

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2021
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 via video teleconference (GoToMeeting).

Commission members present:

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D., Vice Chair	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
James E. Coleman	Haleemat Y. Adekoya, Student Commissioner
Charles McDaniels, Jr.	

Commission members not present:

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.
---------------------------	-----------------------

Staff members present:

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Geoffrey Newman	Jennifer Katz
Lee Towers	Trish Gordon-McCown
Kimberly Ford	Peg E. Daw, DNP
Priscilla Moore	Daniel Schuster
Rhonda Wardlaw	Soma Kedia
Aubrey Bascombe	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Seurkamp** at approximately 1:02 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with nine (9) of the eleven (11) members present.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Seurkamp welcomed everyone and noted that today's meeting would focus on the FY 2023 operating and capital budget recommendations. Afterwards, the Commissioners will vote to enter into a closed session to discuss pending administrative proceedings.

Secretary's Remarks

Secretary Fielder thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He then recognized Dr. Peg Daw and Ms. Kimberly Ford, Program Director & Administrator and Assistant Grant Administrator, respectively, of MHEC's Nurse Support Program II, for their excellent work to increase the educational capacity of nurse educators and nurse faculty in Maryland. Dr. Daw was recently selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. **Secretary Fielder** presented to her a Governor's Citation and MHEC Certificate of Appreciation to honor her work. Additionally, he mentioned that MHEC recently helped coordinate a meeting between the Lieutenant Governor and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges at the State House in Annapolis. The discussion was productive and the event was very successful.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes – Action Item

There was a motion by **Commissioner Boyd** and a second by **Commissioner Coleman** for approval of the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes, the September 13, 2021 closed session minutes, and the September 22, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Education Policy Committee: **Commissioner Boyd** reported that, at their last meeting, they heard a very informative presentation from Dr. Ann Kellogg, Director of Reporting Services, on the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center.

Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: **Commissioner Coleman** shared that he will be calling a meeting shortly, after consulting with MHEC staff.

Finance and Operations Committee: There was no update.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: **Commissioner McDaniels** thanked staff liaison, Dr. Barbara Schmertz, Director of the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, and Secretary Fielder for lending focus and background to the Committee's discussion. They will be meeting twice in November and looking at the annual Cultural Diversity Reports from both public and independent institutions. In January 2022, they will have recommendations for the Cultural Diversity Report guidelines (that will be sent to the institutions in February). He also reported that a couple of MHEC staff members have expressed an interest in assisting with the Committee's work. They hope to conduct listening sessions in the future with various stakeholders across the state.

Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Finance Policy – FY 2023 Operating Budget Recommendations – Action Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Mr. Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, who stated that the Maryland Higher Education Commission is charged with

submitting to the Governor and the General Assembly a consolidated operating budget for higher education. The consolidated budget is to include a recommendation regarding the appropriate level of funding for higher education in order to achieve the goals established in the Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education. The State provided over \$2.2 billion in State funds to higher education in fiscal year 2022. 70 percent was provided to public four-year institutions. The administration budget for MHEC received .3 percent of the total. The Commission received over \$134 million in general fund and special fund support for student financial assistance in fiscal year 2022.

Mr. Newman recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission adopt that the following funding priorities be used in targeting funding for higher education for fiscal year 2023:

- Funding to support of the Maryland Higher Education Commission General Administration budget as it continues to implement new programs, changes to existing programs, and examines its operations to increase automation of application and management programs.
- Funding to support new programs of student financial assistance brought forward by the Governor and General Assembly.
- Continued support to formula-funded institutions and segments in accordance with the calculation methodologies provided in statute to the extent possible.

Commissioner Boyd made a motion to approve and **Commissioner McDaniels** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Finance Policy – FY 2023 Capital Budget Recommendations – Action Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Mr. Daniel Schuster, Finance Policy Analyst, who presented the FY 2023 Consolidated Capital Budget Recommendations. The seven segments of the Consolidated Capital Budget for Higher Education include: (1) the Community College Construction Grant Program; (2) Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program; (3) Baltimore City Community College; (4) University System of Maryland; (5) Morgan State University; (6) St. Mary's College of Maryland; and (7) the Maryland Independent College & University Association (MICUA). Their requests total \$440,700,000. Mr. Schuster gave an overview of each submission and made the following recommendations:

1. Approval of the \$70 million for the Community College Construction Grant Program included in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for FY 2023. Staff further recommends that this be accomplished by funding all preauthorized projects up to the amounts required by the colleges to maintain project schedules and by funding additional projects in the order of MACC's Prioritization Model.
2. Approval of the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant funding request of \$3,500,000.
3. Approval of the \$1,250,000 request included in the CIP for Baltimore City Community College in FY 2023.

4. Approval of the University System of Maryland's base FY 2023 capital budget request of \$237.8 million for projects currently in the CIP.
5. Approval of Morgan State University's FY 2023 capital budget request of \$100.7 million for projects currently in the CIP.
6. Approval of St. Mary's College of Maryland's FY 2023 capital budget request of \$3.4 million for projects currently in the CIP.
7. Approval of MICUA's FY 2023 capital budget request of \$11.3 million.

Commissioner Serrano asked if outside funding sources, such as federal funding and coalition settlement money, are taken into consideration, thus changing the CIP. Mr. Schuster responded that the CIP is updated every year, based on information supplied by the institutions.

Commissioner Sellinger made a motion for approval of the recommendations and **Vice Chair Jackson** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Serrano** abstained, as he would like to obtain more information about the impact of federal funding and the coalition settlement money. The motion passed.

Vote for Closed Session to Discuss Pending Administrative Proceedings

Commissioner McDaniels made a motion to enter into a closed session to obtain legal advice and **Commissioner Serrano** seconded the motion. Ms. Kedia called the roll:

Boyd – YES
Jackson – YES
Coleman – YES
McDaniels – YES
Seurkamp – YES
Sellinger – YES
Williams – YES
Serrano – YES
Adekoya – YES

The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.