



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND



Legislative Newsletter | www.usmd.edu/gov

February 21, 2020

USM JOINT COUNCILS ADVOCACY DAY LENDS STRONG VOICE IN ANNAPOLIS

On Wednesday the USM Student Council, the Council of University System Staff and the Council of University System Faculty organized and joined together for a day of advocacy in Annapolis.

The day began with a welcome from Chancellor Perman and a briefing by Vice Chancellor Patrick Hogan. Nearly 50 advocates fanned out across the capital for individual meetings with legislators and received recognition on the floor of the House and the Senate. As in past years, the USM Foundation was generous in its financial support for this year's event. The message: protect the Governor's budget for the USM. It was a productive and engaging day to make the case for continued support for our institutions.

Thanks to all who participated!

BILL TO ALTER USM COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN SENATE COMMITTEE

Today, in the Senate Finance Committee, members heard testimony opposing Senate Bill 660. The bill would fundamentally change the collective bargaining process at every USM institution without any demonstrated benefit to university employees. It would (1) revoke the legislative authority of the USM presidents by assigning to the Chancellor the authority to designate a representative to negotiate on behalf of their institution; (2) require the Chancellor to engage in consolidated negotiations on behalf of all bargaining units at all of the 12 institutions that are represented by the same labor union, rather than make such consolidated bargaining a voluntary decision by each institution president, as current law provides; and (3) give the labor union the power to veto the institution president's right to negotiate matters "particular to an institution" and require such matters to be negotiated at the System level by the Chancellor.

USM argued that such a broad transfer of authority from the institutions to the System will damage the institutions and undermine the president's legal role as "chief executive officer" of the institution, as set forth in Title 12 of the Education Article. The USM believes that in order for institution presidents to responsibly carry out these responsibilities, they must retain the authority to determine whether it is in the institution's best interest to engage in consolidated bargaining with other institutions, rather than ceding this authority to a labor union, and they must retain their authority to designate a collective bargaining representative who they believe can best represent the institution.

Required consolidated bargaining, as opposed to the voluntary system under current law, likely will hurt the USM's smaller institutions that have fewer financial and other resources. It would create pressure on the USM to "average" the participating institutions' interests, failing to account for the individual needs and desires of employees at different institutions.

DIFFERENTIAL TUITION DISCUSSION IN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

On Tuesday, the USM offered testimony opposing House Bill 526. This bill creates a subtraction modification against the State income tax for the portion of differential tuition payments. The potential fiscal impact to USM institutions would create complex reporting systems to report differential tuition information to taxpayers, the amount of which is difficult to determine with this short turnaround.

House Bill 526 establishes a Maryland Income Tax Subtraction Modification for payers of differential tuition "for the amount used by the institution to provide a scholarship or other financial aid to students." The higher education institution is required also to provide the individual who paid the differential an annual statement. The bill also defines differential tuition as "the additional tuition that is charged by an institution of higher education for particular courses that is higher than tuition that is charged for other courses."

At USM campuses differential tuition is not charged by course, and therefore does not meet this definition. Instead, differential tuition is charged to students by major who reach junior standing for a maximum of four semesters. Additionally, the expense of creating an infrastructure to track payers and isolate individual and/or multiple individuals to a student account for the tuition differential share provided for scholarship or other financial aid is not feasible.

UPCOMING BILL HEARINGS

HB 719

Higher Education - Transfer Students - Courses Counting Toward Chosen Degree

Delegate Hornberger

In the House - Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1122 (SB 588)

State Government - Protection of Personally Identifiable Information - University System of Maryland

Delegate Pena-Melnyk

In the House - Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

SB 767

Higher Education - Admissions Process - Criminal History

Senator Patterson

In the Senate - Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

HB 1174

Financial Aid - Guaranteed Access Grants - Verification and Administration by Institutions of Higher Education

Delegate Solomon

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1427

Higher Education - Tuition Exemption - Spouses and Dependents of Disabled Veterans

Delegate Cain

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1428

Environment - Higher Education Facilities - Mold Hazards and Mold or Moisture Problems

Delegate Solomon

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1504 (SB 1015)

Task Force to Study Access to Mental Health Care in Higher Education

Delegate Valentino-Smith

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 796

Higher Education - Freedom of Speech on Campus - Protection (Forming Open and Robust University Minds (FORUM) Act)

Delegate Grammer

In the House - Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 814

Higher Education - Transfer of Credits

Washington County Delegation

In the House - Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1052

University System of Maryland - Contaminants in Campus Buildings - Review, Monitoring, and Remediation

Delegate Lehman

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1082

Higher Education – Denial of Transfer Credit – Notice and Report (Transfer with Success Act)

Delegate Solomon

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1174

Financial Aid - Guaranteed Access Grants - Verification and Administration by Institutions of Higher Education

Delegate Solomon

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1427

Higher Education - Tuition Exemption - Spouses and Dependents of Disabled Veterans

Delegate Cain

In the House - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

HB 1113

State Finance and Procurement - Procurement Improvement Council - Required Use of eMaryland Marketplace

Delegate Charles

In the House - Hearing 3/10 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

BUDGET BRIEFING SCHEDULE

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