MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION
Faculty Advisory Council
MINUTES of the October 20, 2009 MEETING
Anne Arundel Community College
CALT 102
Arnold, MD

Members Present: Pat Alt, Judy Coen, Jolly Davis, Sharon Fechter, Marie Gillis, Paul Hester, Deloris James, Lynn Kerr, Deborah King, Charles Leonard, Linda Martinak, William Montgomery, Norbert Myslinski, Tony Norcio, Curt Raney, Carla Showacre, Richard Siciliano, Dennis Wenger, Anthony Wilbon,

Commission Staff Present:
Dr. Genny Segura, FAC liaison,
Dr. Sue Blanshan, MHEC, Director of Academic Affairs
Dr. George Reid, MHEC, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Academic Affairs
Dr. Gareth Murray, MHEC Director-Legislative Affairs

CALL TO ORDER: Curt Raney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Members introduced themselves to each other and the Commission staff.

MINUTES: The agenda was altered to accommodate the guests before conducting routine business. September minutes were approved as amended.

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<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>NEW BUSINESS Diversity Legislation</td>
<td>Dr. Gareth Murray discussed the requirements of the diversity legislation (SB 438, Sen. Verna Jones, Baltimore) and the current status. Private institutions will report programs and progress through the Maryland Independent Colleges and Universities Association (MICUA) to MHEC. Institutions will be reporting Best Practices and college needs, although there is no funding available to assist in meeting those needs. The expectations for Maryland’s public institutions are higher, as they will be required to describe programs in place for students, faculty, and staff. Institutions are being encouraged to incorporate diversity statements into their missions and institutional policies, report hate crimes, and recruit and retain a larger student population from the historically underrepresented groups. There was a fairly</td>
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lengthy discussion of how these underrepresented groups would be identified, as the legislation is fairly broad and vague in its language. Although never definitively answered, it appears that MHEC will be responsible for defining these groups. There was concern that the identified groups could evolve over time and that institutions would effectively be aiming at a moving target.

This legislation integrates well with the State Plan for Higher Education, Goal 3, Diversity: Ensure equal opportunity for Maryland’s diverse citizenry (SPHE). For this year MHEC is asking institutions to submit reports outlining current activities and formal planning documents. A well-defined template for future reporting, which will clearly identify targeted populations, will arise from these reports and be required in the future.

Dr. Murray suggested that the best way for FAC members to assist on this is to carry the message back to our constituencies rather than function as a group. Due to the varying nature of our institutions, Curt Raney felt the effectiveness of this course of action would be inconsistent.

Dr. Reid thanked FAC for our input, many of our views were incorporated into the SPHE. The Textbook Competition and Affordability Act (SB 183) went into effect this fall. It requires a great deal of faculties and institutions, but was never intended to abrogate academic freedom, only to reduce cost to the students. Anticipated outcomes include best practices for selection and use of educational materials and procedures to enable students to source a variety of vendors.

MHEC must submit a report to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2011. In preparation, MHEC is convening an intersegmental advisory council. The council will be looking for challenges to compliance and resources needed to overcome those obstacles. The council will also examine the feasibility of a state-wide rental policy, a possible digital marketplace, and how we can make text materials more accessible to the vision-impaired population. FAC was offered the opportunity to suggest members for inclusion on this council. Dr. Reid said this was the first time legislation has come close to infringing on academic freedom issues and he is working to insure this does not happen.

Having been through the reporting process this semester, several FAC members asked for a template to insure that campuses are collecting, analyzing and submitting consistent and useful data. While the full ramifications of this bill may not have been appreciated, the underlying intent is to help students. The bill may evolve over time. Dr. Reid hopes to bring any implementation issues to the Governor’s attention at least one year before the final report is due.
| **Mission Review** | Maryland’s higher education institutions must review their mission statements every four years. This process will begin following the end of the 2010 legislative session and Dr. Reid would like FAC representation on an intersegmental group. At this point he has not finalized the charge to or the composition of this group, but is concerned about “mission creep” that appears to be negatively impacting the individuality of Maryland’s institutions. MHEC’s purpose is not to dictate mission, but to assess the compliance between mission and reality. This process will help inform budgetary concerns and help maintain the unique nature of individual institutions. There was a brief mention of the Morgan/UMBC decision. |
| **Miscellaneous** | Dr. Murray added that if FAC had any ideas for future legislation we should forward it through Dr. Blanshan or Dr. Segura. FAC members discussed deaf students and veterans, some of whom are having difficulties accessing services and benefits. The question of campus security was raised. While campus security procedures are not regulated by MHEC, the issue is of concern to Governor O’Malley. The problem may not be new, but in the wake of Virginia Tech, the issue is receiving more attention. Last year the Legislature killed a bill limiting weapons on campus, and Dr. Murray suggested that FAC make it clear that safety is an issue on all campuses. MHEC did survey campuses about emergency procedures and found that almost all had some procedures in place, |
| **DR. BLANSHAN Lumina update** | The Maryland team working on a possible continuation of the Lumina Foundation grant will be meeting with consultants later this month. Lumina originally funded 11 states, and is looking to continue funding at $2 million over four years for 5 of the original 11 recipients. The foundation may actually decide to fund more states but decrease the award to each. The grant should focus on efficiency and effectiveness, cost saving and reinvestment, or increasing the percentage of college graduates in the population. Maryland’s team maintains that all three are intertwined and cannot be separated, and hopes to convince Lumina to accept its approach. Lumina expects to announce awardees and sign contracts by the end of November, dispersing funding in December. MHEC would like to award monies to individual campuses, as they feel a grass roots approach is the best way to stimulate change, but Lumina may disallow minigrants. MHEC is convening a 14-15 member intersegmental task force to examine current regulations to |
### Revising approval regulations
operate within the State. If any FAC members wish to participate they should request appointment through their segment heads. Any thoughts about the process or procedure can be individually e-mailed to Dr. Blanshan at sblansha@mhec.state.md.us.

### Project for FAC
Dr. Blanshan would like FAC to research other states’ protocols and procedures for assessing the quality of both regionally accredited and unaccredited schools offering online instruction. Are there policies and/or legislation in place elsewhere? Currently, Maryland does not vet these institutions, and concerns focus on quality, fair competition, best use of resources by the student, and consumer protection. Degrees and credits from certain institutions may not be of value to employers nor provide transferable credit should the students attempt to continue their educations. FAC should not look at the religious institutions, which are exempt from some regulations due to their restricted missions. Some national organizations that may be valuable to examine include the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), the American Council on Education (ACE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL). At the very least Maryland’s higher education community must be much better informed about this issue. Given the global nature of online delivery, this research may lead to a discussion at the national level.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS
- The November meeting will be held in the Careers Bldg. Members should park in lots C or D.
- *Tips for Textbooks* is accessible through the MHEC website
- Richard Siciliano will forward information about a webinar on Oct. 21 concerning the textbook issue, sponsored by the Maryland Distance Learning Association (MDLA).

### ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm

Recording secretary: Judy Coen