




Office of the President

December 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr., Secretary
Maryland Higher Education Commission

From: David Wilson, President 
Gloria J. Gibson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Morgan State University's Objection to Johns Hopkins University Doctor of Engineering

Attached please find Morgan State University's objection to the new academic program proposal from Johns Hopkins University for the Doctor of Engineering for review by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

Thank you for your consideration of our response.

Attachment



**Comments and Objections to the Johns Hopkins University's New Program Proposal
Doctor of Engineering (D. Eng.)**

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Baltimore, MD

Johns Hopkins University ("*JHU*") has submitted a proposal to the Maryland Higher Education Commission ("*MHEC*") to offer a Doctor of Engineering ("*D.Eng*") degree program which Morgan State University ("*Morgan*") has been offering since 1994.

Morgan has several concerns on the negative impact of offering a similar program, by title and intent, at Johns Hopkins University on the very existence of its D.Eng Program in the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. School of Engineering.

Morgan's comments and objections are made pursuant to the statement in Dr. Emily Dow's memorandum of November 8, 2017, that stated, "Comments and objections by an institution must be based on the following:"

(1) Unreasonable duplication which would do irreparable harm to another institution.

Comments and Objection:

The Hopkins proposed program represents unreasonable duplication, by title and intent. Their proposal very closely mirrors (see acknowledgement in Sec. F.1 of JHU proposal) the program approved by MHEC offered at Morgan State University. Morgan proposed the graduate program in 1994. We foresaw a need for this type of program in Maryland with its myriad of government agencies and supportive industrial and engineering service corporations. And within these environments, Morgan's graduates have experienced great success.

There are clear similarities between the proposed Doctor of Engineering program and the existing program at Morgan State University. The non-residential nature of the proposed program has been a normal practice of Morgan's D.Eng program for years. Candidates already in the workforce who are seeking to advance their careers enroll in this program regularly and take advantage of online, independent, and evening courses to complete the required course work for the program. When appropriate, a co-advisor from the place of employment serves on the dissertation committee. Duplication of the D.Eng program at JHU will have a significant negative impact on the enrollment of early and mid-career professionals and as a consequence, on the survival of Morgan's only doctoral level degree in Engineering. JHU is one of the nation's preeminent research universities and has

access to enormous resources, and with the addition of the D.Eng program, candidates will be discouraged from attending Morgan.

On May 25, 2017, Morgan State University was officially designated as Maryland's preeminent public urban research university. The designation is the result of legislation (SB 1085) in the 2017 Maryland General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan.

The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. School of Engineering plays a major role at Morgan in producing knowledge, fostering innovation, conferring doctoral degrees, and expanding resources for the University with research grants and contracts with the Doctor of Engineering program. The existence and success of this doctoral degree program in the School of Engineering is essential for Morgan to flourish as "Maryland's preeminent public urban research university."

(2) Violation of the State's equal opportunity obligation under the state and federal law.

Comment and Objection:

In the JHU proposal, the writer, as a partial justification for the "duplication," makes a statement that because of its size, the MSU program does not qualify as a "high-demand" program. However, they do not state that their various programs are ineffective in reaching a large segment of the diverse population of engineers in Maryland. In fact, when one disaggregates the data related to doctoral degrees awarded to African American engineers at the four doctoral degree institutions (UMCP, UMBC, JHU, MSU) in Maryland over the three-year period of 2012-2014, we see the following: 33 of the 721 degrees (4.6%) awarded were awarded to African Americans. Sixteen of the 33 doctorates (48.5%) earned by African American engineers were awarded by MSU. By comparison, 407 of the 721 doctorates awarded (56.4%) by UMCP, UMBC, and JHU were awarded to Foreign Nationals, in the same three-year period. These facts seem to indicate that a closer look needs to be taken as to which future engineering programs should be authorized for funding and/or approved for offering in the State of Maryland.

In summary, Morgan State University strongly objects to the addition of the Doctor of Engineering at JHU. Allowing JHU to start the proposed program will adversely affect Morgan's enrollment.