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dining plans that students prepaid at the beginning of last semester, which was cancelled back in March. And I'm wondering, Mr. Vice President, whether the vendors refunded to the State for services not rendered due to the unforeseen closure of the campuses back in March.

MR. EVANS: For this particular item, I would have to ask Lester Primus, who is the Vice President for Administration and Finance at University of Maryland Eastern Shore to field that question.

MR. PRIMUS: Good morning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Good morning.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Well, it's a generic question. I assume that the System, the reports that the System granted partial refunds for housing and dining, that makes perfect sense. The question is whether these fixed contracts, like the one we're about to vote on, whether, this is not concerning this contract because this is prospective, but retroactively did these vendors that have these contracts refund to the State some of the payments where appropriate?

MR. PRIMUS: Yes, Mr. Comptroller, this is Lester Primus, Vice President of Finance and Administration at UMES. It was not an automatic according to the contract, but we were able to negotiate with them at a lesser cost because of the early closure. So initially, we received an outstanding invoice for service rendered, particularly between March 23rd, the middle of March, all the

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way up to the end of May 15th, which is according to the contract. When I received that, we did have a discussion. The vendor that we use was very understanding and there were some savings that will be obviously offset because of the refunds that we have given to our students.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Good. Because I, it appears as if the University System, not just including you guys, are planning to open. It's going to be some kind of creative combination of in-person college education come September and remote classes, I'm told. And in an article by the *Sun* last Friday, it was reported that universities were working to reduce student density both in living spaces and dining halls. Most schools will prohibit or limit the use of kitchens, lounges, or other community spaces, while several institutions will offer grab-and-go dining options to allow social distancing in dining halls. I'm just, I guess the question is just once again what you just mentioned. Are these contracts going to have an understanding that there should be refunds from the vendors if these kinds of changes are made?

MR. PRIMUS: Yes. Not only that, Mr. Comptroller, I have a meeting with our vendor sometime next week with our VP of Enrollment Services and we are going to talk about all of that.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Great. And I understand the students like the private concessions. So I'm not suggesting that is the case. I'm

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just saying, if things change, hopefully if a refund is appropriate, that, or lowered payments going forward appropriate, that would be recognized in good faith by everybody. It sounds like it is.

MR. PRIMUS: Yes, so far it has. We have been having a good relationship with them. And as I mentioned earlier, with the early closing we were able to renegotiate. And as I stated, that we are going to be meeting our vendor at University of Maryland Eastern Shore to discuss all types of options and particularly looking at some of the contractual language with them. But so far, they have been very much understanding to the situation and have been working with us.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I'm glad to hear that. Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: However, I think the Comptroller's original question was sort of system wide, and not just for this item. And I think we would be interested in general, Joe, not necessarily right now, to know how the System in its planning and then reflected in funding, financial issues, is dealing with the virus and changes in routine, like students being on campus part time and not dining, changes in the use of, you know, the buildings, you know, six feet, people being six feet from each other, etcetera, what the impact is and how that's impacting financing. Is that --

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MR. EVANS: I understand your question. I will get with System headquarters and we will get an answer.

TREASURER KOPP: I think that's what you were asking.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah, no, I am so glad the Treasurer is there because otherwise half of my questions would go unanswered, I guess. And I didn't even articulate it and she knows what I was concerned about. But it makes a lot of sense, Joe, obviously, system wide. If there are, you know, depending, some of these contracts are long term and not subject for review. So --

MR. EVANS: I think every, each one of the contracts would have to be looked at individually to see what kind of contract language was in there when the contract was first negotiated. But like Vice President Primus said, a lot of the contractors are willing to work with you. I know on my campus, I've got one that's working with us now. Although we don't have a traditional dining facility, we do have grab-and-go, and they are shut down now. And we're working through that with that vendor.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Look forward. I'll look forward to that. Thank you, Madam Treasurer.

TREASURER KOPP: Governor?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

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TREASURER KOPP: In general at some point, not just because we are interested in higher education and --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: For a moment --

TREASURER KOPP: Not just because we --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Moment --

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah. Something else just popped up on my screen.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: You're back, though.

TREASURER KOPP: It's my laptop. I apologize. I was going to say, not just because we are interested in higher education, which we all are individually, but also because of the financial ramifications, particularly as we go into a very tough budget situation. I think it would be interesting for this Board to know what the University sees as it looks out over the next 12 to 18 months in terms of their finances and their programs. I know that the System administration is pulling together and going through things and trying to understand what the impact of the coronavirus will be on attendance and funding, tuition, costs, etcetera. At some point, and I suppose they would be the ones to know when it's the appropriate point, when they have everything together, I think it would be useful to brief the Board of Public Works on this so we can understand as we look into the budget and

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look into revenue forecasts and look into cuts to understand how the Board of Regents is looking at this.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, we can, I can reach out to the Board of Regents and ask that they give us a date when they think they feel comfortable coming to talk to us about their projections. Not what they are asking for, per se, in a budget --

TREASURER KOPP: Right. Right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- but where they are projecting in terms of the, you know, attendance, revenue decline, tuition, the room and board questions. So it will be interesting to hear. And as I've mentioned a couple of times, I think they also need to be thinking in terms of, and particularly those who have the educational experience, what is the new world going to look like for education? Because people are getting and younger people are getting very used to this remote education. And I read just I want to say it was yesterday an article in the *Wall Street Journal* about these engineering students who put together an app which they did it for somewhat good reasons, but it was in an article about how these kids are spoofing their instructors because they know how to do these things on Zoom. But these engineering students or computer science students had put together an app that made it seem that they were sitting in the classroom, in the virtual classroom, when they weren't. But the computer science student who



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created it said, I didn't want to sit in an 8:00 class virtually. So what I would do is I created this so the professor thinks I'm there, but I watch the lecture at 3:00 in the afternoon. So it's almost like our DVRs now, that we watch our shows when we want to watch them. They are getting the lecture when they want to get it versus when the professor is actually standing there. And I thought that was, you know, quite interesting. And it relates to something that Dr. Wilson at Morgan had told me about, students who use YouTube to watch a lecture on the subject that they are currently studying because they can relate to the lecturer, or he or she presents it in a way that they understand it better than the person who is standing in front of them in the classroom. So it really starts to change the whole, these professors almost become free agents. You know? It's going to be really a different world. And it may not be next year. But I think the universities and the education community have to start thinking about, you know, what's going to be the future of higher education.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, I'm sure they are thinking about it and they are trying to make some plans. But it's a new world, you're right.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: And it would be good to know where they are in their thinking.

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Right. There's the two parts. There's the here and now, the immediate, and then the long term. So.

TREASURER KOPP: Right. Exactly.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Any other questions for the University System? And I will check with the Board of Regents and talk to them about coming in and talking to us.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: I would move approval.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Do we have a second?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you.

MR. EVANS: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Thank you, Joe.  
All right. Department of Transportation? Maryland Department of Transportation?

MR. SLATER: Good afternoon. How are you? Again, one minute after morning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Oh, good afternoon.

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MR. SLATER: Good morning, great to see everyone. Good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name is Greg Slater, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. Before I get started, I've been enjoying the conversation about a variety of topics, but Madam Treasurer, you would be interested to know that we just received a \$3 million grant from FTA for some zero emission buses for Baltimore City for MTA's fleet.

TREASURER KOPP: Great.

MR. SLATER: So we're going to be purchasing three 60-foot zero emission buses and be able to install some charging infrastructure with that grant as well. It will give us the opportunity to try these vehicles downtown and be able to kind of make some progress before we make a bigger, larger type of a purchase and see how it works for us through this FTA grant.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Very good.

TREASURER KOPP: Yeah, that's great. Always nice to do good things with other people's money.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely. Well, we have a little bit of our skin in the game as well as part of the match. But it's a great opportunity. The Maryland Department of Transportation is presenting 12 items for your consideration today.

















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(Whereupon, at 12:13 p.m., the meeting was concluded.)