

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Thursday, September 29, 2022 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

**Commission members present:**

Charles McDaniels, Jr., Vice Chair/Acting Chair	Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
James E. Coleman	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
Judge Barbara Kerr Howe	Sade Davis, Student Commissioner

**Commission members absent:**

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair	Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.
Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

**Staff members present:**

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Newman	Jennifer Katz
Anthony Reiner	Jacqueline Cade
Brittany Martin	Rhonda Wardlaw
Daniel Schuster	Tatyana Tate
Tegwa Fadl Alla	Glenda Abney
Lee Towers	Victoria Johnson
Aubrey Bascombe	Bryson Barksdale

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair McDaniels** at approximately 10:00 a.m. A meeting quorum was established with eight (8) out of twelve (12) members present.

**Chair's Remarks**

**Chair McDaniels** welcomed everyone, particularly guests, to today's meeting to hear presentations from Maryland's higher education segments. He noted that he was presiding over the meeting in place of Dr. Mary Pat Seurkamp who could not attend, and he gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

**Secretary's Remarks**

**Secretary Fielder** reported that Stratford University (based in VA) closed its operations yesterday, including its Baltimore location, due to an accreditation issue. MHEC is currently working to obtain student records and arrange teach-out agreements for students. The agency also continues its hiring efforts in various units.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Approval of Minutes – Action Item**

There was a motion by **Commissioner Boyd** and a second by **Commissioner Salmon** for the approval of the August 24, 2022 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

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

**Chair McDaniels** recognized Mr. Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, who welcomed all the representatives from the various segments of higher education who are here today to present their budget plans for fiscal year 2024. Mr. Newman then gave an overview to the Commission regarding their responsibility to review the budgets of all higher education segments. Institutions will also explain how their priorities and budgets align with the State Plan.

#### **University System of Maryland**

Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Joann Boughman, 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, Interim Provost and Dean of Faculty, and Mr. Paul Pusecker, Vice President for Business & Chief Financial Officer, presented the St. Mary's College of Maryland Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

#### **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 Independent College and University Association**

Ms. Sara Fidler, President, presented the Maryland Independent College and University Association 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.

### **Baltimore City Community College**

Dr. Debra McCurdy, President, Ms. Becky Burrell, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, and Mr. Steven Hardy, Vice President of Finance & Administration, presented the Baltimore City Community College Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

### **Regional Higher Education Centers**

Mr. Newman presented the Regional Higher Education Centers' Operating and Capital Budget to the Commission. The presentation is available for review.

**Break 12:45 – 1:15 PM.**

### **Commissioner Committee Updates**

**Education Policy Committee: Commissioner Boyd** did not have any updates to share.

**Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: Commissioner Coleman** reported that the Committee met last week. The new Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, Mr. Al Dorsett, will be appearing as a special guest on the Maryland Public Television program, "Ways to Pay for College". Additionally, the communications team will be doing outreach about scholarship opportunities to the Hispanic population during National Hispanic Heritage Month. In the coming weeks, there are 9 outreach events planned.

**Finance and Operations Committee:** Mr. Newman, staff liaison to the Committee, reported that the agency continues to fill vacancies in various departments. Additionally, they have closed out FY 2022, opened FY 2023, and are finalizing FY 2024 with the Department of Budget and Management.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Chair McDaniels** reported that the Committee has extended invitations to campus DEI staff to join a future meeting. Additionally, they will be reviewing 2022 cultural diversity reports submitted recently by the institutions. They will meet next in October.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.01.02 – 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program – Action Item**

**Chair McDaniels** recognized Mr. Newman who introduced Mr. Al Dorsett, MHEC’s new Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Mr. Dorsett reported that, on June 22, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to encourage community college graduates to transfer to four-year institutions of higher education and complete a bachelor’s degree program. The purpose of the amendments is to remove the use of the federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) as a measure of financial need for this scholarship, pursuant to Ch. 23, 2022 Acts of Maryland (HB 734), in anticipation of the U. S. Department of Education phasing out the use of the EFC in favor of the Student Aid Index (SAI).

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on July 29, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on August 29, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on September 13, 2022.

The proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission’s final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the proposed amendments to the regulations for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program. **Commissioner Coleman** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Sellinger** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.13.03 – Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program – Action Item**

**Chair McDaniels** recognized Mr. Dorsett who presented this item. On June 22, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to certain veterans, first responders, local public safety employees and their families and to the families of school employees who died or were disabled as a result of an act of violence, respectively. The purpose of the amendments is to expand eligibility for the program to students who attend private career schools, pursuant to Ch. 23, 2022 Acts of Maryland (HB 734).

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on August 12, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on September 12, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on September 27, 2022.

The proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the proposed amendments to the regulations for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program. **Commissioner Howe** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Salmon** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.14 – Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program – Action Item**

**Chair McDaniels** recognized Mr. Dorsett who presented this item. On June 22, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to students in certain majors who agree to use their degree to obtain employment in fields of critical shortage in the State after graduation. The purpose of the amendments is to provide a specific process for students who obtained their GED, but have not yet enrolled in a college or university, to apply for the scholarship, and to adjust related procedures for administering the scholarship.

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on August 12, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on September 12, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on September 27, 2022.

The proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendments to the regulations for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program. **Commissioner Boyd** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.20 – Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program – Action Item**

**Chair McDaniels** recognized Mr. Dorsett who presented this item. Under § 18-3501 et seq., of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program supports students who are pursuing an education in programs that are directly relevant to cybersecurity. The awarding of the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program is governed by COMAR 13B.08.20.

In 2021, the State amended the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to allow part-time students to be eligible for support from the Program, in addition to changes regarding eligible employers for the mandatory service obligation.

Enclosed for your review and approval are proposed regulatory amendments that reflect the changes to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to allow for part-time students, as described above, along with amendments designed to streamline the renewal process and to limit the bases for deferment of the service obligation. The amendments also include stylistic and basic formatting changes. These amendments have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. They are now enclosed for your review and approval.

Upon your 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.

Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendments to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program; and (2) authorizes 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.

**Commissioner Williams** asked the estimated number of students who would become eligible for this scholarship due to the change. Mr. Newman responded that he would look up this information and share it with him. **Commissioner Salmon** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Howe** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed New Regulations for COMAR – Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program – Action Item**

**Chair McDaniels** recognized Mr. Dorsett to present this item. Under § 18-604 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to military service members, veterans, reservists, and their family members. The scholarship is available to individuals enrolled in or accepted to bachelor's degree, associate's degree, and two-year certificate programs at community colleges, public senior (four-year) higher education institutions, and private nonprofit institutions of higher education. The annual award may cover up to an amount equivalent to 50% of tuition, fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate at a public four-year institution.

Currently, this program is governed by MHEC guidelines for awarding and scholarship procedures; the enclosed regulations formalize those guidelines. Pursuant to Ch. 23, 2022 Acts

of Maryland (HB 734), the regulations also expand eligibility for family members by including stepchildren in addition to children and spouses.

The proposed regulations have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. 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.

Mr. Dorsett recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed new regulations for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program; and (2) authorizes 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. **Commissioner Howe** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Salmon** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Coleman** made a motion for approval, and **Chair McDaniels** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:39 p.m.