

# **MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **MEETING BOOKLET**

Time: 10:00 AM  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Place: Video Teleconference  
(Google Meet)

## **Maryland Higher Education Commission**

Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair

Chike Aguh, Vice Chair

Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.

Barbara Kerr Howe

Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

Rebecca Taber Staehelin

Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.

Cierra M. Robinson, Student Commissioner

**Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.**  
**Acting Secretary**

**Wes Moore**  
**Governor**

**Aruna Miller**  
**Lt. Governor**



**Wes Moore**  
Governor

**Aruna Miller**  
Lt. Governor

**Cassie Motz**  
Chair

**Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.**  
Acting Secretary

**Maryland Higher Education Commission  
Meeting Agenda**

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday  
February 28, 2024

**PLACE:** Google Meet Video Teleconference

|   | <b>Page</b> | <b>Action<br/>Item</b> |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| <b>Call to Order</b>  |             |                        |
| <b>Chair’s and Acting Secretary’s Remarks</b>   |             |                        |
| <b>Public Comments</b>  |             |                        |
| <b>Commission Minutes Approval</b> .....  | 1           | *                      |
| • November 15, 2023   |             |                        |
| <b>Student Advisory Council</b>   |             |                        |
| • Recommendations Regarding 2024 Elections and Student Participation.....   | 4           |                        |
| <b>Department of Finance and Administration</b> – Mr. Geoffrey Newman   |             |                        |
| • Update on MHEC Relocation – Mr. Geoffrey Newman   |             |                        |
| <b>Office of Student Financial Assistance</b> – Mr. Al Dorsett  |             |                        |
| • FAFSA Updates – Mr. Al Dorsett  |             |                        |
| <b>Department of Academic Affairs</b> – Dr. Emily Dow   |             |                        |
| • Update on SB 1022 / HB 1244 Maryland Higher Education Commission – Academic Program<br>Approval and Institutional Mission Statements – Requirements – Dr. Emily Dow |             |                        |
| <b>Post-2025 Completion Goal Development: Progress Update</b>   |             |                        |
| <b>Adjournment</b>  |             |                        |

*\*The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.*

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor boardroom at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building (200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201). The meeting was also livestreamed (and recorded), and some Commissioners joined virtually.

**Commission members present:**

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Catherine J. “Cassie” Motz, Chair | Ray Serrano, Ph.D.        |
| Chike Aguh, Vice Chair            | Rebecca Taber Staehelin   |
| Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.           | Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D. |
| Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.     | Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.  |
| Barbara Kerr Howe                 | Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.   |

**Commission member absent:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Cierra M. Robinson,<br>Student Commissioner |  |
|---|--|

**Staff members present:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Sanjay Rai, Ph.D. | Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D. |
| Geoffrey Newman   | Soma Kedia             |
| Anthony Reiner    | Kimberly Smith Ward    |
| Derrick Coley     | Rhonda Wardlaw         |
| Parris Jackson    | Deborah Ing            |
| Al Dorsett        |                        |

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Motz** at approximately 10:05 a.m. A meeting quorum was established with ten (10) out of eleven (11) members present.

**Chair’s Remarks**

**Chair Motz** welcomed everyone to today’s meeting. She commended Acting Secretary Rai and his team, particularly Mr. Al Dorsett (Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance), for an excellent job hosting a virtual financial aid open house on November 10. The event featured recent changes made to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and answered pre-submitted questions from students. It was the first of its kind, and 180 people watched it live that day. To date, there have been 829 views. **Chair Motz** also welcomed MHEC’s new

Principal Counsel, Ms. Kimberly Smith Ward, to the agency, and thanked Ms. Soma Kedia, Assistant Attorney General, for her continued support and hard work.

### **Acting Secretary's Remarks**

**Acting Secretary Rai** reported that there is good news regarding enrollment. There has been growth in all higher education segments recently. However, MHEC's goal continues to be providing access to all students. For every Maryland student who stays in-state, there are two who leave the state to study. Maryland's postsecondary institutions offer a high-quality, affordable education. On December 4, MHEC will partner with USM (University System of Maryland) to host a campus safety summit in Baltimore City. He also welcomed Ms. Ward to the agency and thanked Ms. Kedia for her dedicated service.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Discussion: Feedback for Program Approval Process Workgroup**

**Chair Motz** noted that this item, though of great interest to the Commission, is being tabled at this time to a future meeting.

### **Update on Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Chair Motz** recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, to present this item. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) was created in 2016. It makes policy recommendations to enable Maryland's education system to perform at the level of the world's best systems. The Commission issued its final report in 2020, and legislation has been passed annually from 2018 through 2021 based on the Kirwan Commission's recommendations. The Accountability Implementation Board (AIB) was formed, as a result. The Board assesses how well the many components of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future are working to achieve the desired outcome of equal access to a high-quality education. The AIB developed a Comprehensive Implementation Plan for the Blueprint and may even withhold funding to any agency without an approved implementation plan.

The Blueprint Comprehensive Plan has 5 pillars:

- 1) Early Childhood Education
- 2) High-Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders
- 3) College and Career Readiness
- 4) More Resources for Students to be Successful
- 5) Governance and Accountability

Highlights from MHEC's Implementation Plan include the administration of the Teacher Fellows Scholarship, Loan Assistance Repayment Program for public school teachers, and the Teacher Quality Diversity Program. Coordinated initiatives with other entities include defining college readiness standards and collaborative reports, among others. A few examples of

MHEC's current work include participation in an outcomes workgroup to determine the measures for success and to study relevant data, renewing discussions with MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) regarding dual enrollment and the transfer of credit, and administering an internship stipend. The Commissioners asked questions about Dr. Dow's presentation.

### **Overview of Student Transfer in Maryland**

**Chair Motz** recognized Dr. Dow to present this item. Transfer from 2-year to 4-year institutions is very active in Maryland. Montgomery College sends the most students, followed by CCBC. On the other end, UMCP receives the most students, followed by Towson University.

The Transfer with Success Act was passed in 2021. The legislation created a new requirement for public institutions to jointly review credits or courses that are denied when a student transfers from one public institution to another. It also created a new annual reporting requirement.

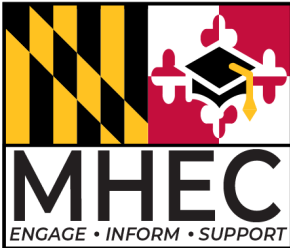
The evaluation and review process (which lasts 60-90 days) includes 5 steps:

- 1) The student submits a transfer evaluation request.
- 2) There is an evaluation of course or credit.
- 3) A transfer evaluation report is generated, explaining what is transferable and what is denied.
- 4) If there is a denial, the sending institution conducts an analysis or review, indicating if it agrees or not with the decision of the receiving institution.
- 5) A final determination is made by the receiving institution, which takes place after both institutions meet to discuss the analysis or review (by the sending institution).

Ideally, the process takes place before the student enrolls. The Commissioners asked questions about Dr. Dow's presentation.

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Burnim** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Vice Chair Aguh** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 PM.



**Wes Moore**  
Governor

**Aruna Miller**  
Lt. Governor

**Cassie Motz**  
Chair

**Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.**  
Acting Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 28, 2024

**TO:** The Maryland Higher Education Commission

**FROM:** Student Advisory Council

**SUBJECT:** Revised Recommendation Regarding 2024 Elections and Student Participation

As the representatives of the Maryland student voice to the Commission, we recognize the plethora of existing efforts to engage students and young adults to vote. We also recognize that, as an advisory council to the Commission, it is important to ensure these efforts are sustained throughout Maryland. We recognize that these efforts empower students to be active participants in the civic process of elections.

Therefore, the Student Advisory Council recommends that the Commission and the Secretary of Higher Education recognize, lift up, and continue to support the existing efforts – both through campus-based efforts and through existing organizations – that intend to increase civic participation among college students and reduce barriers that obstruct students from voting, such as:

- providing resources and supports to students to participate as Election Judges;
- providing accommodations and resources to out-of-state students;
- reviewing the 2024 – 25 academic calendar (and 2026-27 and 2028-29) and make appropriate amendments/guidance to participate in the voting process<sup>1</sup>;
- and, generally encouraging students to participate in our nations democratic process (e.g., registering to vote, using campus space as polling places, etc.; see specific timeline below).

The Student Advisory Council recognizes that there are many organizations locally, statewide, and nationally that explicitly work to ensure that students and young adults are able to participate in our nations democratic process of voting. While not comprehensive, the Student Advisory Council has identified the following organizations that often work closely with college campuses regarding civic engagement and voting efforts:

---

<sup>1</sup> For example, adding or highlighting the primary election day and regular election day to the academic calendar

- > All In To Vote (<https://allintovote.org/>)
- > American Democracy Project (ADP; <https://aascu.org/civic-global-engagement/american-democracy-project/>)
- > Baltimore Votes (<https://www.baltimorevotes.org/>)
- > Black Girls Vote (<https://blackgirlsvote.com/>)
- > Campus Compact (<https://compact.org/current-programs/engaged-scholars-initiative>)
- > Campus Vote Project (<https://www.campusvoteproject.org/>)
- > Civic Learning and Democracy Learning (<https://www.collegeciviclearning.org/>)
- > Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (<https://www.naspa.org/events/2023-civic-learning-and-democratic-engagement-meeting>)
- > Head Count (<https://www.headcount.org/>)
- > League of Women Voters (<https://www.lwv.org/>)
- > Maryland State Board of Elections (<https://elections.maryland.gov/>)
- > NAACP (<https://naacp.org/find-resources/know-your-rights/democracy-voting>)
- > NASPA (<https://www.naspa.org/events/2023-civic-learning-and-democratic-engagement-meeting>)
- > National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) (<https://idhe.tufts.edu/nslve>)
- > The Andrew Goodman Foundation (<https://andrewgoodman.org/>)
- > Turbo Votes (<https://turbovote.org/>)
- > U.S. Vote Foundation (<https://www.usvotefoundation.org/>)
- > Unify America (<https://www.unifyamerica.org/>)

The Student Advisory Council recognizes that many of these organizations have campus-based efforts at Maryland colleges and universities.

Additionally, the Student Advisory Council recognizes that there are several existing laws intended to support students in the voting process. For example, Maryland colleges are required to provide a link to the online voter registration system on the home page of the online portal used by students to register for course work (as required by Election Law Article §3–204.2). Additionally, college campuses are expected to designate a staff member as the student voting coordinator who is to develop and implement a student voting plan to increase student voter registration and voting (as required by Election Law Article §3–204).

Similarly, Maryland State Board of Elections is required to maintain a page on its website that explains in plain, easily understandable language the requirements for students to vote in Maryland, and include links to information regarding voter registration requirements and voting by absentee ballot in other states (As required by Election Law Article §3–103).<sup>2</sup> And, the Student Advisory Council recognizes that local board of elections are required to gain input from institutions of higher education when designating polling places (as required by Election Law Article §1–101).

<sup>2</sup> [https://elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/students.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/students.html)



The Student Advisory Council has identified the following actionable items for campuses, nonprofit organizations, and other key stakeholders to implement to support the initiatives above on a chronological timeline:

**Fall 2024**

1. Provide information to students on how to register to vote, how to vote early and how to vote via mail
2. Provide information to student on how to become Election Judges
3. Provide campus-provided shuttles or develop cost-friendly transportation options for students to access nearby voting locations (Fall)
  - a. Encourage students to become motor pool certified to provide transportation to peers
4. Hold voter pledge drives

**Spring 2025**

1. Increase resources on voter education, including but limited to what is on the ballot and how a vote contributes to the electorate
2. Support similar civic-engagement initiatives for faculty and staff
3. Establish a Voting and Civic Engagement Task Force with student members or pre-established student groups to continue civic engagement throughout the year

**Ongoing**

1. Support out-of-state students in their ability to vote

In providing these actionable items and recommendation, the Student Advisory Council encourages institutions to create a campus culture that embraces democratic civic engagement while acknowledging the different organizational structures and scheduling processes on campuses around Maryland. The Student Advisory Council believes it is in the students’ best interest to extend these opportunities to faculty and staff, as they will be supporting the facilitation. In many cases, the expectation of presence placed on students fosters overwhelming responsibility that suppresses civic engagement and involvement. In this respect, voting is not just an issue of democratic choice, but an issue of access and ability.

**Student Advisory Council: 2023-2024 Membership List**

|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alexis Faison (Chairperson)     | Loyola University Maryland     |
| Stephen Hook (Vice-Chairperson) | Washington College             |
| Helen Felbek (Secretary)        | St. John’s College             |
| Rabiyatou Bah                   | Anne Arundel Community College |
| Nianna Perkins                  | Bowie State University         |
| Sumiya Rahaman                  | Carroll Community College      |
| Perla Gonzalez                  | Cecil College                  |
| Genesis Ingal                   | College of Southern Maryland   |

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Mykayla Davis                   | Coppin State University                  |
| Rachel Michalski                | Frostburg State University               |
| David Henry Jones               | Harford Community College                |
| Tanya Johnson                   | Morgan State University                  |
| Emma Alascia                    | Notre Dame of Maryland University        |
| Aladdin Glasco; Sadichhya Shahi | Prince George's Community College        |
| Luke Zolenski                   | Salisbury College                        |
| Kamryn Brown                    | Towson University                        |
| Frank Vermeiren                 | University of Baltimore                  |
| Steven Berit, Zach Starr        | University of Maryland College Park      |
| Lydia Teclar                    | University of Maryland Eastern Shore     |
| Barbara Archer                  | University of Maryland Global Campus     |
| Musa Jafri                      | University of Maryland, Baltimore County |
| Mia Foster                      | Wor-Wic Community College                |

**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

6 N. Liberty Street • 10<sup>th</sup> Floor • Baltimore, MD 21201

T 410.767.3300 • 800.974.0203 • F 410.332.0270 • TTY for the Deaf 800.735.2258 [www.mhec.maryland.gov](http://www.mhec.maryland.gov)



**Wes Moore**  
Governor

**Aruna Miller**  
Lt. Governor

**Cassie Motz**  
Chair

**Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.**  
Acting Secretary

## Maryland Higher Education Commission 2024 Meeting Dates

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is Maryland's higher education coordinating board responsible for the management of statewide financial aid programs and the establishment of statewide policies for public and private colleges and career schools to support students' postsecondary pursuits.

*Commission meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with certain exceptions, as noted below.* Meetings in 2024 will be in-person in the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Meetings will also be livestreamed.

### Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2024

**January 24, 2024**

**February 28, 2024**

**March 20, 2024**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

**April 24, 2024**

**May 22, 2024**

**June 26, 2024**

**July 24, 2024**

**August 28, 2024**

**September 18, 2024**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

\*10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.\*

**October 23, 2024**

**November 20, 2024**  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

**December 11, 2024**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)

*Dates, times, and locations are subject to change.*

Please check this website for livestream links and the most up-to-date information:

<http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/About/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

6 N. Liberty Street • 10<sup>th</sup> Floor • Baltimore, MD 21201

T 410.767.3300 • 800.974.0203 • F 410.332.0270 • TTY for the Deaf 800.735.2258 [www.mhec.maryland.gov](http://www.mhec.maryland.gov)