



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, April 1, 2025, AT 5:00 PM
USMSM, TELECONFERENCE

In Attendance: George Hurlburt, Chris Kaselemis, Dr. Eileen Abel, Ellen Herbst, Dr. Yolanda Wilson, Dr. Betsy Beise, Dr. Alison Wrynn, Dr. Evalyne Bryant-Ward, Dr. J. Scott Smith, Dr. Maria Navarro, Dr. Christine Bergmark, Glen Ives, Bonnie Green, Julie Oberg, Joe Anderson, Philip Melton, Brad Stover (Office of the Attorney General), and Leigh Ann Hess.

CSM Attendees: Dr. Bernice Brezina, Betsy Price, Dr. Suzanne Summers

Not in Attendance: Senator Jack Bailey, Gary Kessler, Kathy Maney, Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan, Matt Scassero, Dr. Theresa Shafer and Dr. Andrae Townsel,

Call to Order: George Hurlburt, chair, welcomed and called the Board of Advisors (BoA) to order at 5:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 7, 2025, meeting was distributed for approval. Joe Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Johnnie Taylor. The motion carried.

Opening Remarks:

The July Board of Advisors meeting has been rescheduled to July 22nd. George Hurlburt reviewed past and upcoming events held at the center and noted a potential decline in room rentals. He proposes a vision for the future focused on specialization, branding, and building partnerships. George suggests forming working groups on workforce development and work-based learning, with plans to phase in additional groups over time. He emphasizes the importance of building sustainable partnerships going forward. He noted the value of an ongoing partnership with the College of Southern Maryland and welcomed their team to the meeting.

Executive Director Report:

Eileen provided updates on the Center's events with which she has been directly engaged, including the CSM, UMD/USMSM, NAWCAD Night of Engineering that brought out about 160 people.

Building 1 has a new roof. Building 2, the HVAC was replaced and windows are being replaced with capital funds from USM.

The Internet Café in Building 2 is being transformed to a student lounge. UMCP is purchasing the furniture and TV. Eileen stated she is donating a pool table for the lounge space.

The UMCP Engineering application now has a selection for the choice of which campus students would like to attend. This issue was raised by Dr. Wilson and has now been resolved.

The status of Federal internships for current engineering students is temporarily on hold, awaiting further guidance on the current hiring freeze.

Eileen announced she will be retiring June 30, 2025. Eileen's vision for the center involves receiving the resources that it needs to grow. Due to the current environment there is an understanding that may take some time, since additional resources are highly unlikely this upcoming fiscal year.

In closing Eileen thanked Ellen, Alison, Anthony and Betsy for their support and insight. Eileen thanked the board for their commitment and she particularly thanked her staff. She believes an interim ED would best serve the needs of USM and the Center. Board members are invited to provide candidate recommendations to Anthony Foster, Ellen Herbst or her assistant Leigh Ann Hess.

George Hurlburt recounted Dr. Abel's many accomplishments, leading to a resounding round of applause from those present.

CSM Transfer Report:

Dr. Yolanda Wilson, CSM President, and her team presented the College of Southern Maryland's (CSM) state of the college video, which highlights their strategic plan and student success stories. The video showcases CSM's commitment to **access, momentum, and mobility** for students, emphasizing partnerships with other institutions like the University System of Maryland. It features testimonials from students and alumni who have benefited from CSM's programs, scholarships, and support services. The video also highlights CSM's role in workforce development and its partnerships with local employers, military organizations, and USM. Dr. Wilson expressed how moved she is by the transformative impact of CSM's work, particularly noting a former homeless student who now holds a leadership position.

Dr. Wilson's team discussed the importance of education as a great equalizer and the need to build upon the legacy left by previous leaders. They also discussed the top transfer institutions for their students and the top programs they are earning. Dr. Wilson highlighted the following points:

Transfer

Best Practices

Dedicated advisors at CSM/USMSM transfer institution
Joint recruitment and career exploration opportunities

Data Sharing on program demand enrollment/retention, outcomes

Research-Based Transfer Practices - Dual admissions:

Access to services/supports

Joint branding/ marketing

Expanded on-campus recruiting/advising

Expanding the CSM-USMSM transfer pipeline Create K-16 Transfer Working Group

Offer joint co-curricular activities

Create a joint CSM/USMSM transfer student club

Develop opportunities for CSM transfer students to participate in USMSM partner activities

Develop associate to bachelor degree pathways:

Computer Science

Secondary Education (on CSM's La Plata Campus)

Seamless transfer from CSM to USMSM

Automatic admissions in select degree pathways

Create a regional general education core that articulates to all bachelor degree programs offered by USMSM

USMSM to hold an annual transfer conference to include USM partners

Program Elements

Program Delivery

Work with 4-year partners to develop hybrid and weekend programming

Accelerated pathways

2+3 agreements (associate to graduate degrees)

1+3 agreements (accelerated associate degree through graduate degree)

Create Signature Programs for STEM and Technical Workforce

Development

Offer executive professional development with CSM's Continuing Education and Workforce Division

Expand undergraduate research and internship opportunities for CSM students

Develop a joint STEM academy for K-12/CSM students

USM Updates:

Ellen Herbst discussed the University System of Maryland's challenges, including financial cuts and uncertainty at the Federal level. She also mentioned the importance of the regional centers and the need for resilience in managing the current situation.

Matrix Update:

In Matt Scassero's absence, Dr. Abel shared updates on the research component of the USMSM campus. Highlighting the Advanced Manufacturing Initiative: Suresh Babu started full time at UMD January, wants to build a Manufacturing Demo Facility in SoMD (like one at the University of Tennessee). The MATRIX Lab has already submitted a Congressional addition to

fund it. Also, the MATRIX Lab Industry Advisory Board (IAB) is now fully established, led by BlueHalo (AeroVironment).

Board of Advisors Business:

George Hulburt proposed the creation of a Workforce Working Group led by Dr. Taylor and a Work-Based Learning Working Group led by Bonnie Green, which was agreed upon by the board. The conversation ended with a call for volunteers for the nominating committee.

The meeting concluded with a motion for adjournment, which was approved.

The **next BOA Meeting** will be on July 22, 2025, 5:00-6:30pm.