

At the FAC-MHEC meeting of April 16, 2019, these Minutes were approved as read, with no additions or corrections.

Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Mini Conference Center, Fine Arts Building
Baltimore City Community College

1. Call to Order
 - a. Chair Ashmall called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.
 - b. Attendees: Soren Ashmall (Chair), Chris Brittan-Powell (Vice Chair), James Coker (Secretary), Angelique Cook-Hayes, Katherine Corley Murray, Paige Eager, Katherine Jones, Hali Kilbourne, Barbara Rowell, Amber Rust, Fadia Shaya, Richard Siciliano, Lynn Sparling, William Talley, Emily Dow (MHEC Liaison)
 - c. Dr. Tonja Ringgold (Vice President for Academic Affairs - BCCC) welcomed the Council and gave some introductory remarks.
 - d. Chair Ashmall thanked Angelique Cook-Hays for hosting.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. December minutes were approved pending minor modifications.
3. Chair Report
 - a. Chair Ashmall began by mentioning that there are two Council meetings left, which means that any motions need to be introduced today or at the April meeting. He then recognized two visitors (Jennifer Levi from Cecil College and Cynthia Kelley from Harper Community College) who were present and had also attended the Association of Faculties for the Advancement of Community College Teaching (AFACCT) Conference on January 10. Chair Ashmall then reminded the Council that its role is to provide an opinion from the Faculty perspective to MHEC. As such, if something is pressing at a member's institution it should be brought forward to discuss at the Council. He then concluded by reminding members that this mode of operating (i.e. advising MHEC on issues and discussing pressing issues) would continue for the rest of this academic year and in the future as well as the fact that there would only be six meetings a year to make service easier on everyone's schedule.
 - b. Angelique Cook-Hays asked when officers for next year would be discussed. Chair Ashmall mentioned that the elections would be in May and that nominations for Secretary and Vice-Chair would be in April. He went on to say that there will not be a vote or nomination for Chair as according to the new rules the Vice-Chair (currently Chris Brittan-Powell) will automatically assume the role of Chair.
4. MHEC Report
 - a. Emily Dow began by mentioning that original plan for the meeting was to have Lee Towers (Office of Legislative Affairs at MHEC) speak to the Council. However, since the legislative session has already started he was unavailable. Emily Dow then walked the Council through the General Assembly of Maryland's website and how to find active bills for the legislative session. She went on to say that one of the easier ways to find bills related to education was by using the 'Broad Subject' menu on the website where Higher Education is listed

under (F2). She went on to mention two specific bills. The first was the Student Debt Relief Act of 2019. The second was the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship – Alterations. Emily Dow then used the Riley bill as an example to walk the Council through how to read proposed legislation. In brief, the key pieces of information are that plain text is the existing language, while bracketed text are proposed deletions and bolded or parenthetical text are proposed additions.

- b. Angelique Cook-Hays asked about the section in the Riley bill that removed the requirement for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Emily Dow responded that did not know why this proposed change had been made but believed that it is mainly about opening up the scholarship to a wider pool.
- c. Emily Dow then went on to discuss the hearing schedule for bills, where to find it (there is a clickable link next to each listed bill which takes one to the live or recorded hearing), and that its location is more user friendly than in the recent past.
- d. Fadia Shaya asked if comments on bills made during the hearings must be submitted beforehand. Emily Dow answered that you only need to show up a couple of hours before.
- e. Fadia Shaya then asked ‘how does one know the outcome of any of these meetings were?’. Emily answered that anyone can see each of these meetings live or the recording. She went on to say that on the website for each bill the hearing for that bill is listed so you will know when you will be able to listen live.
- f. Angelique Cook-Hays asked if MHEC was involved in the Friends of Morgan State lawsuit. Emily Dow answered that it is currently in arbitration.
- g. Emily then mentioned that last year there was bill on Open Educational Resources (OERs) that would live with the University System of Maryland and that this is a good example of the bills MHEC would like the Council’s opinion on.
- h. Fadia Shaya asked what would happened after the Council gave feedback on a proposed piece of legislation. Emily answered that it would either be submitted in writing or possibly in testimony. She then went on to say that anyone can go and speak as a private citizen but unless specifically directed by MHEC you are not speaking on behalf of MHEC or MHEC-FAC. Richard Siciliano mentioned that to get on the schedule to testify (as he has done for MHEC-FAC) it is usually requested that the testimony be submitted in writing a few days in advance.
- i. Jennifer Levi asked if feedback was split from the FAC would that be represented to the General Assembly. Emily Dow answered yes.
- j. Fadia Shaya asked about what happens when a bill covers two issues since it is listed under a single issue on the General Assembly’s website. Emily Dow answered that bills could be listed under multiple broad subjects all of which would be listed on the bill’s webpage.
- k. Emily Dow continued by mentioning the Regina Lightfoot MHEC Student Service Award, which is given to one student per year and contains no monetary award, and urged the Council members to nominate any student they thought was deserving. She then mentioned that a student from Allegheny College was last year’s winner.

- l. Emily Dow then gave a quick update on the closures of the Brightwood Campuses. She mentioned that MHEC is working with state institutions on teach out plans, which involve issues like transferring credited classes from Brightwood to non-credit classes at Community Colleges (e.g. the HVAC program at Brightwood).
 - m. Emily Dow concluded her report by mention that she, Richard Siciliano, and Angelique Cook-Hays did a presentation at the AFACCT Conference in January regarding representation from each institution on the Council. Richard Siciliano mentioned that is was very rewarding and was glad that the two guests present at the meeting today were here due to the content of the presentation.
5. Old Business
- a. Committee Updates
 - i. Bylaws (Terry Bridger, Chair) – Terry Bridger was not present. However, Richard Siciliano, who is also a committee member, asked a question about the Bylaws regarding Article V (i.e. membership). He wondered if the representative from each institution could be an Adjunct Faculty member and that this was unclear. He then mentioned that the Council currently has separate seats for Adjunct Faculty membership and the original sentiment was that the representative from each institution would be a full-time faculty. Kathy Corley Murray agreed with Rich that it was unclear. A discussion then ensued about what had been agreed to regarding who could be a representative and what changes should be made to the bylaws. Ultimately it was agreed that there is a lot of work left to do on this issue before it can go to the Commission. Chair Ashmall mentioned that work should primarily be done via the committee but the entire Council should feel free to be involved.
 1. Emily Dow commented that if the Council was prioritizing issues around the bylaws then membership should be the top of the list for logistical reasons – i.e. sending a letter to the various institutions to nominate a representative.
 2. A discussion then ensued around what should constitute a quorum once each institution has its own representative (i.e. the Council becomes a much larger body). Richard Siciliano suggested that it remain the same number as it is now (i.e. eleven) as there were no rules in Robert’s Rules of Order regarding a specific number of voting delegates needed for a quorum. Lynn Sparling thought a quorum should be a number/representation that MEHC could consider a voice from the state.
 3. Emily Dow then asked the Council who at each Institution should nominate the representative. Council generally agreed it should be the Provost/Chief Academic Officer.
 - ii. Completion Summit (Emily Dow, Chair) – Emily Dow mentioned that the Summit is still in the planning stage but that it will focus on equity and equity gaps. She then reminded the Council that the Summit is something that has to be done every two years and is a mechanism to help achieve the goal that 55% of Marylanders have an Associates or higher degree by

2025. She concluded by mentioning that she wants to start looking at subpopulations as overall Maryland is ahead of schedule on its targets for this issue.

iii. Dual Enrollment (Shinta Hernandez, Chair) – No report given.

6. New Business

- a. For the remainder of the 2018-19 Academic Year, the scheduled meeting locations are UMCES and Stevenson. Stevenson is unable to host in May and there was concern about attendance at an institution on the Eastern Shore. As such a discussion ensued about when and where to have the final meetings. It was ultimately agreed by most that a more centralized location was ideal with the possibility of teleconferencing.

7. Other Business

- a. Emily Dow mentioned that the Director of Legislative Affairs (Lee Towers) will attend the Council's next meeting in April.

8. Member Updates

- a. None given

9. Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.