



STUDENT REGENT POSITION DESCRIPTION

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 162,000 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 appointment is 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- (2) may not be superseded in its authority by any other State agency or office in managing the affairs of the University System of Maryland or of any constituent institutions and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.

Per 2019 Maryland State Law (Education §12-102 and §12-103):

1. there will be two Student Regents on the Board each year;
2. students should be full-time (with the exception of UMGC students who can be part-time) and in good academic standing;
3. each Student Regent shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be reappointed if the student remains a student at any campus of the University System of Maryland;
4. each year, only one of the two Student Regents shall be a voting member of the Board; and
5. a Student Regent shall be a voting member of the Board for only one year of a two-year term.

Responsibilities

Student Regents are full members of the Board. They are expected to attend all meetings of the Board of Regents and the committees to which they are 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 has regular meetings approximately six times per year. On occasion, there are topics that warrant special meetings of the Board between regular meetings. Further, Student Regents are appointed to serve on Board committees. These committees typically meet once between full Board meetings. In addition, 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.

Student Regents 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. Student Regents also will interact with officials in higher education including those from the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the USM Office, and System institutions. Lastly, Student Regents will participate in activities that involve business and civic leaders, dignitaries, and special guests. It is imperative that the Student Regents positively and professionally represent students and the University System of Maryland to those with whom they 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.

Student Regents serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for expenses (i.e., mileage and lodging) associated with Board business. However, the Board of Regents may authorize a tuition exemption for a Student Regent during the second year of a two-year term, and during the first year of a Student Regent's term, they may be eligible for a grant from the University System of Maryland, the University System of Maryland Foundation or a constituent institution from restricted funds raised from private donors for this purpose.

Ethics Considerations

Members of public boards are subject to state ethics laws, Md. Code, Gen. Prov., Title 5, and regulations administered by the Maryland State Ethics Commission (<https://ethics.maryland.gov>). The Commission has published guidelines concerning financial disclosures, financial or employment-based conflicts of interest, use of confidential information, recusal from matters, and more. Potential conflicts do not automatically disqualify an individual from serving as Student Regent, but you should consider these issues in advance. Review <https://ethics.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/filebase/boards-commissions/General-Information-Boards-Commissions.pdf> and <https://ethics.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/filebase/boards-commissions/boards-commissions-memos/Board-Requirements-Summary-Memo.pdf>, and inform the campus leaders organizing the nomination process if you believe information in these documents applies to you.

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.

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; educators; 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 one (1) nomination for the Student Regent position. Nominations *must* come forth from the university's President or Vice President for Student Affairs. All candidates will be invited to interview with the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) at its Sunday, December 3, 2023 meeting. The meeting will take place **in person** at a USM institution in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, or Prince George's County. Following that meeting, the USMSC will convey the names of at least three top-ranked candidates to the Chancellor. The Chancellor will interview candidates in December or January. Subsequently, the Chancellor will forward a list of candidates to the Governor. The Governor will then appoint the Student Regent subject to the advice and consent of the State Senate. Notification of the Governor's decision can occur as late as June.

The new Student Regent will have a term from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026, serving as the voting Student Regent in 2025-2026.

All candidates should be planning to graduate in Spring 2026 or later.

Interested students should contact your institution's
Student Government Association, Graduate Student Association, or
Office of Student Affairs for more information.

By Wednesday, November 29, 2023,
the university President or Vice President for Student Affairs
should electronically submit the application and supporting materials to:

Dr. Zakiya Lee
Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Office of Academic and Student Affairs ~ University System of Maryland
E-mail: zlee@usmd.edu