



Wes Moore  
Governor

Aruna Miller  
Lt. Governor

Cassie Motz  
Chair

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D.  
Acting Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

TO: MHEC Segmental Advisory Council

FROM: Cassie Motz, Chair, Maryland Higher Education Commission *CM*  
Sanjay Rai, PhD, Acting Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission *S k R*

DATE: July 18, 2023

RE: MHEC Academic Program Review

*Please circulate to appropriate institutional leadership.*

As you are aware, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has recently gone through substantial leadership changes, including the appointment of a new Acting Secretary, Dr. Sanjay Rai, and several new Commissioners, to include its Commission Chair. Under the leadership of Acting Secretary Rai and the Commission's guidance, there is a unified goal to uplift and support our students and our institutions by offering innovative opportunities to help them succeed in meeting their postsecondary goals, targets, and objectives.

Moreover, the Maryland General Assembly is convening a workgroup to write a report with recommendations regarding the MHEC academic program review process.<sup>1</sup> A report with recommendations about eight specific issues is due to the General Assembly on December 1 of this year. Recommendations from the report may be implemented with statutory or regulatory changes. While an overwhelming majority of academic proposals do not receive an objection, recommendations to the objection process may be made in the report.

As MHEC participates in the General Assembly's workgroup over the next four months, institutions may want to reconsider MHEC's review of an academic proposal when an objection is submitted until the workgroup prepares the required report with recommended changes. While we strongly encourage this voluntary pause when an objection is received, it is by no means required; however, it may lead to greater opportunities for Maryland's students with an improved process over the long term.

MHEC looks forward to working collaboratively with the workgroup and with all stakeholders to reform and improve the academic program review process in the coming months.

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<sup>1</sup> HB200/CH101 of the Acts of 2023, page 308  
([https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/chapters\\_noln/Ch\\_101\\_hb0200E.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/chapters_noln/Ch_101_hb0200E.pdf); also included in the JCR, p. 271)