



OFFICE of THE PRESIDENT

Dear BSU Campus Community,

As we begin a new academic year, I want to provide our campus community with an update on two important areas of work that advanced over the summer: changes to our academic program portfolio and our ongoing planning for fiscal year 2028.

Bowie State University has a proud history of adapting to meet the changing needs of our students and the communities we serve. Our students are taught by exceptional faculty who provide a rigorous education that develops the knowledge, critical thinking, creativity and adaptability needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving world.

At the same time, the environment in which higher education operates is changing significantly. Shifts in student demand, workforce expectations, technology, public funding and the overall cost of delivering higher education require us to continually assess how we use our resources and how our educational model must evolve.

As Maryland's oldest Historically Black College and University, we have an obligation both to protect the strength of this institution and to position Bowie State for the future. That means making thoughtful decisions about where we invest, where change is necessary and how we continue transforming the educational experience to meet the needs of today's learners.

Academic Program Suspensions

As part of our ongoing academic program review, the university received approval over the summer to move forward with the suspension of new admissions to several academic programs beginning in Fall 2026.

Program suspension is one tool universities use to evaluate the effectiveness and continued viability of academic offerings. A suspension is temporary and may remain in effect for up

to three years. It does not mean that a program has been permanently discontinued or closed.

During the suspension period, the university will further assess factors including enrollment and student demand, program outcomes, workforce needs, academic priorities, opportunities for program redesign or consolidation, and the resources necessary to sustain high-quality programs.

Most importantly, students currently enrolled in these programs will be able to continue their studies. Should a program ultimately be discontinued, the university will implement an appropriate teach-out process so that currently enrolled students have the opportunity to complete their degree or credential requirements.

Bowie State University is suspending new admissions to the following programs beginning Fall 2026:

Undergraduate Programs

- BS in Software Engineering
- BA in Criminal Justice*
- BA in History & Government*
- BA in Sociology*
- BA in Psychology*

*The Bachelor of Science (BS) options in Criminal Justice, History & Government, Sociology and Psychology will continue to admit new students.

Graduate Programs

- MS in Applied & Computational Mathematics
- MA in English
- MA in School Psychology
- MS in Internet of Things & Internet Technologies
- MS in Nursing
- Nurse Educator Post-Master's Certificate
- Certificate of Advanced Study – Family Practice (Nursing)

These decisions are part of the university's continuing responsibility to maintain an academic portfolio that is strong, relevant and sustainable. They also create opportunities for us to rethink how programs are structured, strengthen interdisciplinary learning, invest in

areas of growing student and workforce demand, and advance an educational model grounded in Bowie State's hallmarks of experiential learning and entrepreneurship.

Planning for Fiscal Year 2028

A separate but related process began at the start of the summer as we continued confronting the university's longer-term financial obligations.

As previously communicated, the university initiated a formal review process to examine the potential implications of our fiscal outlook for faculty beginning in FY 2028. A faculty retrenchment committee was convened to undertake this work and to provide recommendations for consideration by the President. [View the charge of the Retrenchment Committee.](#) [View the list of committee members.](#)

The committee has now completed its work and submitted its final report. The final report will be considered in the full scope of decisions and planning for FY '28. It is important to distinguish the committee's recommendations from university decisions. The recommendations represent one important source of information that will be considered as part of the university's broader academic and financial planning for FY 2028. [View the executive summary.](#)

The review considered such factors as academic and programmatic needs, enrollment and demand, financial sustainability, impact on students and faculty, and alignment with the university's mission and strategic priorities. It also recognizes that alternatives to personnel action, including reassignment, curriculum realignment, program consolidation and other organizational change, must be carefully considered as part of responsible institutional planning.

The administration will review the committee's recommendations along with additional academic, enrollment, financial and operational information before determining what actions will be necessary for FY 2028. Any subsequent actions will follow applicable university and University System of Maryland policies and processes, including appropriate consultation and notification.

We will continue to communicate with the campus as this work progresses and as decisions are made. None of these decisions is easy, and I recognize that change creates understandable questions and concerns. But responsible stewardship requires us to look beyond the immediate moment and make decisions that will sustain Bowie State for the students who are here today and for generations yet to come.

Our goal is not simply to reduce costs. It is to make intentional choices about the university we are becoming, strengthening academic quality, directing resources where they can have the greatest impact, responding to emerging workforce opportunities, and ensuring that Bowie State remains accessible, distinctive and financially sustainable.

I want to thank the retrenchment committee for the enormous effort over the summer. Thank you to our faculty, department chairs, deans, staff and members of the retrenchment committee for the time, expertise and thoughtful consideration they have contributed to this work. Shared governance and meaningful engagement are particularly important when institutions face difficult choices, and those perspectives will continue to inform our path forward.

Additional notifications and actions will be a part of the start to the academic year as the results and recommendations of the report undergo further review.

As we move Boldly Forward, I ask that our campus community remain grounded in our mission, committed to academic excellence and focused above all on the success of our students. The strength of Bowie State has always rested in the people who believe deeply in this institution. Together, we will continue building a university that honors our legacy while having the courage to transform for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aminta H. Breaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aminta" being the most prominent.

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.

President

Bowie State University

