



Faculty Advisory Council

**Meeting of May 17, 2016
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in Cade 219
Anne Arundel Community College
Arnold, MD 21012
Minutes**

1. Meeting called to order at 1:37 p.m.
2. FAC members introduced themselves to Secretary Fielder. Attendees: Nayna Philipsen, Joan Landon, Bill Talley, Hali Kilbourne, Nicole Dombrowski, Solomon Alao, Curt Raney, Angelique Cook-Hayes, Teresa Bridger, Ken Kerr, Rich Siciliano, Dipa Sakar-Dey, Kathy Corley Murrau, Brockett Horne, Kathryn Jones, Genny Segura, Jolly Davis, Benjamin Arah
3. Approval of the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting: Minutes approved.
4. Chair report: Nicole Dombrowski discussed her attendance at the Commission meeting.
5. Secretary Fielder's briefing:
 - a. Secretary Fielder thanked the FAC members for their attendance from across the state. He expressed great optimism for the state of higher education in Maryland. There has been widespread support in the State Legislature:
 - i. MHEC oversees the 87 private and career schools ensuring the quality of programs and preventing duplication
 - b. [National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements \(SARA\)](#) are now in place and will allow for institutions from outside Maryland to offer online programs without having a physical presence in Maryland.
 - c. Under Secretary Fielder, MHEC will be focused on students and student debt.
 - i. The average debt for Maryland graduates is \$29,000. Legislation introduced this year will address refinancing of student debt. Some of the professional school students have debt over \$100,000.
 - ii. Sec Fielder will do all he can to address student debt, debt relief, and college affordability.

- d. Maryland is now (for the past 6 months) ranked as the top producer of jobs in the United States. Sec Fielder credits action by Governor Hogan to this.
- e. MHEC is now making greater use of technology and eliminating practices that are no longer relevant—such as reports that are routinely generated but are no longer used.
 - i. MHEC is also looking for ways to produce statewide reports rather than reports by individual colleges to comply with federal requirements. He specifically mentioned sexual assault reporting.
 - ii. MHEC also hopes to improve and increase cooperation and collaboration with the corporate world.
- f. Secretary Fielder discussed the emphasis the public places on return on investment, rather than a desire to be broadly educated. He also noticed renewed efforts by some state legislators for an increase in intrusive regulations and oversight of higher education. He sees the possibility that there will be compression of degrees at individual institutions. Students are reluctant to take any classes that will not lead to employment.
 - i. Near completers--those who are a few classes short of completion who have stopped out—is a population MHEC wants to focus on.
- g. Funding for scholarships is \$110 million a year in Maryland.
- h. The Secretary opened the floor for questions:
 - i. FAC members expressed appreciation for Dr. Fielder’s support of students being broadly educated rather than trained for jobs.
 - ii. Members discussed the lack of opportunity for Maryland students to attend their choice of state institutions and are forced to go out of state while we are bringing in out of state and international students because of higher tuition revenue while forcing our residents to leave Maryland. Dr. Fielder pointed out that 70% if UMD student are Maryland residents.
 - iii. What role the commission will have in topics such as “timely student feedback” was asked. Dr. Fielder pointed out that the commissioners are all from the private sector and bring that perspective. Therefore, they would be in favor of such a proposal as FAC has developed.
 - iv. We raised the concern about the general education mathematics that we have been pursuing for quite some time and emphasized that requiring algebra II is delaying completion and increasing student debt.

- v. Nicole Dombrowski spoke for the group about our concern that our MHEC liaison relationships have been weakened with the departure of Jennifer Frank and now Genny Segura's retirement.
 - vi. Dr. Fielder announced that Dr. Emily Dow of Loyola has accepted the position of Assistant Secretary. He also announced that there is a posting for an Academic Review Specialist for MHEC.
- 6. Resolution for Genny Segura: Jolly read a resolution honoring Dr. Genny Segura who has retired from MHEC and will be leaving as FAC liaison. The resolution, unanimously adopted, is attached.
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Timely Student Feedback: Draft #3 was presented by Jolly Davis who took up this task at the suggestion of the Commissioners. Genny suggested that the wording and approach be more suggestive and less proscriptive. Nayna Philipsen presented some additional changes to the resolution. FAC members discussed the benefits and challenges of incorporating the suggestions of the resolution as impractical for some disciplines and course delivery formats. A member inquired as to whether this is even an appropriate for FAC to take on. Others suggested that this should be a faculty-driven effort at individual campuses. The danger of state overreach was also brought up. A suggestion was made that this be posted on the FAC website as a best practice resource similar to the information on text books.
 - i. We will suggest to the commissioners that the recommendations developed be posted on the MHEC FAC website. Jolly made a motion to table the effort for now with the intent of returning to the initiative in the fall. Seconded by Bill Talley. Motion passed.
 - b. Adjunct Action Brief: Kathy Jones reported that the commissioners were receptive to the information presented last November. June 15 is the next meeting of MHEC. Kathy will get data points prepared to present at that meeting.
 - c. Changes to Math General Education—commissioners' feedback: Nayna Philipsen reported the goal was to get the go ahead for advisors to work with non-STEM students to exempt them from the Algebra II requirement. Genny reported The 90 days for public comment is almost complete which will permit communication of the changes to general education mathematics requirements for non-STEM majors. Monica Wheatley at MHEC will have the most up-to-date information. Genny is unaware of any objections

to the regulation changes. July 6, 2016 is the date of the final step in getting the change completed.

8. Nominations for 2016-17 officers
 - a. Ken Kerr nominates Nayna Philipsen for FAC chair. No other nominations were offered. Nayna is elected
 - b. Benjamin Arah nominates Ken Kerr, Angelique Cook-Hayes nominates Bill Talley, for Vice Chair. Paper ballots were collected. Ken Kerr elected
 - c. Ken Kerr nominates Angelique Cook-Hayes for Secretary. With no other nominations, Angelique is elected.
9. Resolution to recognize the service of Williams Taft Stuart was read by Rich Siciliano and attached to these minutes. Resolution unanimously accepted.
10. FAC end-of-year luncheon date selected for June 14th at Café Mezzonotte.
11. Meeting adjourned at 3:34.

Submitted by Ken Kerr, Secretary