



September 24, 2019

Dr. Emily A. A. Dow
Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs
Maryland Higher Education Commission
6 North Liberty Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Dow:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Coppin State University to formally object to the proposal by McDaniel College to offer the Bachelor of Arts program in Criminal Justice at their campus in Westminster, MD. In doing so, we add our objection to those presented by sister University of Maryland System Institutions. Our concerns about McDaniel's proposal are summarized below:

- **The program is duplicative in nature.** The program is duplicative and will cause demonstrable harm to the existing Criminal Justice Bachelor of Science program at Coppin State University as well as other similar programs offered by the University of Maryland System Institutions. CSU's bachelor's Criminal Justice program is among the largest at the university in terms of official enrollments (8%; Fall 2019) and graduation (8%, Spring 2019). Overall, CSU students are predominantly from the State of Maryland and Students of Color (93%; Spring 2019). The latter is a population of interest to McDaniel, as evidenced by their recent incoming class which was 47% students of color and projected to rise to 50% by 2023, a notable departure from their previous average trends of approximately 26%. These data suggest that McDaniel does not strive to meet a need that is not already met by CSU, a Historically Black Institution.
- **The proposed program is inconsistent with their Mission.** According to the proposal, McDaniel's mission is a "diverse student-centered community... [that] prepares students for successful lives of leadership, service, and social responsibility." In the section addressing its Consistency with the State's Minority Student Achievement Goals, McDaniel's proposal outlines a list of curricular and co-curricular programming the institution has implemented to serve a diverse student body. It is notable that the institution provides only a list of inputs and any data on how those inputs are accessible to students of color – process evaluation – or contribute to their proximal and distal success – outcomes evaluation – are absent. Their increasing trends in enrolling students of color may well be attributed to increasingly diverse demographic trends within the region and the country. This raises concerns about McDaniel's current capacity to adequately meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student body, both in spirit and in letter. CSU, a Historically Black Institution, on the other hand, has a long history of successfully serving historically underserved populations.

- **Violation of the State's equal educational opportunity obligations.** McDaniel's proposal subtly – and, perhaps, misleadingly – hints at future designs to create an online Criminal Justice program. Scholarly research indicates that online learning may exacerbate educational outcomes between historically underserved students and their privileged peers, by reducing the former's odds of completion. While providing choices to students is important, it is important to do so in a manner that is ethical, responsible, informed by current research, and ensures continued support for success, especially among a population that is vulnerable to social injustices in the educational arena. The McDaniel proposal does not identify the means by which it proposes to stem such disparities and ensure the success of students in any future online programs.

I am appreciative of your willingness to review our claim and support the notion that McDaniel's proposal is one of unreasonable – and potentially harmful – duplication. CSU looks forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Leontye L. Lewis, Ed.D.

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

CC: Dr. Mickey L. Burnim, President
Dr. Beverly O'Bryant, Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Dr. Jacqueline Rhoden-Trader, Chairperson, Department of Criminal Justice
Dr. Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor, University System of Maryland