Friday, June 19, 2020 Report to the USM Board of Regents Chancellor Jay A. Perman (AS DRAFTED)

Thank you, Chair Gooden. Once again, let me open my comments with words of thanks. I continue to be impressed by, and grateful to, the members of this board, our institutional leaders, and professionals throughout the USM. All of you have stepped forward and demonstrated tremendous leadership under the most difficult of circumstances.

As Linda noted, the June Board of Regents meeting traditionally serves as the Chancellor's "Annual Report"—a year-in-review for the USM and its institutions. As I considered my comments for this review, I couldn't help but recall the opening of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The second half of that quote—the worst of times—is obvious. For the USM, COVID-19 cleared our campuses, short-circuited ongoing research, sent our students off in multiple directions, and

And, of course, efforts are ongoing across the USM:

- Coppin State University (CSU), the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and other
 institutions have held virtual town halls on racism and justice in America that have served as
 a release for some, and a reckoning for others. I held one myself with staff at the System
 Office just this week.
- At the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), the Office of Diversity and Inclusion launched a Week of Solidarity and Reflection, with events organized to express <u>and listen</u> to the pain, frustration, anger, and grief that many in our communities are feeling.
- At the University of Baltimore (UB), the Schaefer Center has relaunched BeHEARD Baltimore, a way for local citizens to speak their minds about policy issues and current events.
- The Office of Equity and Inclusion at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is providing extensive guidance for faculty and staff who want to publicly make statements in support of UMBC's Black community members.
- Hundreds of Towson University (TU) students, staff, and faculty donned masks and came to campus to march for justice and empower Black lives at TU and across the country.

Likewise, when I look at what we are doing to overcome the challenges of COVID-19, I again see the best of times.

As I mentioned, return-to-campus plans are moving forward throughout the System, with the <u>health</u> and <u>safety</u> of our students, faculty, staff, and communities as the highest priority. While plans are evolving—and are specific to individual campuses—several of the parameters have come into focus. This fall, every USM university must be able to:

- Comply with all local, state, and CDC health guidelines;
- "De-densify" dorms, classrooms, and dining halls, and restrict access to common areas;
- Supply sufficient personal protective equipment to students and employees;
- Assess and monitor potential CF1 1i1 0 0 .1c sympo spe

Let me also note that, this fall, in response to the financial toll that COVID-19 has had on our students—pending a vote from the Board today—undergraduate and graduate tuition, room and board, and all other fees will remain at the 2019–20 level across the USM.

When I consider the **totality** of what the USM is doing to step up and meet the immense challenges before us, and when I look at the momentum we're building for real solutions and real change, I **truly do** see these as the best of times.

And as vital as our efforts on these fronts are, this past year has seen USM institutions succeed in

addition, Towson launched "StarTUp"—an effort connecting campus

Earlier this year, UMGC received a record \$16 million gift—nearly doubling the school's endowment—and has already begun using the money to help students struggling financially during the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, UMGC has received an \$825,000 grant from the Ascendium Education Group to develop an innovative curriculum for its doctoral program in Community College Policy and Administration—one that responds to the evolving set of leadership skills needed in higher education.

A three-year, \$3 million gift to the A. James Clark School of Engineering at UMCP from Lockheed Martin will fund aerospace research, while increasing opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields.

Finally, as we look back over the year, it was also a year of transition.

We were joined by new regents Kelly Schulz, secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce; Geoff Gonella, president of Cornerstone Government Affairs; Sam Malhotra, CEO of Subsystem Technologies; Meredith Mears, chief development officer of Gillis Gilkerson Construction and Development Company; and student regent Drew Needham, JD candidate at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law.

We introduced UMB Provost Bruce Jarrell as interim president of that university earlier this year, welcomed Anthony Jenkins as Coppin's new president just last month, and announced Darryll Pines—dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering—as the next president of the University of Maryland, College Park, effective July 1. On that last item, let me once again thank College Park President Wallace Loh. UMCP has grown physically, programmatically, and reputationally over the last 10 years, and is truly one of the nation's very best flagship universities. Dr. Loh's vision and leadership have been at the heart of that progress.

And, last but not least, the USM welcomed a new chancellor earlier this year. Let me end my report by once again saying what an honor and privilege it is for me to serve in this capacity. The future of *Maryland* is directly tied to the success of the USM. I thank you for affording me this opportunity to work for the students and citizens of Maryland.

Madame Chair . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the Regents may have.

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