

[introduced by Sydney Comitz, followed by formal installation from Gossett and charge from Brit]

Thank you, Sydney, for your generous introduction, and congratulations on your appointment as the incoming student representative to the USM Board of Regents.

Lieutenant Governor Rutherford; Mayor Rawlings-Blake; Chancellor Kirwan; colleagues from the University System of Maryland and from higher education; elected officials and distinguished guests, thank you for joining us today.

Thanks to the City College Jazz Band for the great music and to our event sponsors for their support.

To the Board of Regents, Chancellor Kirwan and the UB community – Thank you for the honor of selecting me as the University of Baltimore’s eighth president.

And special thanks to my beautiful eye doctor who also happens to be my wife. Patricia, this does not happen without you.

Friends, we are here today not to celebrate an individual but to celebrate an institution.

At its founding in 1925, our university was appropriately described not only as the University *of* Baltimore, but also the University *for* Baltimore. Consider these words from UB's first course catalogue:

In response to the requests of prospective students, the University of Baltimore was founded by a group of educational specialists to provide opportunities for employed men and women to obtain a practical type of college education at night. In so doing, this new educational institution will contribute toward the growth of the city and the development of its commercial and financial interests.

As UB enters its tenth decade, we embrace our legacy even as we look toward the future. We recognize, however, that the idea of Baltimore has changed over the decades. Organizations which hire our students, higher education institutions with whom we partner, and Baltimore's leaders in the private and public sectors no longer serve a limited geographic area. Their scope is global.

As the idea of Baltimore has grown, so has the University's reach. We are proud of the contributions we have made to our local community and we look forward to even greater contributions in the future under our banner: Knowledge That Works.

In this work I am fortunate to stand on the shoulders of two visionary leaders: Presidents Emeriti Dr. Meb Turner and Bob Bogomolny. I asked Meb and Bob to join me today to underscore our intent to build on their great legacy.

Under their leadership, world class faculty were hired; outstanding students were admitted; the physical presence of a great city's mid-town was transformed; and countless leaders were nurtured.

UB alumni – 63,000 and counting – positively impact the quality of life throughout our region, state and country. Please join me in recognizing Dr. H. Mebane Turner and Robert Bogomolny.

[lead applause]

As I've told many of you during the past eight months, I learn something new about the University of Baltimore every day. Part of that is the complex nature of the job. Some observers liken being a university president to being the mayor of a large city. In my experience, there is one major similarity: in both jobs you better make the right decisions on two major issues, parking and snow removal.

As I've travelled around the state visiting community colleges and other education leaders, I'm constantly hearing that UB is a hidden jewel in the crown of the University System of Maryland. But with all due respect, we intend to be hidden no longer. We want everyone to know who we are and why UB is so valuable. So who are we?

- **We are a University where spring break means more than fun in the sun. This semester, a group of UB students traveled to Mullens, West Virginia, where they helped build the area's first greenhouse, bringing fresh produce to a region in need. And UB law students participated in a range of activities, including helping Eastern Shore immigrants with visa and benefits eligibility.**
- **This is who we are: UB faculty, staff and students are cleaning up the Jones Falls and the Chesapeake Bay watershed; spearheading efforts to reduce truancy in our public schools;**

encouraging the next generation of entrepreneurs and business innovators; and strengthening the state's public and nonprofit sectors.

- We are also the University of Baltimore Foundation, whose members are central to UB's past success and future vision. In addition to providing invaluable financial support and stewardship, the Foundation is genuinely engaged in the life of the University. Through its Fund for Excellence, the Foundation supports research, community engagement and innovation. Initiatives include outreach to engage Hispanic students; a state-wide conference on veterans issues and the courts; and Kidstream UB, a pilot project to design new technologies for children *with* children.
- We are forward-thinking; we know that the world is changing and that we must change with it.

So while many of you know of UB's historic strengths in law and business, you may not know of our expertise in areas such as digital communication; social entrepreneurship; and global affairs and human security.

- We don't measure our worth by magazine rankings, but we accept when our excellence is recognized. Programs in every UB school and college have achieved national rankings, including our Master of Public Administration program; our M.B.A. program, in partnership with Towson; our M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts; and our clinical law program. And it's not just our programs that are recognized: In this year's *Daily Record* list of the 100 most influential women in Maryland, thirteen women on that list were members of the UB community. That's nice institutional representation.

- **We are lawyers and poets; accountants and designers; criminologists and psychologists; health system managers and human resource administrators; forensic investigators and video game developers.**

As proud as we are of what we've become, UB has always looked to the future: we set high aspirations for all – students, faculty, and staff. And this is a particularly important time to look ahead. So what can we envision for UB over the next decade?

First, we must continue to build a university known for excellence in learning, teaching and scholarship, a campus environment in which the success of our distinctive student population and the achievements of our accomplished faculty are paramount. Even as technology alters the higher education landscape, I hope UB students will continue to engage with the city as an educational partner, enriching their learning experiences and contributing to the health and well-being of our region.

This vision of educational excellence needs to recognize the importance of maintaining the affordability of a UB education.

No UB student should be forced to abandon his or her professional ambitions because of financial limitations or student debt.

We must also recognize that the students we will serve in the coming decade will become increasingly diverse by many measures, including life experience. I am particularly committed to making the University of Baltimore a destination of choice for the increasing numbers of veterans who will be re-entering civilian life. We owe these women and men the opportunity to realize their goals and dreams.

Second, we must build upon existing partnerships and create new ones, recognizing that we can achieve more together than we can on our own.

In a time of limited resources, our partnerships with the state’s community colleges and our sister institutions will be critical to increasing opportunities for our students. We must also engage with civic and non-profit organizations as educational and community partners.

And we will continue to partner with private developers to enhance our physical presence and the vitality of midtown Baltimore. I look forward to supporting the work of the UB community to bring Knowledge That Works to Baltimore and beyond.

Finally, we will lay the groundwork for a major capital campaign that will culminate in the celebration of UB’s Centennial in 2025. Let us commit to doubling our endowment, so that in UB’s 100th year, its endowment will reach \$100 million dollars. As much as we will celebrate UB’s history, this campaign will focus on the *next* 100 years, securing for future generations the resources they will need to succeed in a world that we can only imagine today.

Clearly, there is much more I could say about the University of Baltimore. But I will honor my friend Judge Hammerman, who taught me that a speech, in order to be immortal, need not be eternal.

So I will close with these words, also from UB's 1925 catalog:

That which makes a city great and prosperous is not beautiful buildings, or spacious markets, but an intelligent and resourceful citizenship. The one thing that makes for material gain, commercial welfare and social happiness is Education.

Thank you for joining us today, thank for your support, and thank for your willingness to join the UB community in making a great and prosperous university ever greater.

