



January 31, 2020

OUTBREAK RESPONSE ON CAMPUS TOPIC OF HOUSE BILL

On Tuesday, members of the House Appropriations committee heard testimony on House Bill 187. The bill requires each public institution of higher education to submit an outbreak response plan to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) annually beginning in 2021.

The Board of Regents has an existing policy that states: *“USM institutions are required to develop and maintain a campus emergency management program to prepare its campus community in the event of an emergency or incident, mitigate measures to reduce loss of life and property, respond to and recover from emergencies, and maintain campus mission essential functions. Campus emergency management and safety and security programs should focus on the protection of individuals, but must also address facilities, information technology security and infrastructure, business functions, and academic and research continuity.”*

The USM testified that the challenge of House Bill 187 is conforming the provisions of the bill to campuses without residential housing. Those campuses are University of Maryland Global Campus, University of Baltimore, and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. These campuses also do not have a health center, where it is assumed reporting and tracking of a "life-threatening contagious disease or similar health emergency would take place."

As a result, the System requested an exemption of non-residential campuses in House Bill 187.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING GETS AIRING

House Bill 214 authorizes graduate assistants at the USM to collectively bargain. A panel including a USM representative, a graduate school dean and the president of a graduate student association urged an “unfavorable report.”

The USM has worked over the last decade to improve the status of the USM’s approximately 6,000 graduate assistants (based on a recent survey of all institutions), including the establishment of a “Meet and Confer” process that gives these students (and adjunct faculty) the opportunity to engage a labor representative to represent them in discussions with campus administrators. The USM has a Policy on Graduate Assistantships, which addressed the following issues:

- Due process protection and grievance rights;
- Participation in the shared governance process;
- Stipends comparable to those at peer institutions; and
- Clarification of the university's expectations re duties and time commitments; for example, a full-time assistantship requires the student to work an average of 20 hours per week.

Maryland collective bargaining law includes USM employees generally. The statute expressly excludes from collective bargaining “a student employee, including a teaching assistant or a comparable position, fellow, or post-doctoral intern.” The USM remains comfortable with the existing law because:

- Currently, in addition to a monetary stipend, most USM graduate assistants receive a tuition-free education, fully subsidized state health care, and stipend increases in each year of a contract.
- The “Meet and Confer” process provides graduate assistants with many of the perceived benefits that collective bargaining offers, including the right to engage a labor organization to assist them in this process.
- Repealing the law would create a confusing maze of litigation and legal expense over which “groups” or “class” of graduate students may be allowed to organize.
- The cost of negotiation, and potential for productivity slowdowns for students, outweighs any perceived benefit.
- Unionization neglects the disparity in the needs of graduate assistants and the diversity and cultures of fellow graduate students.
- USM graduate assistants enjoy rights concerning workload, grievance procedure, personal leave, professional evaluation, and discipline.

There is a concept and ongoing process within the USM known as “shared governance.” This is a very important process that has served the USM higher education community well for many years. USM employs a Council of University System Students, a Council of University System Faculty and a Council of University System Staff and even a Council of University System Presidents.

Each council is empowered to continually raise issues of concern to the Chancellor and the USM Board of Regents. Shared governance is a collaborative working relationship which provides the necessary follow through to address issues and concerns. USM is a diverse system with 12 degree-granting institutions and 3 Regional Higher Education Centers located throughout the state of Maryland. Issues ranging from salaries, stipends, housing, cost of living, and recruiting competition vary in a system this large.

UPCOMING BILL HEARINGS

[HB 159](#)

State Ethics Commission – Determination of Public Official in an Executive Unit – Information from Units of State Government

Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

In the House - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.

Environment and Transportation

[HB 597](#) (SB 318)

Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of Honorably Discharged Veterans

Delegate Young, P.

In the House - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[SB 318](#) (HB 597)

Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of Honorably Discharged Veterans

Senator Elfreth

In the Senate - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB 329 (HB 187)

Public Institutions of Higher Education - Outbreak Response Plan

Senator Waldstreicher

In the Senate - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

HB 92

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

Delegate Long

In the House - Hearing 2/04 at 1:00 p.m.

Ways and Means

SB 193 (HB 380)

Public Information Act - Denial of Part of a Public Record - Investigations by Inspectors General

Senator Kagan

In the Senate - Hearing 2/05 at 2:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

[HB 245](#)

**Election Law - Institutions of Higher Education - Voter Registration and Voting by Students
(Student Voter Empowerment Act of 2020)**

Delegate Luedtke

In the House - Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m.

Ways and Means

HB 42 (SB 67)

Public Information Act - Applications for Inspection - Responses and Time Limits Delegate
Guyton

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB 310 (SB 184)

University of Maryland, Baltimore - Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise Delegate
Hill

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 318](#)

University System of Maryland - Textbooks - Availability of Free Digital Materials

Delegate Stewart

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 325](#)

**Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Designated Coordinator - University System of
Maryland**

Delegate Hettleman

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 419](#)

Higher Education - Report on Collection Practices for Unpaid Fees and Services Delegate
Luedtke

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 502](#)

Public Information Act – Revisions

Delegate Lierman

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

[HB 506](#) (SB 458)

Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Military Personnel, Spouses, and Dependents – Alterations

Delegate Valentino-Smith

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 526

Higher Education - Differential Tuition - Notification and Income Tax Subtraction Modification

Delegate Miller

In the House - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.

(Appropriations) and Hearing canceled (Ways and Means)

[HB 533](#) (SB 518)

Higher Education – Council on the Fair Treatment of Student Athletes (Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act)

Delegate Lierman

In the House - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 719

Higher Education - Transfer Students - Courses Counting Toward Chosen Degree Delegate

Hornberger

In the House - First Reading

Appropriations

SB 553

Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center

Senator King

In the Senate - First Reading

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BUDGET BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Monday, February 3, 2020

Bowie State University

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

2:45 p.m.

Room 120 Lowe House Office Building

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

University System of Maryland Office Overview

University System of Maryland Overview

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 150 Lowe House Office Building

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Salisbury University

University of Maryland Global Campus

UM Center for Environmental Science

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 150 Lowe House Office Building

Friday, February 7, 2020

Salisbury University

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

11:30 a.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Thursday, February 13, 2020

University of Maryland Global Campus

UM Center for Environmental Science

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

1 p.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Coppin State University

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

1 p.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Thursday, February 20, 2020

University of Baltimore

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 150 Lowe House Office Building

Friday, February 21, 2020

University of Baltimore

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

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

11:30 a.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Coppin State University

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 150 Lowe House Office Building