

# **MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **MEETING BOOKLET**

Time: 1:00 PM  
Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Place: Video Teleconference  
(GoToMeeting)

# Maryland Higher Education Commission

Andrew R. Smarick, Chair

Donna M. Mitchell, Vice Chair

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.

Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.

Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.

James E. Coleman

Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D.

Charles McDaniels, Jr.

Sydney Miller, Student Commissioner

James B. Sellinger, Sr.

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.

John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.

**James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D.**  
**Secretary**

**Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.**  
**Governor**

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
**Lt. Governor**



Larry Hogan  
Governor

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Andrew R. Smarick  
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

## Maryland Higher Education Commission Meeting Agenda

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
June 23, 2021

**PLACE:** Video Teleconference  
(GoToMeeting)

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<b>Call to Order</b>		
<b>Chair’s and Secretary’s Remarks</b>		
<b>Public Comments</b>		
<b>Commission Minutes Approval</b> .....	1	*
• May 26, 2021		
• June 8, 2021		
• June 8, 2021 Closed Session Minutes		
<b>Commissioner Committee Updates</b>		
<b>2020-2021 Faculty Advisory Council: Report of Recommendations – Dr. Emily Dow</b>	8	
<b>Review Meeting – Proposal of the University of Maryland Global Campus for a Substantial Modification to the Community College Policy and Administration AOC within the Doctor of Management Program</b>		
<b>Adjournment</b>		

*\*The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 @ 1:00 PM.*

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2021  
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 via video teleconference (GoToMeeting).

**Commission members present:**

Andrew R. Smarick, Chair	Charles McDaniels, Jr.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Sydney Miller, Student Commissioner
Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.	Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
James E. Coleman	John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.
Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D.	

**Commission members absent:**

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Donna M. Mitchell, Vice Chair	

**Staff members present:**

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Barbara Schmetz, Ph.D.	Jennifer Katz
Soma Kedia	Trish Gordon McCown
Lee Towers	Geoffrey Newman
Michael Leonard, Ph.D.	Donna Thomas
Bryson Barksdale	

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Smarick** at approximately 1:04 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with nine (9) out of twelve (12) members present.

**Chair's Remarks**

**Chair Smarick** welcomed everyone to today's meeting and expressed the hope that all were healthy and in good spirits.

**Secretary's Remarks**

**Secretary Fielder** gave an update on the coalition case, noting that the next step will be for the Department of Legislative Services to name a consultant to work with MHEC. The consultant will come on board sometime in September, and a report will be due in December of this year.

**Secretary Fielder** then welcomed Dr. Barbara Schmertz, Director of the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, who introduced Dr. Michael Leonard, recently hired to fill the role of Associate Director. Dr. Leonard remarked that he was glad to be a part of MHEC. **Secretary Fielder** also welcomed Ms. Soma Kedia, Assistant Attorney General, who introduced Ms. Thuy Langrill-Miles, a law clerk who will be assisting her unit.

### **Commission Minutes Approval**

**Commissioner Coleman** motioned to approve the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes, and **Commissioner Seurkamp** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Commissioner Committee Updates**

**Education Policy Committee: Commissioner Yaeger**, who is Chair of the Committee, reported that there was no meeting this month. At the next meeting, they will elect a new Chair, as his term is about to end.

**Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: Commissioner Jackson** reported that there was no formal meeting recently. However, they were made aware of an overload on MDCAPS (Maryland College Aid Processing System) when too many students were on the system at once. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) was able to work out a resolution and limit the number of users concurrently.

**Finance and Operations Committee:** There was no update from the Committee, as Vice Chair Mitchell was absent.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Chair Smarick** shared that he and Secretary Fielder will be seeking members to serve on the Committee, as well as a Chair to lead it.

### **Student Advisory Council – Technology Grant Recommendation – Information Item**

**Chair Smarick** recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, who introduced Mr. Kyle Dineen, an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park and Chair of the Student Advisory Council. Mr. Dineen recommended, on behalf of the Student Advisory Council, that the Maryland Higher Education Commission establish a Technology Grant for the primary purpose of increasing student access to higher education and improving student success by increasing access to either high-quality internet or technological equipment. Any student enrolled at a postsecondary institution authorized to operate in Maryland and registered for a specific academic program would be eligible. The minimum award is \$300 and the maximum is \$1,000. Grants could be used for: (a) equipment or hardware; (b) internet access; or (c) software. Students could re-apply up to 3 times for non-repetitive categories, and students demonstrating the greatest financial need (determined by information obtained from their FAFSAs) would be given prioritization. Technological access has become an issue due to the pandemic, and scholarships are generally limited to tuition and fees. Post-pandemic, this will continue to be a need and critical to ensure student access and success.

**Secretary Fielder** asked if the Student Advisory Council had a suggestion for funding source. Mr. Dineen requested that MHEC approach the Governor’s Office about the allotment of funding. **Commissioner McDaniels** inquired how such an opportunity would be publicized to the student body. Mr. Dineen answered that the schools themselves would make their students aware of the opportunity, since many students go directly to their institutions to request assistance.

**Student Advisory Council – 2020-2021 Annual Report – Information Item**

**Chair Smarick** recognized Mr. Dineen to present the 2020-2021 Student Advisory Council Annual Report. Mr. Dineen highlighted several items from this document, including a recommendation presented to the Commission last year regarding accessibility for voting and presentations by the Maryland Department of Health about contact tracing and mental health resources. Their key goals for next year include continued efforts to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) endeavors, addressing various issues of accessibility, and seeking better understanding of higher education funding in Maryland.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR Financial Aid Regulations – Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program – Action Item**

**Chair Smarick** recognized Ms. Donna Thomas (MHEC’s Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance) who presented this item. On February 24, 2021, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register proposed amendments to the regulations for the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program. The purpose of these amendments is primarily to add a new process for institutional verification of Guaranteed Access Grants, as required by statute. The regulations also add an additional appeal criterion for late FAFSA filers, clarify the recipient selection priority, and replace the term “alternate application” with “MSFAA” throughout the regulations. The proposed regulations were published in the Maryland Register on April 9, 2021. The public comment period for the regulations ended on May 10, 2021, and no public comments were received.

The proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission’s final adoption, with a non-substantive change to the text of Regulation .08B to correct a single word, as reflected in tracked changes in the attached copy of the regulations. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

Ms. Thomas recommended that the Commission approve for final adoption the proposed amendments to the regulations for the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program, including the non-substantive change reflected in the attached text.

**Commissioner Jackson** made a motion to approve, and **Commissioner McDaniels** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR Financial Aid Regulations – Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program – Action Item**

**Chair Smarick** recognized Ms. Thomas who reported that during the 2021 session, the legislature passed House Bill 1124/Senate Bill 40 to amend the Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program. The program awards scholarships to ROTC members at the state’s four HBCUs.

Currently, 25% of total funds for the scholarship are allocated for students at Bowie State University and 75% of the funds are allocated for students at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Coppin State University, and Morgan State University. The legislative changes the allocation so that *at least* 25% of the total funds are for students at Bowie State University and the remaining funds after awarding all eligible Bowie State University students are for students at the other three institutions. Additionally, the amendments include a change to the application deadline to facilitate earlier awarding and the deletion of an obsolete provision.

Upon approval, proposed regulations and regulatory amendments are submitted to the legislature’s Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

Ms. Thomas recommended that the Commission approve for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendments to the Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program and authorize its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

**Secretary Fielder** asked the number of recipients. Ms. Thomas replied that during the 2020-2021 academic year, more than 50 students received this award. Amounts averaged over \$5,000. **Commissioner Boyd** made a motion to approve for publication the proposed amendments, and **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment**

**Commissioner Seurkamp** made a motion to adjourn and **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m.

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021  
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 via video teleconference (GoToMeeting).

**Commission members present:**

Andrew R. Smarick, Chair	Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D.
Donna M. Mitchell, Vice Chair	Charles McDaniels, Jr.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Sydney Miller, Student Commissioner
James E. Coleman	Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.

**Commission members not present:**

Senchal Dashiell Barrolle, Esq.	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.	John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.

**Staff members present:**

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.	Jennifer Katz
Geoffrey Newman	

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Smarick** at approximately 1:02 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with eight (8) out of twelve (12) members present.

**Chair's Remarks**

The Chair did not offer any remarks.

**Secretary's Remarks**

The Secretary did not offer any remarks.

**Vote for Closed Session to Discuss Pending Administrative Appeal – Action Item**

**Commissioner Seurkamp** moved that the Commission go into a closed session to discuss the pending administrative appeal. **Commissioner Jackson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:04 p.m.

For Inclusion in the Open Session Minutes of the Commission's June 23, 2021 Meeting:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to § 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion of Commissioner Seurkamp, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and with unanimous agreement of the Commissioners present, the Maryland Higher Education Commission met in closed session on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, virtually, by video, using GoToMeeting, for the purpose of discussing an administrative appeal. The following Commission members were not present: Senchal Barrolle, Lewis Brown, James Sellinger, and John Yaeger.

In attendance at closed session were Commissioners Andy Smarick, Donna Mitchell, Vivian Boyd, Vera Jackson, Charles McDaniels, Mary Pat Seurkamp, and Sydney Miller; and Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Katz. The Executive Session commenced at approximately 1:05 p.m. At that time, the Commission received legal advice regarding an administrative appeal from Sheffield Institute, with regard to the Secretary's issuance of a notice of deficiencies. The Commission discussed with legal counsel whether to delegate the appeal to the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings and the scope of the delegation. Following consultation and discussion the Commission voted unanimously to transmit the appeal to the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings and to delegate final decision-making authority. The Executive Session ended at approximately 1:30 p.m.



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Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 23, 2021  
TO: Maryland Higher Education Commission  
FROM: Faculty Advisory Council  
SUBJECT: 2020-2021 Faculty Advisory Council: Report of Recommendations

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Faculty Advisory Council met eight times. Each meeting, a subgroup of members presented on a specific topic and led a discussion. Each meeting culminated in formulating recommendations to the Commission, which were then voted on by the Council. Presentation and discussion topics included:

- Faculty professional development
- Social justice/systemic racism
- Open educational resources
- Innovating credentialing
- The pathway between 2- and 4-year institutions
- The pathway from high school to college

The recommendations, organized by topic<sup>1</sup>, presented below are for the Commission's consideration for either Commission staff to implement and/or to encourage higher education segments or institutions in Maryland to consider for implementation.

### **Faculty Professional Development**

The MHEC FAC recommends statewide support for faculty professional development in the relevant areas of racial equity and social justice, effective teaching and learning best practices in various modalities, mental health and self-care, and faculty mentoring and leadership. There are five ways in which faculty professional development can be executed with statewide support:

- Statewide conference on the aforementioned relevant themes offered each semester - There can be a different host institution for each conference. A good example of this is the Association of Faculties for Advancement of Community College Teaching (AFACCT) that organizes conferences, and each community college would host per year or per semester.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendations for “innovative credentialing,” “pathways between 2-and 4-year institutions,” and “pathway from high school to college” will be discussed and voted on at the next Council meeting in September, 2021.

- Institutional membership to national, state, and/or regional conferences - A good example of this is the Maryland Distance Learning Association (MDLA) in which institutional members pay an annual fee to be a part of this network. Membership includes benefits such as conference attendance fees, resources, tools, etc. for use at each institution.
- Funding from a philanthropy to help deliver appropriate professional development - A good example of this is the most recent Hewlett Foundation's grant to California community colleges for faculty professional development on anti-racism OER work: <https://www.oeglobal.org/2020/11/04/open-education-globals-cccoer-awarded-grant-to-support-anti-racism-with-oer/>
- Maryland OneBook - There can continue to be an interactive virtual exchange of relevant book clubs or ideas across institutions. Currently, this is happening more locally, but a broader community of exchange may be more fruitful.
- A community page or online repository of materials, ideas, and other relevant posts - Each institution would do this individually. This will require a dedicated person to monitor the site. A good example is the American Council on Education (ACE)'s Engage site: <https://www.acenet.edu/Pages/Engage/home.aspx>

### **Social Justice and Systemic Racism Recommendations**

- Create a statewide archive of resources relevant to social justice in higher education with the intended purpose of sharing strategies, best practices, and innovations that may increase institutional and social change.
- Develop a statewide databank that provides an analysis of equity in hiring minority faculty toward sharing more effective practices that broaden the application pool, particularly in underrepresented areas such as STEM Fields.
- Create a statewide plan to encourage colleges and universities to collect and analyze data, based on gender and race in relation to student admission criteria, recruitment, retention, persistence, and success. Report out on results of equity-focused efforts.
- Encourage each college and university to develop an anti-racist, social justice and inclusion site for faculty and staff which houses an online repository of materials, ideas, and other relevant resources. Each institution would do this individually. This will require a dedicated person to monitor the site. A good example is the Columbia University's site: <https://ctl.columbia.edu/resources-and-technology/resources/inclusive-teaching-guide/>

### **Open Educational Resources (OER) Recommendations**

- Consolidate Communities of Practice and other workgroups from Maryland higher education institutions to identify benefits, challenges, and solutions related to OER discovery, adoption, and evaluation. Focus this work around OER usage, in general, as well as outcomes related to student success, student satisfaction (especially with regard to culturally responsive curriculum development), and pedagogy.

- Work with Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (CCCOER)<sup>2</sup> and the Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) Commons<sup>3</sup> to:
  - Increase access to open-source textbooks, articles, videos, homework assignments, software, and other materials.
  - Develop and deploy workshops to teach about OER discovery with a focus on cultural responsiveness, curricular standards, and pedagogy.
  - Develop an OER data warehouse that comprises information about OER usage at all higher education institutions in Maryland. This warehouse could include data from Kirwan Center, CCCOER, and M.O.S.T.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cccoer.org/#>

<sup>3</sup> <https://most.oercommons.org/>



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## Maryland Higher Education Commission 2021 Meeting Dates

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is Maryland’s higher education coordinating board responsible for the management of statewide financial aid programs and the establishment of statewide policies for public and private colleges and career schools to support students’ postsecondary pursuits.

### Meeting Dates and Locations

January 27, 2021	July 28, 2021 (if needed)
February 24, 2021	August 25, 2021 (if needed)
March 24, 2021	September 22, 2021 10:00am to 4:00pm
April 28, 2021	October 27, 2021
May 26, 2021	November 17, 2021 *Please note date change.*
June 23, 2021	December 15, 2021 *Please note date change.*

**All Commission meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, with certain exceptions. Meetings in 2021 will be conducted via video teleconference (GoToMeeting), unless otherwise noted.**

**Dates and times are subject to change.**

<http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/About/Pages/Meetings.aspx>