In November 1954, Dr. Wilson H. Elkins, President, University of Maryland, commissioned a study for a proposed golf course to serve the University community. This effort was chaired by Mr. James M. Tatum, the Athletic Director. His committee consisted of six additional members, including the prime instigator for the project, Mr. Frank H. Cronin, University of Maryland class of 1939, track, boxing, and golf coach, and present day member of the University of Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame. Also serving on the committee were Dean Lester M. Fraley, College of Physical Education, Recreation and Health; Mr. George O. Weber, Director of the University Physical Plant; Mr. Mark M. Shoemaker, University Landscape Architect; Dean Gordon M. Cairns, College of Agriculture; and Mr. Robinson Lappin, Director, Dining Hall, who had assisted Mr. Cronin in garnering support for the golf course.

Mr. Tatum’s report to Dr. Elkins in February 1955 outlined his committee’s view that “there is no way of having a complete course of Physical Education without having at least some facilities for the teaching of golf.” The interest in the sport by students and faculty was highlighted, as was the observation “that there are very, very few who could afford to belong to one of the neighboring country clubs.” Another significant point was brought to Dr. Elkins’ attention – that “every school with whom the University has intercollegiate athletic relations sponsors a golf team.” For the preceding eight years, the golf team had been renting facilities at a nearby course, Prince George’s Golf and Country Club, for both practice and competitions. Mr. Tatum’s report pointed out that “we have to rely on the hospitality of that particular club for the treatment furnished our guest, the visiting team. Our visitors seldom see the University of Maryland.”

Mr. Tatum’s input to Dr. Elkins also included a recommendation for where the proposed golf course should be located. The Physical Plant Department, headed by Mr. George O. Weber, a member of Mr. Tatum’s committee, completed a contour map of the University property. An area “west of the new highway (today known as University Boulevard, Maryland Route 193) which at the present time is being constructed west of the stadium (today, Byrd Stadium)” was recommended. A noteworthy aspect of this tract of land was the fact that a portion of it was a U.S. Army anti-aircraft site. The committee recommended that steps be taken immediately to terminate the lease with the federal government.

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Among those enlisted to help evaluate the land for possible construction of a golf course on this site was Mr. Edwin Ault, club champion at nearby Indian Spring Country Club, who at the time was coordinating construction of a new 27-hole course for his home club; and, Mr. Al Jamison, Golf Professional at Virginia’s Goose Creek Country Club who had formerly supervised construction of both Ballston Country Club.

A study of the construction costs of recently built area golf courses yielded an estimated cost of $100,000 for an eighteen hole course, exclusive of a clubhouse, on this site. It was noted in the proposed financing plan, “That this cost might be reduced if construction is undertaken on a ‘piece meal’ base, utilizing student labor, prison labor, physical plant equipment, and cooperative efforts of lumber equipment manufacturers in this clearing operations.” A few notable notes are worth mentioning. Prison labor provided by a nearby correctional facility in Jessup, Maryland was used in course construction. A local farmer and husband of an assistant to Mr. Cronin also helped in the construction. And lastly, the original modest clubhouse was replaced in 1999 with the present day, approximately $3M facility complete with a full service pro shop, locker rooms, restaurant, bar, and spacious banquet facilities.

Dr. Elkins accepted the committee’s recommendations and presented the proposal to Mr. B. Herbert Brown, a member of the University of Maryland Board of Regents and Chairman of its Athletic Committee. Mr. Brown would prove to be a key proponent for construction of the course.

“The University of Maryland community is fortunate to have a facility of this quality located on campus. When the renovation is complete, the University of Maryland Golf Course will be one of the finest university courses in the country. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, I am excited about what our future holds.”

—Mr. Jeff S. Maynor, Director of Golf, University of Maryland Golf Courses and PGA Professional
Maryland Terrapins participated in the 1952 Sugar Bowl, and the 1954 and 1956 provided by receipts from three post-regular season football games the University of
After their June 24, 1955, meeting the Board of Regents' input was presented to the
Appleman, included “plans for a golf course which he had formulated for President
members. This letter, provided by a retired University professor, Dr. Charles O.

Appleman's letter was presented to the Board of Regents for their consideration. They decided to move forward with the project, and George W. Cobb, the University's Director of Athletics, was appointed to oversee the construction.

Maryland's first golf course opened in 1956 with a full 18 holes. The course was designed by George W. Cobb, a renowned golf architect, and it quickly became a favorite among students and faculty alike.

The course continued to grow and improve over the years, with several renovations and expansions. In 2008-2009, a $3.5M upgrade began which was focused on the design of the renowned golf course, Maryland Terrapins. Mr. Cobb's letter was read aloud to the Board of Regents, explaining his vision for the new golf course.

The new golf course was designed with a focus on sustainability and environmental friendliness. It included native plant species and was designed to blend seamlessly into the natural surroundings.

In 2013, the course underwent an extensive renovation, with plans to reopen in 2014. The upgrades included improvements to the irrigation system, new bunkers, and upgraded greens and fairways.

The University of Maryland Golf Course has become a hub for golf enthusiasts and community members alike, attracting not only students and faculty but also visitors from around the world.

The golf course membership will be restricted to students, faculty, staff members, and alumni. In order to maintain the golf course it has been necessary to establish a membership fee, which would be $2.50 per day for weekdays and $3.50 per day on weekends.

The course provides a good balance between challenge and playability. The fairways and greens are well-maintained, ensuring a challenging yet enjoyable experience for players of all skill levels.

The University of Maryland Golf Course has a long and storied history, and it continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of its members and visitors. It is a testament to the commitment of the University to providing a top-notch golfing experience for all who choose to play there.

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