



March 2, 2012

USM BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES BOLD COLLABORATION TO LEVERAGE UMB AND UMCP RESOURCES

On Thursday, March 1, the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents approved an innovative and structured collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Called University of Maryland: *MPowering the State*, this new working relationship will leverage the resources of the two universities to serve students better; attract even more exceptional faculty and researchers; and boost research, technology transfer, and commercialization.

“The regents see University of Maryland: *MPowering the State* as the kind of 21st-century organizational model needed for today’s fast-changing, fiscally challenging, and globally competitive environment,” said Board Vice Chair Patricia S. Florestano. “We are pleased with the vision, creativity, and innovative thinking that led to the development of such a forward-looking plan.”

“This new partnership between these two great institutions will benefit students, faculty and researchers, and the entire state of Maryland,” said USM Chancellor William Kirwan. “Leveraging the combined resources of our founding campus and our flagship campus will enable USM to address Maryland’s workforce needs better. Moreover, it will help attract more research funding to the state and create opportunities to commercialize the substantial research both of these major institutions produce.”

Among the partnership's components are:

- Combining the research efforts at the Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research—a joint UMB-UMCP institute—at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) in Montgomery County with new educational programs in health, law, human services and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), business, and the social sciences. USG is one of the university system's two higher education regional centers.
- Creating a Collaborative School of Public Health by combining the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at UMCP and the MPH Program in Baltimore.
- Establishing University of Maryland Ventures to promote technology transfer and commercialization, taking discoveries and innovations from the campus laboratories to the marketplace.
- Developing new educational offerings and activities including the University of Maryland Scholars Program, through which students from each institution will engage in research led by faculty at the other institution.
- Implementing a process to facilitate joint appointments and joint grant submissions.

The board's meeting took place in the Governor's Reception Room at the Annapolis State House. After the board's enthusiastic endorsement of the partnership, Regent Florestano and Chancellor Kirwan introduced Gov. Martin O'Malley, Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, House Speaker Michael E. Busch, UMCP President Wallace Loh and UMB President Jay Perman. Each spoke to assembled reporters and guests about the great value and potential of the new partnership.

Video of the board's vote on the Board of Regents vote can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/37763129>.

Video of the press briefing and public remarks from elected officials and USM leaders can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/37759094>.

*(We would like to thank **Ed Fishel**, News Bureau Director at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, for his considerable time and effort in the production of these videos.)*

INTERNET PRIVACY BILL HEARD IN THE SENATE

On Wednesday, supporters presented testimony on behalf of SB 434, the companion version of a House bill that has since been withdrawn by its sponsor.

Senate Bill 434 would prohibit an institution of postsecondary education from requiring a student or an applicant for admission to provide the institution with access to the student's or applicant's personal Internet site or personal electronic account through an electronic device, disclose any user name, password, or other means for accessing a personal Internet site or personal electronic account through an electronic device, or

install on a student or applicant's personal electronic communications device software that monitors or tracks the content of the device. The bill would also prohibit an institution of postsecondary education from disciplining a student or applicant because of their refusal to comply with a request by the institution for access, disclosure, or specified software installation.

Tina Bjarekull, President, Maryland Independent College and University Association, Don Spicer, Associate Vice Chancellor & CIO, USM, and Gerry Sneeringer, Director of Security & Campus IT Security Officer, UMCP testified in opposition to the bill citing that it was too broadly written and tried to address issues that currently exist in the acceptable use policies of each USM institutions. Opponents were also concerned that the legislation would prohibit universities from requiring students to install anti-virus or other related educational software on their electronic devices needed for educational instruction.

Over the coming week, USM will work with the bill's sponsor to see whether the bill can be amended to insure both student privacy and Internet security.

SENATE HEARS MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION TUITION WAIVER BILL

On Wednesday Senator Joanne Benson presented testimony on behalf of SB 608, which would require each governing board of a public institution of higher education to develop a policy for waiving tuition for employees of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and their children. The hearing for the Bill's cross-file in the House, HB 669, was cancelled last week and has not received a new hearing date as of yet.

Andy Clark, USM Director of Legislative Affairs testified in opposition to the bill along with USM Assistant Vice Chancellor JoAnn Goedert. As mentioned previously in regard to HB 669, USM is concerned about the legislation not because we think less of our state agency partners at MHEC. USM opposes Senate Bill 608 because MHEC routinely exercises a regulatory function by overseeing the approval of academic programs for all sectors of higher education. USM believes that it may create the appearance of impropriety for a regulatory agency to seek what some might view as a personal cash benefit from a regulated entity. Moreover, USM is concerned about setting a precedent of tuition waivers for selected classes of state employees outside of USM. This could open a major dilemma, both fiscally and politically, should other state agencies pursue tuition waivers for their employees.

As highlighted in the hearing, the University System of Maryland believes strongly in the ability to recruit high quality faculty and staff. Recruitment is strongly dependent on our capacity to offer a competitive financial package to these prospective employees. Tuition remission encourages current USM employees to enroll in academic courses for the improvement of skills or for personal development.

In addition to state law, tuition remission is administered in accordance with the Board of Regents' Policy and federal tax law. Given that MHEC employees are not employees of the University System of Maryland, it's not clear whether MHEC employees would qualify as USM employees under federal tax law governing employer-provided tuition benefits.

Upcoming 2012 Legislative Budget Schedule

March 5th

House Appropriations Committee

3pm

- University of Maryland, College Park/University of Maryland, Baltimore/Coppin State University Budget Hearings

March 6th

Senate Budget and Tax Committee

1pm

- Senate Operating Budget Decisions

March 6th

Senate Budget and Tax Committee

4pm

- Senate Capital Budget Decisions

March 13th

House Appropriations Committee

1pm

- House Operating Budget Decisions

March 14th

House Appropriations Committee

4pm

- House Capital Budget Decisions

March 26th

Joint Senate and House Committee

TBD

- Budget Conference Committee Begins

April 9th
12am

- 2012 Session Ends

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE BILL HEARINGS

MARCH 6TH IN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS @ 1PM

HB 1226

Higher Education - Academic Program Action - Repeal of Application Fees

HB 519

Public Institutions of Higher Education — Tuition Rates -- Veterans

HB 756

Public Institutions of Higher Education — Tuition Rates — Veterans

HB 782

Academic Facilities Bonding Authority

HB 972

Higher Education Workforce Equity Act

HB 1016

Higher Education – Tuition Waiver – Children of Law Enforcement Officers
Killed in the Line of Duty

HB 1223

Institutions of Postsecondary Education – Fully Online Distance education
Programs

HB 1228

Regional Higher Education -- Funding Formulas

**MARCH 7TH IN SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE @ 1:20 PM**

SB 687

Higher Education - Academic Program Action - Repeal of Application Fees

**MARCH 7TH IN SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE @
1PM**

SB 358

Public-Private Partnerships

MARCH 8TH IN SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE @ 1PM

SB 859

Higher Education - Collective Bargaining - Tenured Faculty, Adjunct Faculty,
and Graduate Student Employees

SB 219

Procurement – Public Works Contracts – Project Labor Agreements

MARCH 9TH IN HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS @ 1PM

HB 933

Sales and Use Tax – Tax Free Periods – University and College Textbooks