The University System of Maryland
The University System of Maryland (USM) is a family of twelve institutions of higher education, three regional higher education centers, and one system office. The System institutions enroll over 176,000 students and have an annual operating budget of nearly five billion dollars.

The Board of Regents
The ultimate authority in governance of the System is vested in the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents is comprised of twenty-one (21) members. The Student Regent appointments are made by the governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. By law, the Board of Regents:

1. is responsible for the management of the University System of Maryland and has all the powers, rights, and privileges that go with that responsibility, including the power to conduct or maintain any institutions, schools, or departments in the University at the locations the Board determines;

2. may not be superseded in its authority by any other State agency or office in managing the affairs of the University System of Maryland or of any constituent institutions and centers under the Board's jurisdiction; and

3. shall have all the powers of a Maryland corporation which are not expressly limited by law.

Updated State law (July 1, 2019) regarding the Board of Regents also mandates that:
1. there will be two (rather than one) student regents on the Board each year;
2. each student regent shall be appointed for a term of two years;
3. each year, only one of the two student regents shall be a voting member of the Board; and
4. a student regent shall be a voting member of the Board for only one year of a two-year term.

Student regents should be full-time students in good academic standing at an institution under the jurisdiction of the Board. However, State law allows for a student regent who is a part-time student in good academic standing at the University of Maryland Global Campus.
**Responsibilities**

Student Regents are full members of the Board. They are expected to attend all meetings of the Board of Regents and the committees assigned. Full Board membership also includes voting rights for the Student Regent designated to be the single voting Student Regent in a given year. Some of the items the Board of Regents considers include: setting tuition and fees for the institutions; approving capital and operating budgets; issuing bonds; appointing the Chancellor and all institutional presidents; approving new degree programs; and reviewing and approving mission statements of the System institutions and regional centers.

The Board of Regents meets at regular meetings approximately six times per year. On occasion, there are topics that warrant special meetings of the Board between regular meetings. Further, the Student Regents will be appointed to serve on Board committees. These committees typically meet once between full Board meetings. In addition, the Student Regents have the opportunity to represent the USM at State budget hearings, ceremonial events, and at other times and places where such representation is deemed desirable.

The Student Regents will routinely interact with various leading Marylanders and policymakers including state and local elected officials such as the Governor and administration, members of the General Assembly, and local officials. The Student Regents also will interact with officials in higher education including those from the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the USM Office, and System institution. Lastly, the Student Regents will participate in activities that involve business and civic leaders, dignitaries, and special guests. It is imperative that the Student Regents positively represent students and the University System of Maryland to those with whom the regents interact.

The Student Regents also serve ex officio on the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC), giving reports on the activities of the Board at the monthly USMSC meetings. The Student Regents can then act as conduits to the Board of Regents to bring students’ concerns.

The Student Regents serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for expenses (i.e., mileage and lodging) associated with Board business.

**Requirements and Characteristics**

The time commitment required of Student Regents is significant. Duties of the office may require Student Regents to routinely miss scheduled classes and make other schedule adjustments. The time required to effectively serve as Student Regents is typically over 15 hours per week. Frequently, the time commitment surpasses 20 hours a week. This time is spent preparing for meetings, participating in and following up on meetings, visiting System institutions, and various other activities.

Student Regents are expected to advance the concerns of all students in the System and to approach issues with a system-wide perspective. Because of this responsibility, the Student Regents are expected to limit their role in home-institution activities and issues.
Requirements and Characteristics (con't)
Some characteristics that are necessary to be an effective Student Regent include:

- the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people;
- the ability to think in the abstract and see the big picture;
- the ability to apply strong analytical thinking to policy issues;
- the ability to process large volumes of information;
- a willingness to take a very public role;
- the skill and comfort level required to interact with various policymakers and business, political, and civic leaders; and
- a willingness to devote large amounts of time working on complex academic and administrative issues.

Nomination Process*
Each degree-granting institution in the USM is invited to send forward the name of up to two candidates for the Student Regent positions. All candidates will be invited to interview with the USMSC at its November 10th meeting at UMBC. Following that meeting, the USMSC will convey the names of at least three top-ranked candidates to the Chancellor. The Chancellor will interview the top candidates in December or January. Subsequently, the Chancellor will forward a list of nominees to the Governor. The Governor will then appoint Student Regents subject to the advice and consent of the State Senate.

During the Fall 2019 Student Regent selection process, we will recruit for two Student Regents, because current Student Regent, Drew Needham's, term will end on June 30, 2020. The USM staff and Governor’s Appointment Office anticipate appointing New Student Regent #1 during the 2020 Legislative Session and having that person immediately begin serving as the non-voting student regent during the remainder of the 2019-2020 term. New Student Regent #1 would have a term of office from the time of their appointment through June 30, 2021, serving as the voting Student Regent in 2020-2021.

New Student Regent #2 may also be appointed during the 2020 Legislative Session but would not begin his or her term until July 1, 2020. New Student Regent #2 would have a term of office from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022, serving as the voting Student Regent in 2021-2022.

All candidates should be planning to graduate in Spring 2021 or later.

*Specifics of this process may be adjusted to help facilitate a smooth transition to having two Student Regents on the USM Board of Regents.