

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

February 5, 2019

Christopher Walsh
Chair, University Senate
University of Maryland, College Park
1100 Marie Mount Hall
7814 Regents Drive
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Chris,

I would like to thank you, Pamela, and Reka for meeting with me and Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden last week to discuss the search for the University of Maryland, College Park's new president. Our discussions have been very helpful in developing what I believe is a mutual understanding of the campus' perspective and the board's role in the search process.

As Linda and I have shared, the selection of university presidents is among the Board of Regents most important responsibilities. The search for the next leader of Maryland's flagship, the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), will be critically important to the future of the university and of the entire state.

Since I became Chancellor, the board has conducted five presidential searches that have resulted in the appointment of exceptional presidents. Each of these presidents has been instrumental in advancing their institutions in many ways and have the support of their campus communities.

These searches have been guided by the USM's Guidelines for Presidential Searches, which builds upon the board's statutory authority to select and appoint presidents. These guidelines provide a procedural framework for consistency in the search and selection process among USM institutions. They also offer flexibility to allow for institution-specific elements in each search.

As outlined in the guidelines and in accordance with practice, the chancellor appoints a regent as the search committee chair. As a non-voting member of the committee, the regent in the capacity of committee chair leads and coordinates the committee's work and provides an important external perspective. Regent Gary Attman (BS '76) was selected in recognition of his longstanding relationship with UMCP, his understanding of the critical role that the flagship campus plays in the lives of its students, faculty and staff, and his commitment to public higher education in Maryland. He is the founder of FutureCare-Health and Management Corporation.

The chancellor also, as stated in the guidelines, appoints the members of the search committee. The committee is comprised of 12 – 15 individuals representing a host of university constituencies, including faculty, students, administrators, staff, alumni, foundation boards, boards of visitors, and, often, the community in which the institution is located. Additionally, the chancellor will appoint a non-voting liaison to serve as a resource and the institution will assign a university administrator to staff the committee.

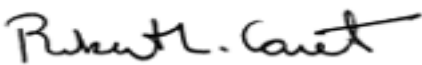
In our meeting, you provided valuable insight on the campus' priorities related to the composition of the search committee, and we are open to incorporating some of your suggestions as we assemble a well-rounded body that will serve as a team bringing diverse perspectives to this critical task. You emphasized the campus' desire for a dean to lead the search. In response, we will appoint one of the academic deans as vice chair to assist Regent Attman in leading the committee. Additionally, we will increase the size of the committee to 18 members, recognizing the scope of UMCP's impact and the need to ensure that as any perspectives as reasonably possible are represented.

With regard to timeline, the presidential search guidelines recommend completing searches expeditiously to "protect the candidate pool". Our primary goal is to select the best candidate for the presidency and, toward this goal, we will take the time needed to hear from the community and to recruit and review a robust candidate pool. As stated, we foresee this search taking approximately a year, which is in line with similar searches at other Big Ten institutions and national research institutions similar to UMCP.

Chair Gooden, Regent Attman, and I will continue to work with the University Senate and campus community to learn more about the campus' priorities for both the composition of the search committee and desired attributes of the next president. To that end, we will spend a day on campus in early March to launch the search process and to meet with and hear from key constituent groups. At that time, we will invite the community to submit search committee nominations for consideration along with the list of individuals that you provided.

Again, thank you for taking time to meet with us.

Sincerely yours,



Robert L. Caret
Chancellor

cc: Linda Gooden, Chair, BOR
Gary Attman, Regent
Wallace Loh, President