

USMFOUNDATION

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHARTER

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Advocacy Committee is to engage key Board members in outreach to the Maryland community to support public understanding of the value and impact of public higher education in Maryland and to support measures that advance the institutions affiliated with the University System of Maryland.

All members of the Foundation's Board of Directors play an important advocacy role with key constituents including elected and appointed officials, business representatives, civic and community leaders and the general public. The Advocacy Committee will comprise a smaller group of the Board to coordinate outreach activities, develop statements of purpose and intent, and provide guidance to the full board on issues of vital importance. In addition, the Committee reviews and assesses proposals in the realms of legislation, public media and other issue forums to determine how the best interests of the Foundation and our constituent institutions can be represented.

ORGANIZATION

The Committee will be comprised of at least five members of the Board and efforts will be made to recruit a committee that represents Maryland's diversity in terms of geography, industries, and other factors that are deemed appropriate.

The Committee will meet twice annually, or as circumstances dictate, and report on its activities to the Executive Committee and the full Board.

The members of the Committee may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar communication equipment by means of which all members participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time, and participation by which means shall be conclusively deemed to constitute presence in person at such meeting.

New members shall receive a copy of this charter upon appointment, and shall receive appropriate orientation from management and the Board.

A majority of the Committee members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present (i.e. a quorum as defined by the Bylaws) must approve any proposed action or recommendation of the Committee, and a Committee member dissenting from a Committee proposed action or recommendation may, at his/her discretion, make a presentation to the Executive Committee of the Board regarding his/her views and opinion.

The Chairperson and other members of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board, provided, however, that the Board shall have the right to ask a member to resign from the Committee.

Term length for the Committee Chairman is three years and limited to two terms with a vote for reelection at the end of the first term.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee shall serve to lead and coordinate recommendations to the Board regarding positions that the Foundation should consider in the realms of legislation, media, and outreach to the general public.

Committee members will reach out to key opinion leaders in business, government and the greater community to express the interests and importance of public higher education in Maryland.

The Committee will stay attuned to regional and national trends impacting higher education and suggest actions to the full board that might advance in support of the Foundation's work.

The Committee will coordinate its activities with representatives of USM institutions who monitor legislative proposals and provide advocacy to individual campuses and research institutions.

The Committee may, at its discretion, use the services of any outside advisors as the Committee determines is necessary and appropriate to enable the Committee to fulfill its responsibilities