January 15, 2013

Dear Members of the Coppin State University Community:

I would like to invite you to take part in a public hearing being held by the CSU Special Review Committee on Monday, January 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This will be an important opportunity for you to provide the committee your thoughts on Coppin’s strengths, role in public higher education, as well as insights into the challenges CSU faces, and suggestions for addressing those challenges.

As you know, the USM Board of Regents established a special committee to conduct a comprehensive review of Coppin State University and develop strategies to enhance the university’s future success. Having worked at Coppin from 1977 to 1987, I witnessed first-hand the truly impressive impact of this institution in Baltimore and beyond. I am especially honored to serve as Chair of this extraordinary group of people dedicated to a bright future for CSU. Through our first few meetings we have begun the important task of reviewing Coppin’s mission and vision statements, strategic plan, and the policies and processes implemented to achieve its stated goals.

In order to ensure that we receive ample input from the public, the committee will host three separate public hearings. The first of these hearings, to be held on Monday, January 28th, will be restricted to CSU faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the board of visitors, and members of the foundation board. The subsequent two hearings are open to the larger community beyond the Coppin campus.

The hearing on January 28th will be held at James Weldon Johnson Auditorium. If you are interested in testifying at this public hearing, please register at http://www.usmd.edu/regents/CSU-Study/ by noon on Friday, January 25th and you will be placed on the agenda. The website will also provide instructions for testimony, information about time limits, etc. If you wish to share your thoughts with the committee but are unable to attend the hearing, you may send written testimony to coppinstudy@usmd.edu or University System of Maryland, Coppin Special Review, 3300 Metzerott Road, Adelphi, MD 20783. All material submitted, both at the hearing and online, will be thoroughly reviewed by members of the committee.

The following two public hearings will be held on the Coppin campus—scheduled for Tuesday, February 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, April 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—and are open to all interested participants. You are,
of course, free to register and speak at the subsequent hearings if you are unable to participate in the hearing on January 28th. As those dates approach, the location of the hearings will be publicized.

Any members of the CSU community or the general public are welcome to sit in on the hearings even if you do not plan to testify.

Coppin State University is an institution with a proud history and its future is integral to the success of Baltimore and Maryland. We have a wonderful opportunity to both build on that rich history and, most importantly, ensure the future success of the university. We look forward to hearing directly from you.

Sincerely yours,

Freeman A. Hrabowski, III