



## Regents Report | November 2020

### Greetings from the Board of Regents

As cooler weather approaches, Maryland and the nation face a devastating spike in COVID-19 cases. We are all acutely aware of the deteriorating numbers in terms of infections, hospitalizations, and—sadly—deaths.

And while it's fortunate that virtually all of our USM institutions had long planned to end their semester by Thanksgiving or to use the holiday as the transition point to online-only courses, we stand ready for a pivot to virtual instruction even earlier than that, should circumstances warrant.

Meanwhile, as we collect the pandemic-related lessons our institutions have learned over the last several months—hundreds of lessons in teaching and learning, facilities management, campus life, student services, communication, technology—we're applying those lessons to our immediate and long-term efforts. And we hope for a spring semester beginning in January that looks very much like the fall—a mix of online, in-person, and hybrid courses, and adherence to a rigorous set of disease prevention and containment protocols that will help us sustain safe campuses and, of course, productive learning.

Certainly, this virus has challenged how the USM educates, discovers, innovates, and serves. And yet just as certainly, our institutions are achieving in every one of these missions. You can find just a sampling of these achievements in this newsletter.

The university system—as deeply affected as it's been by the COVID crisis—is not defined by it. And while we're appropriately focused on our response to the pandemic, we're equally focused on our vision for the USM long after it ends.

For that vision, we thank the USM regents; our students, faculty, staff, and partners; and the leaders of our institutions, who have much to be proud of as our fall semester winds to a close. Among those leaders, we welcome Dr. Larry Leak, interim president of the University of Maryland Global Campus, and Dr. Eileen Abel, who will soon take over as executive director of the USM at Southern Maryland.

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving, we remain deeply grateful to all of you who support the USM and the vital work to which we're dedicated. On behalf of the USM's students, faculty, and staff, we wish you health and safety this holiday and some restorative time with loved ones.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman, MD  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland



## Board Actions & Decisions | November 13, 2020

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on November 13, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:

**Approval of the Revised Policy on the Naming of Facilities and Programs.** Following an extensive review of the existing policy (USM BOR VI-4.00) by the regents and USM shared governance councils (representing campus presidents, students, faculty and staff), the Board voted to approve revisions that will provide USM institutions with a process and guidelines for naming or renaming facilities and programs. The revised policy requires USM universities and regional centers to formalize their own policy regarding naming at the institutional level. A naming or renaming that requires approval by the Board of Regents (as stated in the policy) will be submitted to the Board by the requesting institution's president. [Read more.](#)

**Approval of the Establishment of a New Standing Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare.** The Board of Regents Intercollegiate Athletic Workgroup is charged with reviewing information provided under the Policy on Reports on Intercollegiate Athletics (USMBOR V-2.10); understanding approaches, institutional practices, and policies relating to intercollegiate athletics; and considering new policy needs related to intercollegiate athletics. With an increased focus on the health and welfare of student-athletes, the Board voted to dissolve the existing workgroup and create a new standing Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare. This new standing committee will provide an opportunity for the regents to engage in dialogue on specific issues relevant to student-athletes, as well as provide an avenue for public input. The chancellor will present a proposed charter for the new standing committee to the Board when it meets in April 2021. [Read more.](#)

**Approval of Renovation to Expand the University of Maryland School of Nursing at the Universities at Shady Grove.** The Board voted to approve a \$7.5 million design and construction project that will expand the University of Maryland School of Nursing space in Building 1 at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) from 15,000 to 27,000 square feet. The School of Nursing enrollment at USG has grown in recent years and is projected to increase from 64 students to 100 in the next three years. The expansion project will add classrooms, faculty offices, and clinical simulation spaces to accommodate the growth in enrollment. [Read more.](#)

**Presentation of the USM Fall 2020 Enrollment Update.** The Board received an update on Fall 2020 enrollment from Chad Muntz, USM assistant vice chancellor of institutional research, data and analytics. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the historic enrollment patterns across the USM. Total Fall 2020 enrollment (undergraduate and graduate) was down 1,235 students compared to Fall 2019, for an estimated total of 170,979 students; however, the enrollment picture has improved since the Board received an early enrollment outlook this past September. Across the system, enrollment by first-time, full-time students decreased, but part-time student enrollment increased. [Read the full report.](#)

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

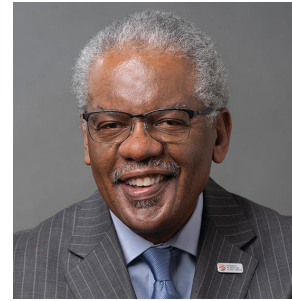
## Welcome to New USM Leaders

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



**[Eileen Abel, PhD](#)**, was appointed the executive director of the University of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM), following a nationwide search. Dr. Abel has more than 35 years of experience in higher education and has served as vice president of Academic Affairs at the College of Southern Maryland since June 2015. She becomes the first full-time executive director for the regional higher education center since the USM took over operations in March 2019. She will begin her service on December 1, replacing USMSM Chief Academic Officer Ben Latigo, who has been serving as the center's interim executive director.

**Lawrence E. Leak, PhD**, was named the interim president of University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) in September 2020, following the retirement of President Javier Miyares. He is the first African American to lead the university in its 73-year history. In a distinguished career spanning five decades, Dr. Leak has been a mainstay of Maryland education, serving as a high school teacher and principal, university professor and administrator, assistant state superintendent of schools, college trustee, and gubernatorial appointee.



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## Other News from the System

**USM Votes Initiative Supports Student Engagement in the 2020 Election.** In the months and weeks leading up to Election Day 2020, the USM engaged in a systemwide initiative to encourage civic engagement and voter participation. Led by the Board of Regents Work Group on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement and the USM Office of Academic Affairs, this initiative coordinated and supported efforts on the campuses of USM universities that were designed to promote voter registration, knowledge of candidates and issues, voting, and volunteer service as election workers. The [USM Votes](#) website and weekly newsletter shared helpful voter resources, as well as information on events such as webinars on the democratic process. Several USM universities have been recognized for increasing voter registration and turn-out on their campuses in recent election years, and the USM Votes initiative builds on these successes. [Read more.](#)

**Maryland Momentum Fund Invests in N5 Sensors.** In September, the Maryland Momentum Fund announced a \$300,000 investment in Rockville-based N5 Sensors Inc., a company developing microscale, wearable sensors to detect gas, chemicals, and additional environmental conditions. N5's tiny computer chip can be embedded into both wearable and smart devices for a broad range of applications, including hospital and home safety, first response, industrial and petrochemical detection, and military use. N5 founder and CEO Abhishek Motayed developed N5 Sensors' technology jointly with the National Institute of Standards and Technology while serving as a research faculty member in the Institute for Research in Electronics and Applied Physics at the University of Maryland. [Read more.](#)

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## News from USM Institutions

**Bowie State University.** Bowie State and the University of Maryland, College Park launched the BSU-UMD Social Justice Alliance to promote social justice and honor the memory of BSU alumnus 1st Lt. Richard W. Collins III, who was killed on the College Park campus in 2017. [Read more.](#)

**Coppin State University.** Janel Harris, a Coppin State admissions counselor, was recently named the Bernard Wynder College Representative of the Year for 2020 by the Baltimore CollegeBound Foundation. [Read more.](#)

**Frostburg State University.** The university is expanding academic offerings with a new bachelor's degree in Life-Cycle Facilities Management, which applies environmental, societal, and long-term sustainability goals to the construction and management of buildings, manufacturing processes, and products. [Read more.](#)

**Salisbury University.** The university announced a new integrated science major, the first in the USM. The major accommodates students who wish to develop programs of study in two or more STEM disciplines or create a major in a STEM area of study not offered by any department at SU. [Read more.](#)

**Towson University.** The Office of Inclusion & Institutional Equity was honored by *Insight into Diversity* magazine with a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award, recognizing TU's commitment to creating an equitable and inclusive atmosphere. [Read more.](#)

**University of Baltimore.** The university's Center for Drug Policy and Prevention has received \$2 million in federal funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy and will invest it in innovative incubator projects designed to reduce drug overdose across the country. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore.** Through the Maryland E-Innovation Initiative Fund (MEIF), the University of Maryland, Baltimore, has received \$2.3 million in awards to fund four endowed research professorships. MEIF is a state program created to spur research in scientific and technical fields at Maryland colleges and universities. UMB raised private funds for each chair with the state providing matching grants. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** Through its Finish Line initiative, UMBC re-enrolled 123 "near-completers" - students who ended their studies short of earning a degree. These students, including some who are returning after a decade away from college, are now taking advantage of the increased availability of online courses to finish their degrees. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.** The university received a \$1.4 million National Science Foundation grant to help policymakers better understand the environment and make smart decisions for Maryland. The collaboration between UMCES and the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education will focus on the interrelationships between human activity, water quality, and policy regulations. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, College Park.** Biology Assistant Professor Colenso Speer has been awarded the National Institutes of Health (NIH) "Director's New Innovator Award" with a \$1.5 million grant through NIH's High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore.** The Social Justice and Civic Engagement Committee sponsored a virtual symposium entitled "Protesting Injustice: The UMES Experience." [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Global Campus.** UMGC alumna Syra Madad was named one of Fortune magazine's 40 under 40. Madad has taken a leadership role in New York City's pandemic response as senior director of the System-wide Special Pathogens Program for NYC Health+ Hospitals. [Read more.](#)

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## News from USM Regional Centers

**Universities at Shady Grove.** Shortly after beginning her tenure as the executive director of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), Dr. Anne Khademian launched a weekly video podcast series, "This is USG," featuring discussions with members of the USG community. [Read more.](#)

**University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH).** The USMH Spirit Run raised nearly \$10,000 for scholarships. [Read more.](#)

**University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM).** Maryland's oldest and the system's newest regional higher education center will soon welcome Dr. Eileen Abel as its inaugural executive director. [Read more.](#)

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## Dates to Remember

For the complete schedule of meetings and public access information, please visit the USM website at: [www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/](http://www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/)

**NOVEMBER 23, 2020**  
**Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**  
2:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 30, 2020**  
**Special Board of Regents Meeting**  
3:00 p.m.

**DECEMBER 2, 2020**

## Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive [View](#)

### Board of Regents

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**Committee on Governance and Compensation**

8:30 a.m.

**DECEMBER 2, 2020**

**Committee on Finance**

10:30 a.m.

**DECEMBER 2, 2020**

**Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization**

12:30 p.m.

**DECEMBER 14, 2020**

**Committee on Audit**

10:00 a.m.

**DECEMBER 18, 2020**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

8:30 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

8:30 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

**Committee on Advancement**

11:00 a.m.



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**University System of Maryland**

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