

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

Commission members present:

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Charles McDaniels, Jr., Vice Chair	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Sade Davis, Student Commissioner
James E. Coleman	

Commission members not present:

Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.	Judge Barbara Kerr Howe
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Staff members present:

Al Dorsett	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Newman	Donita Moore
Lee Towers	Trish Gordon McCown
Everette Jackson	Melissa Leuschel
Deborah Ing	Alexandra Edelstein
Rhonda Wardlaw	Soma Kedia
Shayla Hunter	Aubrey Bascombe
Lyndsay Bates	Frances Turner
Bryson Barksdale	Eric Jackson
Tegwa Fadl Alla	Rose Robinson
Laura Schenk, DNP	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Seurkamp** at approximately 1:00 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with nine (9) of the eleven (11) members present.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Seurkamp welcomed everyone and asked Mr. Lee Towers, Executive Director of External Relations, to introduce a new staff member. Mr. Towers reported that new employee Dr. Laura Schenk is replacing Dr. Peg Daw who passed away late last year. Dr. Schenk, who

will be assuming the role of Nurse Support Program II Grant Manager, made some brief remarks. **Chair Seurkamp** gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes – Action Item

There was a motion by **Commissioner Serrano** and a second by **Commissioner Coleman** for the approval of the January 17, 2023 open meeting minutes and the January 17, 2023 closed session minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Education Policy Committee: There was no update to share.

Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: There was no update to share.

Finance and Operations Committee: Mr. Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, reported that MHEC currently has 12 vacancies, which are actively being filled. Additionally, the agency had its first budget hearing in the legislature last week and will have the remainder of its budget hearings next week.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: There was no update to share.

Department of Academic Affairs – FY 2022 Biannual Report on VA Education Benefits: MD SAA Actions for July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, who provided an overview of the Maryland State Approving Agency's actions concerning program approval actions, other approval actions, visits to facilities, technical assistance activities, an outreach activity, liaison activities, and staff development activities.

Department of Academic Affairs – Biannual Report on Private Career Schools: Secretary Actions for July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 – Information Item

Dr. Dow provided an overview of the Secretary's actions concerning new schools, new programs, approvals of change of location, an approval of change of ownership, certificate renewals, and training provider questionnaires.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Program Review: Secretary Actions for Biannual Report (July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022) – Information Item

Dr. Dow provided an overview of the Secretary's actions concerning a program objection, new degree programs, new certificate programs, new areas of concentration, substantial modifications to existing programs, non-substantial modifications to existing programs, withdrawn proposals, and an institutional program partnership.

AIB/Blueprint: Draft MHEC Implementation Plan – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Dow to present this item. Dr. Dow provided the background and context. Every unit of government responsible for implementing any part of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including each local school board, is required to submit its own implementation plan to the Accountability Implementation Board for approval. The Board may withhold funding to any agency without an approved implementation plan. Initial plans are due on March 15, 2023.

MHEC's implementation plan will highlight agency-specific initiatives, including the Teaching Fellows Scholarship, Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) for public school teachers, and the Teacher Quality Diversity Program. There will also be coordinated initiatives with other entities related to early childhood education, college readiness standards, etc.

Commissioner Coleman asked if progress reports on drafting MHEC's Implementation Plan will be given to the Commission, and Dr. Dow replied that every effort will be made to update the Commissioners. **Chair Seurkamp** asked if MHEC was on track to complete the Implementation Plan by the March 15 deadline, and Dr. Dow answered that they were making good progress. Other clarifying questions were asked by the Commissioners.

Vote for Closed Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter

Commissioner Serrano made a motion to enter into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. **Commissioner McDaniels** seconded the motion. The roll was taken:

McDaniels – Yes
Boyd – Yes
Williams – Yes
Coleman – Yes
Serrano – Yes
Sellinger – Yes
Davis – Yes
Barrolle – Yes
Seurkamp – Yes

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:17 p.m.