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Governor

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor

**Andrew R. Smarick**  
Chair

**James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.**  
Secretary

**Segmental Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**  
Monday, March 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.  
Video Teleconference (GoToMeeting)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions and Welcome
- III. Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2020
- IV. Presentation: AmeriCorps “Schools for National Service” Campaign (Introduction by Dr. Emily Dow)
- V. CARES Update
- VI. Legislative Update
- VII. Enrollment Projections
- VIII. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training and Best Practices
- IX. Academic Credit for Prior Learning in Higher Education (House Bill 1208)
- X. Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) – New Electronic File Upload Feature
- XI. Update on Proposed Amendments to COMAR Scholarship Regulations – Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program
- XII. Member Updates
  - MHEC – State Assigned Student Identifier (SASID), Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Report (SLOAR), Academic Common Market, and State Plan
- XIII. Adjournment

*\*Next meeting is Monday, April 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.*

## Segmental Advisory Council (SAC) – November 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – Meeting Minutes

The topics discussed are located on the agenda below. No action items, other than the approval of the minutes, were considered at the meeting. The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 a.m. and adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

### Attending Segment Heads (or representatives):

1. Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr. – Chair, MHEC	2. Dr. Bernard Sadusky – MACC
3. Ms. Sara Fidler – MICUA	4. Dr. Farzad Moazzami – MSU (Representative)
5. Dr. Michael Wick – SMCM (Representative)	6. Dr. Joann Boughman – USM (Representative)

### Agenda and Notes:

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Introductions and Welcome** – Ms. Fidler introduced MICUA’s new Associate Vice President of Government and Business Affairs, Ms. Irnande Altema.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Dr. Boughman motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Wick seconded the motion. The minutes from the September 21, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.
- IV. **Discussion Regarding the Term “Semester”** – Dr. Emily Dow (MHEC’s Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs) reported that several institutions have brought up this issue (definition of “semester”) recently. MHEC only requests that institutions meet the credit to contact hour definition in regulation (COMAR 13B.02.02.16, Graduate Requirements for In-State Institutions).
- V. **Common Application – Approval to Use** – Dr. Dow remarked that Morgan State University had asked whether or not they are permitted to use Common Application. There is nothing that prohibits any Maryland institution from using it. Institutions may make their own decisions. Dr. Wick shared that St. Mary’s College of Maryland uses this, as well as its own application. Dr. Moazzami said that he will relay this information to MSU’s administration.
- VI. **Discussion Regarding Objection Guidance** – Dr. Dow asked if there was any feedback on a guidance document regarding academic program objections that was recently distributed. Ms. Fidler asked about the next steps that would be taken, such as the formation of a workgroup. Secretary Fielder and Dr. Dow confirmed that there were no plans at this time to change regulations. The document is meant to clarify, so a workgroup is not needed. Institutions are encouraged to work together as much as possible.
- VII. **Update – Legislative Initiatives Supported by MHEC** – Ms. Donna Thomas (MHEC’s Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance) reported that any potential

legislative changes to the Guaranteed Access Grant/Educational Assistance Grant programs will be pursued in 2022. Secretary Fielder reported that any attempts to secure funding for ARTSYS (Articulation System for Maryland Colleges and Universities) will also have to be made during the following legislative session. Dr. Dow reported that during the upcoming legislative session, there may be a bill to form a workgroup (to include MHEC, Commerce and Labor, as well as others) to study how Maryland can improve credential transparency.

- VIII. **Update – Departmental Bills Pursued by MHEC** – Mr. Lee Towers (MHEC’s Executive Director of External Relations) reported that MHEC will not be pursuing any departmental bills during the upcoming legislative session.
- IX. **Universal FAFSA** – Dr. Sadusky reported that there will be a bill during the upcoming legislative session, which requires high school students to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The bill has numerous sponsors, and it was submitted last session for consideration. Requiring FAFSA completion would increase the chances that more low-income students go on to college. Dr. Sadusky will later share a copy of the bill with the group.
- X. **Completion of FAFSA as a Requirement** – This topic was covered during the discussion of agenda item IX.
- XI. **Update – Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Proposed Regulations** – Ms. Donna Thomas (MHEC’s Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance) reported that, for the Guaranteed Access Grant, the process allowing institutions to verify eligibility will be postponed. FAAC (Financial Assistance Advisory Council) will have further discussions before these regulations go before the Commission for approval. Ms. Thomas added that they were currently collecting documentation by e-mail. However, they are working on an upload tool on MDCAPS that will be available to students at the end of January. Institutions are also requested to help with outreach to high schools about the GPA upload tool. Dr. Sadusky agreed to use their high school contacts to help with outreach. Ms. Fidler remarked that the law allows schools to verify eligibility now, if they were ready to do so, and several have indicated to her that they would like to. Ms. Jennifer Katz (MHEC’s Principal Counsel) noted that Ms. Thomas sent out guidance that the process would be delayed, though institutions are not prohibited from verifying themselves. Ms. Thomas added that she would like for all institutions to wait until clear guidance was in place. Dr. Boughman asked how the recent use of pass/fail grading by high schools would affect the assessment of transcripts. Ms. Thomas replied that they are currently trying to determine how many schools actually implemented this grading method before they decide how to deal with it.
- XII. **Next Generation Scholars Program** – Ms. Thomas reported that the first cohort of the Next Generation Scholars Program will be 2021-22. These students have been in the program since middle school, and there are currently over 1,000 high school seniors in it. As long as students meet all the requirements of the program, they are guaranteed an

award. Ms. Thomas shared that this will likely impact the number of Educational Excellence Awards, as Next Generation Scholars are awarded first.

- XIII. **2019-2020 Independent Audit Review for the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program** – Ms. Thomas informed everyone that the 2019-20 audit manual will be sent to institutions and independent auditors in December.
- XIV. **Member Updates** – There were no special member updates.
- XV. **Adjournment**