

Inclusion Council
Alignment of Economic Values and Decisions Working Group Recommendations

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Statement of Purpose: The Alignment of Economic Values and Decisions (AEVD) Working Group is charged with providing recommendations to the Inclusion Council, OEI, and the University administration that suggestion possible actions that UMBC can take to ensure purchasing practices are in line with its values of diversity, social responsibility and inclusive excellence.

Summary of process: The AEVD Working Group met five times beginning in December 2020. AEVD and Land Acknowledgement working group met together and then formed two separate groups based on interest and expertise. AEVD focused mainly on the issue of the state mandated purchasing requirement that UMBC has to buy furniture from Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE). MCE uses prison labor to produce its furniture. The partnership between MCE and UMBC does not align with UMBC's mission of social responsibility. The AEVD used meeting time to summarize and frame the issue of purchasing from MCE. AEVD invited Elizabeth Moss, Executive Director of Procurement & Strategic Sourcing, to give a presentation about the legislated mandate for purchasing from MCE. In subsequent meetings, AEVD discussed and brainstormed possible recommendations for the University. AEVD's recommendations were not limited to MCE alone, but addressed several purchasing issues

more broadly. Below are the recommendations that AEVD suggests that UMBC take in order to better align with its mission and values.

Recommendations:

The Inclusion Council Working Group on Alignment of Economic Decisions and Values makes the following recommendations:

1. UMBC takes a leadership role within USM and Maryland Legislator to end the Maryland Correctional Enterprise (MCE) purchasing requirements mandated by the State.
 - a. Such as:
 - i. The President of UMBC raises the issue at Board of Regents Meetings.
 - ii. UMBC Administration advocates for legislative change of the state mandated requirement of purchasing from MCE.
2. UMBC raises awareness of the prison labor and the MCE purchasing mandate:
 - a. Such as
 - i. Placing informational stickers on all furniture purchased from MCE.
 - ii. Offering a campus-wide teach-in about the MCE purchasing mandate, the 13th Amendment, and the legacy of the exploitation of incarcerated persons. Such a teach-in should include the voices of currently or formerly incarcerated individuals, especially those who have worked with MCE.
 - iii. UMBC Office of Procurement makes the [MCE waiver process](#) clearly accessible and part of their procurement training process.
 - iv. UMBC distributes a campus-wide survey to learn what stakeholders know and think about the MCE purchasing state mandate in order.
3. UMBC explores ways to extend its mission to include incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons.
 - a. Examine campus policies and practices regarding the criminal record of applicants.
 - b. Conduct a program development assessment of opportunities to offer courses and programs to incarcerated persons and recently-returned citizens.
4. UMBC creates a Social Impact Statement to guide contracting and procurement. Examples of statements can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Some examples to be included are:
 - a. Dining options at UMBC are contracted with businesses that align with our institutional values. This should include contracting with local businesses where possible, with an eye to social, environmental, and economic standards.
 - b. UMBC creates and distributes a list of preferred minority owned vendors that align with UMBC values.