
A Message from UMUC President Javier Miyares

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past four months, this site has played host to a spirited discussion on the Ideation Group's report, the proposed business model, and the challenges and opportunities facing University of Maryland University College in the 21st century. Hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and alumni have participated here, in a Town Hall meeting in July, and in a series of seven small-group sessions, some held face-to-face and some online.

I want to thank you for your interest and thoughtful participation in this critical process.

In our November 7 Town Hall meeting, I was pleased to update our community on the progress we have made toward developing a new business model for UMUC.

University System of Maryland (USM) Chancellor Brit Kirwan and I have agreed on a recommendation that will be presented to the USM Board of Regents for consideration. Under this plan, UMUC will remain a public institution and a full member of the USM—two preferences that were supported strongly by university stakeholders—while receiving greater flexibility from the state to

- develop human resources/personnel and procurement policies that enhance the university's ability to compete globally
- better protect our own proprietary information and competitive advantages
- establish a managing board of nationally recognized academic, military, and business leaders to guide the university's growth beyond Maryland and the military.

As this process continues, we now move to the next phase of our community dialogue, this one focused on clarifying our mission and vision statements, articulating new goals, and establishing a strategic plan that will help guide our path forward. These were all identified as critical components by faculty, staff, students, and alumni who participated in the dialogue on the business model.

Once again, this site will host the conversation, and once again, your input and feedback will be vital to the process. Our collective wisdom makes us stronger and better.

As I said in the November 7 Town Hall, we've come a long way together over the past three years, and I'm proud to tell you that, for UMUC, the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

Javier Miyares
President
University of Maryland University College