

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2023
10:00 a.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

Commission members present:

Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
Chike Aguh	Rebecca Taber Stachelin
Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.	Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.
Barbara Kerr Howe	Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.

Commission members not present:

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
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Staff members present:

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Eric Jackson	Everette Jackson
Soma Kedia	Trish Gordon McCown
Lyndsay Bates	Deborah Ing
Geoffrey Newman	Rhonda Wardlaw
Barbara Schmertz, Ph.D.	

Call to Order

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

Chair’s Remarks

Chair Motz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today’s meeting. She remarked that she was pleased to have been appointed Commissioner and Chair by the Governor. The new Commissioners were briefly introduced. **Chair Motz** then gave an overview of the meeting agenda. There are no action items.

Acting Secretary’s Remarks

Acting Secretary Rai welcomed everyone to the meeting. He remarked that he felt honored to be in this position, and he looked forward to working with the Commissioners and staff.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Commission Minutes Approval

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 3-306(b)(2)-(3) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the [video recording](#) of the May 24, 2023 Commission meeting will be deemed to be the minutes of that meeting.

Discussion on Follow-Up Items from Moore/Miller Transition Plan

Chair Motz shared highlights of the 2023 Moore-Miller Transition Report: Recommendations to Transform Maryland, particularly those items under Higher Education:

- 1) Increase the number of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) graduates by 150,000 by 2027.
- 2) Create new pathways to higher education by making the Community College Promise Program more accessible.
- 3) Increase the number of opportunities for dual enrollment and apprenticeships.
- 4) Leverage Maryland's world-class HBCUs and public minority-serving institutions (MSIs) as pipelines for opportunity and incubators of business, and support Morgan State to become the first HBCU with R-1 status.
- 5) Increase state financial aid funding.

The Commissioners shared their feedback on the Transition Report and the items under Higher Education.

Presentation and Discussion: Maryland's College Attainment Goal (55% by 2025)

Chair Motz introduced the next item, and **Acting Secretary Rai** asked Dr. Barbara Schmertz, Director of the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, to present this. Dr. Schmertz shared a PowerPoint presentation and informed the Commissioners that Maryland, in 2013, was one of the first states in the nation to set a degree attainment goal. The goal states that at least 55% of Maryland's adults (age 25 to 64) will hold at least an associate's degree by 2025. When this goal was set in 2013, it was based on the economy and realities at the time. Maryland is currently not on track to meet this goal. It is projected that, by 2025, Maryland will have only reached 52.1%. State progress has been uneven. When broken down by race and ethnicity, there are disparities. **Acting Secretary Rai** added that MHEC has been talking to the Lumina Foundation who is interested in working with us. He also shared the example of Texas whose goal is that 60% of Texans (age 25 to 64) will receive a degree, certificate, or other postsecondary credential of value by 2030. The Commissioners shared their feedback on the presentation and asked questions about the presented material.

Discussion of Maryland State Plan for Higher Education

Chair Motz shared highlights of the 2022 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education. MHEC is required by statute to draft this. The Commissioners should take a look at the existing plan and consider updating it to include the points and concepts that we have already discussed.

Department of Academic Affairs – Biannual Report on Private Career Schools: Secretary Actions for January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023 – Information Item

Chair Motz recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, who asked Ms. Trish Gordon McCown, Director of the Office of Academic Affairs, to present this item. Ms. McCown provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning new schools, new programs, approvals of change of location, approvals of change of ownership, approval of separate classrooms, other business approval, certificate renewals, a cease and desist order, school approvals withdrawn, a program approval withdrawn, and training provider questionnaires.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Institution Review: Secretary Actions for January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023 – Information Item

Ms. McCown provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning in-state institution actions, out-of-state institution actions, out-of-state online registration actions, NC-SARA actions, collegiate complaints, Title IX reimbursements, and institutional accreditation visits.

Department of Academic Affairs – FY 2023 Biannual Report on VA Education Benefits: MD SAA Actions for January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023 – Information Item

Ms. McCown provided an overview of the Maryland State Approving Agency’s actions concerning program actions, other actions, visits to facilities, technical assistance activities, and liaison activities.

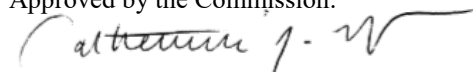
Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Program Review: Secretary Actions Biannual Report (January 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023) – Information Item

Ms. McCown provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning program objections, new degree programs, new certificate programs, new areas of concentration, substantial modifications to existing programs, non-substantial modifications to existing programs, withdrawn proposals, institutional program partnerships, and a proposal not approved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:28 p.m.

Approved by the Commission:



Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair