

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2024
10:00 a.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 in the 7th floor boardroom at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building (200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201). The meeting was also livestreamed (and recorded), and some meeting participants (Commissioners and others with speaking roles) joined virtually.

Commission members present:

Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
Chike Aguh, Vice Chair	Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.
Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.	Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.
Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.	Praise Alayode, Student Commissioner
Barbara Kerr Howe	

Commission member absent:

Rebecca Taber Staehelin	
-------------------------	--

Staff members present:

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Newman	Soma Kedia
Anthony Reiner	Kimberly Smith Ward
Derrick Coley	Al Dorsett
Daniel Schuster	Deborah Ing
Samuel Durai Pandian	Trish Gordon McCown

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Motz** at approximately 10:02 a.m. A meeting quorum was established with eleven (11) out of twelve (12) members present.

Chair’s Remarks

Chair Motz thanked everyone, particularly guests, for attending today’s meeting.

Secretary’s Remarks

Secretary Rai welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an overview of the agenda.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Commission Meeting Minutes Approval

Commissioner Howe made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 24, 2024, and **Commissioner Thompson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department of Finance and Administration – Operating and Capital Budget Presentations – Information Items

Chair Motz recognized Mr. Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, to introduce this segment of the meeting. He welcomed all the representatives from the various segments of higher education who are here today to present their budget plans for fiscal year 2026. The Commission has a responsibility to review the budgets of all higher education segments. Institutions will also explain how their priorities and budgets align with the State Plan, as well as answer any questions submitted ahead of time by the Commissioners.

Baltimore City Community College

Dr. Debra McCurdy, President, Mr. Aubrey Bascombe, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Mr. Michael Thomas, Vice President for Workforce and Continuing Education, and Ms. Becky Burrell, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, presented the Baltimore City Community College Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

University System of Maryland

Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, presented the USM Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Dr. Katherine Gantz, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Dr. Amir Mohammadi, Interim Vice President for Business & Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Brandon Engle, Director of Government Affairs, presented the St. Mary's College of Maryland Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

Break 12:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Morgan State University

Dr. David Wilson, President, presented the Morgan State University Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

Maryland Association of Community Colleges

Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director, presented the Maryland Association of Community Colleges Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

Break 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Maryland Independent College and University Association

Mr. Matthew Power, President, presented the Maryland Independent College and University Association Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

Regional Higher Education Centers

Mr. Newman, along with the Center Directors, presented the Regional Higher Education Centers' Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The Directors present were Mr. Justin Sayre of the Universities of La Plata and Ms. Marcella Leach of the Eastern Shore Higher Education Center. The presentation is available for review.

Department of Academic Affairs – Update on Workforce Needs Analysis – Information Item

Chair Motz recognized Dr. Emily Dow, MHEC's Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, to present this item. In the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly passed HB 1244, which requires the Maryland Department of Labor, the Maryland Department of Commerce, and MHEC to collectively define, identify, and compile data regarding the workforce needs in the State.

As a result of this collaboration, MHEC is expected to publish an annual appendix to the Higher Education State Plan that identifies (a) the current and emerging state and regional workforce needs and (b) any specific academic programs institutions could develop to fulfill or support the identified needs. MHEC, Labor, and Commerce have had initial discussions to develop this work.

Representatives from the 3 agencies will continue to collaborate to develop four lists for inclusion in the appendix to the Higher Education State Plan:

- a. A list of state and regional workforce needs;
- b. A list of academic programs that would address the workforce need;
- c. A list of emerging workforce needs; and
- d. A list of "emerging workforce need programs."

Next steps include finalizing an initial draft of the 4 lists, circulating the draft lists to relevant community partners for comment, convening the Advisory Council on Workforce Shortage for their input, collecting feedback and revising the lists in collaboration with Labor and Commerce, presenting the revised lists no later than the November Commission meeting for submission to the Legislative Policy Committee, and collecting relevant feedback from the Legislative Policy Committee, revising accordingly, and presenting the final draft of the 2025 Appendix for adoption.

The Commissioners discussed and asked questions about Dr. Dow's presentation.

Department of Academic Affairs – Update on Mission Statement Review Timeline – Information Item

Chair Motz recognized Dr. Dow to present this item. During the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly passed HB 1244, which requires the Commission to:

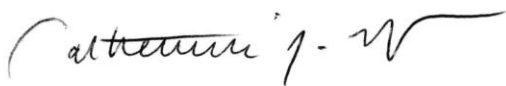
- Develop detailed criteria for the robust review of mission statements of public institutions of higher education, including ensuring the mission of each institution is reflective of the institution's statutory distinction and clearly defined and distinct from other public institutions.
- Review the mission statement to determine whether the mission statement is consistent with the State Plan for Higher Education.

On July 1, 2026, the 2026 State Plan for Higher Education is to be released. The mission statement reviews are to be completed in the year immediately following the release of the State Plan.

Adjournment

With the agenda completed in its totality, the meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Approved by the Commission:



Catherine J. "Cassie" Motz, Chair