



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

January 26, 2018

USM LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Each Friday afternoon the University System of Maryland (USM) Office of Government Relations produces a newsletter for individuals interested in the political and policy debates in Annapolis. The e-newsletter highlights selected briefings, hearings, and legislative activities while the General Assembly is in session. USM encourages recipients to share the Friday newsletter with those in your campus community who may have an interest in the deliberations in Annapolis.

Although the distribution list has grown during the years, campus officials are reminded that their first and best source of political information is the institution's designated member to the State Relations Council (SRC). Please take advantage of this person's expertise and experience should questions arise about the legislative session. If you need the contact information for your respective campus representative in Annapolis do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking for more information about a bill? The official website of the Maryland General Assembly is here:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmlst.aspx?tab=home>

BILL SEEKS TO ELIMINATE FAILING GRADES FROM TRANSCRIPTS

Next Tuesday in House Appropriations, the USM will submit testimony on House Bill 205. House Bill 205 requires USM institutions to develop and implement an academic forgiveness policy to disregard an applicant's unsatisfactory or failing grades earned at a prior institution more than seven years before an individual applies for admission.

A similar bill was introduced last year and USM testified that institutions already have processes that account for previous academic work, including academic failure, in their admissions processes. However, there are nuances to our processes, and they vary from institution to institution, depending on the mission and usual acceptance process that is institution specific.

The USM is concerned not only about access to higher education, but success in our programs as well, and simple and complete disregard for previous failure, rather than engagement of the student to improve, may run counter to existing support processes. The accountability for previous academic challenge or success will also vary depending on the level of the courses taken and completed.

USM institutions take into serious account previous academic work, and each has forgiveness policies or standards they use when considering students' academic histories. For example, University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland Eastern Shore both have mechanisms under which they can invoke forgiveness after a 5-year period of separation for many students. Other USM institutions have academic clemency or forgiveness policies and procedures also.

HIGHER EDUCATION OVERVIEW WILL KICK OFF BUDGET SEASON NEXT WEEK

This coming Thursday members of the Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration will receive their first look at the state of higher education in Maryland. The fiscal 2020 budget higher education budget overview includes USM as well as community colleges and independent institutions of higher education. The same overview will be presented in the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee the following day.

The budget overview analyzes trends in Maryland higher education funding, tuition, and graduation rates among other issues.

Budget and Briefing Schedule

Thursday, January 31st

Higher Education Overview

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; Subcommittee on Education,
Business and Administration

1 p.m.

Amoss Room, Miller Senate Office Building

Friday, February 1st

Higher Education Overview

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development
Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 120 Lowe House Office Building

Monday, February 4th

University System of Maryland Overview

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; Subcommittee on Education,
Business and Administration

1 p.m.

Amoss Room, Miller Senate Office Building

Wednesday, February 6th

University System of Maryland Overview

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development
Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 120 Lowe House Office Building

Upcoming Bill Hearings

HB 104

(SB 108)

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification for Qualified Higher Education
Expenses - Annual Limitation

Delegate Malone

Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m.

Ways and Means

HB 175

Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit - Sunset Extension

Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m.

Ways and Means

HB 205

Higher Education - Academic Forgiveness Policy - Established Delegate

Healey

Hearing 1/29 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 245

Education - Student Data Privacy Council

Delegate Kaiser

Hearing 2/07 at 1:00 p.m.

Ways and Means