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**Maryland Higher Education Commission
FY 2023 Operating Budget
Higher Education Overview
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

**House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development
Delegate Ben Barnes
January 27, 2022**

**Senate Budget and Taxation
Subcommittee on Education, Business, and Administration
Senator Nancy King
January 31, 2022**

Issues

Page 20 - MHEC, USM, MSU, SMCM, the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA), and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) should comment on what steps are being taken to assist the transfer student population, specifically identifying actions that have been taken as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to more easily facilitate the student transfer process for these students.

As the analysis notes, MHEC has convened a workgroup of relevant stakeholders to implement the Transfer with Success Act through regulatory changes and a detailed guidance document. **First** and foremost, the proposed regulations establishes a new process for the denial of credits or courses between public institutions of higher education in Maryland (as required by the Transfer with Success Act). **Second**, the proposed regulations reflect a reorganization of the existing regulations. As the workgroup members considered the new requirements regarding the denial of credit, additional questions regarding the transfer of courses and credits arose. While the current set of regulations answered many of those questions, it became clear that a reorganization of the regulations was needed.

Third, the proposed regulations reflect additional substantive changes to provide standardization regarding transfer. As part of the workgroup discussions, it became clear that there needed to be a statewide standard for establishing course equivalencies. The proposed regulations reflect this by establishing a 70% standard: when 70% of learning outcomes are equivalent between two courses, a course cannot be denied for transfer. Additionally, as this work continued, it became

clear that current regulations erroneously interchanged the terms “credit” and “course.” The transfer of specific coursework is what matters to students working towards meeting graduation and degree requirements (not simply the transfer of *credit*). The focus should be on transferring courses and then subsequently awarding credits for transferred courses, just like credit is awarded for prior learning. Therefore, the proposed regulations reflect a vetting of the use of “credit” and “course” to ensure the proper use of each term. Collectively, the proposed regulations will clarify statewide standards regarding the transfer of credit and courses and implement new standards.

In conjunction with these regulatory changes, we have also drafted guidance that mirrors the proposed regulations, including guidance regarding the annual data collection for the denial of credit. The new data collection will likely be a significant lift for the campuses (both in terms of human resources and infrastructure for data collections). There will need to be ongoing coordination from Commission staff to ensure a consistent statewide collection and general compliance with the transfer regulations.