March 3, 2016

Testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development

Javier Miyares
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Testimony to Senate Budget & Taxation Subcommittee on Education, Business, and Administration

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UMUC – Brief History

• Founded in 1947 as School of Continuation Studies within University of Maryland, College Park.

• Always focused on working adults.

• In 1949, answered U.S. Department of Defense call to teach American troops stationed in post WWII Europe; In 1956, in Asia. This year marks our 60th anniversary in Asia.

• Taught in war zones including Vietnam, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

• In 1970, became an independently accredited university.

• Among first in U.S. and the world to develop and offer online education.

• Today, UMUC is America’s largest public online university.
UMUC currently enrolls some 82,500 students worldwide, offering 105 degree and certificate programs.

74% of UMUC students have full-time jobs, 48% have families, and 37% are first generation college students.

Median age of a UMUC undergraduate student: 32.

Worldwide, minority students comprise 45% of total enrollment.

UMUC enrolls more than 14,000 African American students stateside (29%).

In spring 2014, UMUC launched its Maryland Completion Scholarship program providing Maryland community college graduates the opportunity to complete their bachelor’s degrees for a total cost of $20,000 (including the cost of the associate’s degree). To date, UMUC has processed 4,188 applications and has awarded 2,178 scholarships.
Currently, about 56,000 active duty military service members, reservists, veterans and dependents are enrolled.

UMUC operates on U.S. military installations in 20+ countries.

Recently awarded new Department of Defense contracts to teach face-to-face classes to active duty military personnel in Europe and Asia.

In 2013, established Pillars of Strength Scholarship for volunteer caregivers of wounded service members. To date, six scholarships have been awarded and two recipients have earned master’s degrees.

Recently opened Student Veterans Lounge in Academic Center at Largo and launched the virtual Veterans Resource Center.
• Offered the first fully online cybersecurity bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in Maryland.

• Currently, more than 8,000 students are enrolled in cyber-related programs; since 2011, more than 4,000 students have earned cyber-related degrees.

• UMUC provides administrative support to the Maryland Cybersecurity Council.

• Student cybersecurity competition teams (known as the Cyber Padawans) have won multiple competitions, including the 2014 Global CyberLympics and the 2013 and 2014 Maryland Cyber Challenge (pro and college divisions).

• Designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education and a National Center of Digital Forensics Academic Excellence.
• Instruction delivered mostly through adjuncts.

• Majority of adjuncts are scholar-practitioners, working in their fields, holding graduate degrees, and teaching for UMUC.

• Academic innovations:
  ▪ Competency-based education
  ▪ Adaptive learning
  ▪ Open Educational Resources
  ▪ Analytics
Early adopter of online learning, piloted first online courses in 1994. Today, 85% of UMUC enrollments are online.

Eliminated publisher textbooks in all undergraduate courses, and now use Open Educational Resources (OER), saving students millions of dollars each year. All graduate courses will use OERs by fall 2016.

UMUC and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) signed a first-of-its-kind agreement in 2014 that allows OPM to work with UMUC to infuse a public sector perspective into courses designed to prepare students for federal employment. Since the launch, federal government employees have registered for 8,569 courses.
Enrollment Increases

• For fall 2015, worldwide enrollment increased 3.6% over the previous year. Stateside enrollment growth was 4.7%, followed by Europe at 1.0% and Asia at 0.6%.

• Enrollment growth has been strong for the past few terms as we have recovered from the declining enrollment trends of a few years ago.

• Despite declines in the overall US Military population, we continue to see significant increases in our number of military students.

• Course completion rates have risen for six consecutive years.
UMUC – Budget

- Tuition driven, yet second lowest tuition & fees among four-year institutions in Maryland.

- UMUC Budget:
  - FY 2016 Total Budget: $391.2 million
  - FY 2017 Appropriation Request: $407.2 million
Why Maryland & USM Need a *Thriving* UMUC

- Without UMUC, Maryland will not meet 55% completion goal.

- UMUC moves faster to meet workforce needs.

- UMUC has no reservations about being employment-oriented and working with employers to define key required competencies.

- UMUC is the “laboratory”—e.g., online, analytics, competency based education—for USM.

- UMUC’s premier role in military education is a national service that enhances Maryland & USM brands.
UMUC developed internal analytics systems that have played a critical role in its successful efforts to reverse recent trends of declining enrollments while improving operational efficiencies.

In fall 2015, UMUC launched a new company, HelioCampus, that offers these business intelligence products to other universities.

HelioCampus combines a powerful analytics platform with guided analysis that consolidates and presents data allowing for faster, more informed decisions.

Profits from the new company will support scholarships for Maryland residents.
Recent Honors


- UMUC honored with 2015 President’s Award from Open Education Consortium for “exceptional leadership” in large-scale effort to adopt open source material in all classes by fall 2016.

The UMUC Model

The University of the Future for Working Adults