Chair
    - Kalia Patricio nominated Laila Shishineh for Chair, Vanessa Collins seconded, Laila Shishineh accepted the nomination.

## • Co-chair

 Vanessa Collins nominated Kalia Patricio for Co-chair, Sr. Maureen Schrimpe seconded, Kalia Patricio accepted the nomination.

#### Co-secretary

- Colette Beaulieu nominated Susan Holt for co-secretary, Vanessa Collins seconded, Susan Holt accepted the nomination
- Antoinne Beidleman nominated Carol Green-Willis for cosecretary, Deniz Erman seconded, Carol Green-Willis accepted the nomination.
- b. CUSS Committee 2019-2020 Final Reports
  - Lailah will send a form to the chairs to share accomplishments and issues you'd like to focus on for next year.
- 6) Old Business
  - a. Committee Updates
- 7) Adjourn

а.	LaVel Jones motioned to adjourn, Rubin Stevenson seconded, meeting adjourned