



Maryland College Consortium for Student Veterans Commission

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor of Maryland
The State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Danielle Dabrowski
Chairperson

The Honorable Bill Ferguson, President
Senate of Maryland
The State House, H-107
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dena Allen-Few
Vice Chairperson

Kristin Byerly
Secretary

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
The State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Cathryn Camp
Wanda Colon-Canales

RE: Report of the Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission (MCCSVC) required by State Government Article § 9-946 (5) MSAR #: 10921

Matthew Fraling III

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson and Speaker Jones,

Dr. Jennifer Frank

Dr. Derrick Little

Please find enclosed a copy of the 2020 Annual Report for the MCCSVC. The 2020 report includes all requirements stated in sections §9-946 (5) of the State Government Article.

Kat Schorr

M. Antonio Silas

Sincerely,

Denise Nooe – Designee
for MDVA Secretary


Danielle Dabrowski
Chair, MCCSVC

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

PURPOSE:

Senate Bill 606, passed by the 2016 Maryland General Assembly, establishes the Commission's purpose. It is to ensure the educational success of returning veterans, including their recruitment, successful transition into higher education and eventual graduation. The Commission accomplishes this by facilitating the sharing of best practices, and potential adjustment of policies and procedures, among the institutions of higher education and state agencies regarding academic programs and support services designed for returning veterans. Commissioners, representing institutions of higher education in the state, address the following issues: awareness of veteran reintegration challenges; communication and coordination of available veteran services at the institution, state and federal level – including financial aid and GI Bill support services, mental health services and the use of career and transition services, at the education institution, to facilitate post-educational employment.

PARTICIPANTS:

For 2020, the Commission consists of the following appointed members and guests.

- Chair: Danielle Dabrowski, Frostburg State University (FSU)
- Former Chair Jeff Lesch, University of Baltimore (UMB)
 - Left UMB 6/26/20
- Vice-Chair: Dena Allen-Few, Towson University (TU)
- Secretary: Kristin Byerly, (UMGC)
- Appointed Commissioners
 - Cathryn Camp, Prince Georges Community College (PGCC)
 - Matthew B. Fraling III, Coppin State University (CPU)
 - Wanda Colon-Canales, Washington Adventist University (WAU)
 - Dr. Antonio Silas, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
 - Dr. Jennifer Frank, Maryland Independent Colleges & Universities (MICUA)
 - Dr. Derrick Little, Community Colleges of Baltimore County (CCBC)
 - Kat Schorr, Anne Arundel Community College (AACC)
 - MDVA Secretary Designee: Denise Nooe, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
- **2020 Attending/Not Appointed**
 - Tracey Jamison, University System of Maryland (USM)
 - Everette D. Jackson, Jr. Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
 - Jerry Isaac, Bowie State University (BSU)
 - Jason Franklin, Montgomery College (MC)
 - Bradley Dennis, Washington Adventist University (WAU)
 - Curtis Roberts, Washington Adventist University (WAU)
 - Alfred Taylor, Washington Adventist University (WAU)
 - Elizabeth A. Atherton, McDaniel College
 - David Reese, University of Maryland College Park (UMCP)
 - Dr. Darnell Wiggins, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
 - Brittany Henderson, Baltimore City Community College (BCCC)
 - Avonelle Colbert, Baltimore City Community College (BCCC)
 - Laura Keller, Notre Dame of Maryland (NDMU)
 - Sharon Hardester, Salisbury University (SU)
 - Cliff Taylor, University of Maryland Baltimore (UMBC)

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

- Matt Power, Maryland Independent College & University Association (MICUA)
 - Left MICUA 1/2020
- Dr. Tonya Mason, Montgomery College (MC)
 - Resigned 1/31/2020
- Rachel Nachlas, Frederick Community College (FCC)
 - Retired 5/1/2020

QUARTERLY MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS.

In accordance with the legislation establishing its existence, the Commission meets four times per year. Meetings locations rotate between the various institutions represented on the Commission.

1. February 11, 2020 hosted by UB
2. **Cancelled** due to COVID-19 | Frostburg State University | Host: Danielle Dabrowski
3. July 16, 2020 | University of Maryland Global Campus | Virtual Event Host: Kristin Byerly
4. October 22, 2020 | University of Maryland Baltimore County | Virtual Event Host: Cliff Taylor

MINUTES AND SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS FROM COMMISSION MEETINGS.

Minutes for 1st Quarter Meeting:

Date: February 11, 2020

Location: student Center Conference Room, University of Maryland Baltimore.

Convened: 11:00 am

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Designee for the Secretary of MDVA Denise Nooe (Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs)
- Commissioner Jeff Lesch (University of Baltimore, UB) Chairperson
- Commissioner Danielle Dabrowski (Frostburg State University, FU) Vice-Chair
- Commissioner Kristin Byerly (University of Maryland Global Campus, UMGC)
- Commissioner Cathryn Camp (Prince George's Community College, PGCC)
- Commissioner Wanda Colon Canales (Washington Adventist University, WAU)
- Commissioner Dr. Antonio Silas (University of Maryland Baltimore County, UMBC)
- Commissioner Jennifer Frank (Maryland Independent College & University Association, MICUA)
- Dena Allen-Few (Towson University, TU)
- Trish Gordon-McCown (Maryland Higher Education Commission, MHEC)
- Kat Schorr (Anne Arundel Community College, AACC)
- Keith Hauk (University of Maryland Global Campus, UMGC)
- Dr. Darnell Wiggins (University of Maryland Eastern Shore, UMES)
- Brittany Henderson (Baltimore City Community College, BCCC)
- Laura Keller (Notre Dame)
- Cliff Taylor (University of Maryland, Baltimore County, UMBC)
- Tracey Jamison (University System of Maryland)

WELCOME from President Schmoke, UB: Welcome. Provided information regarding the Baltimore City Policy Academy is now receiving initial training at UB. He also gave a brief history of the veteran's center at UB and the generous patronage of Bob Parsons story, Founder of GoDaddy and benefactor of the Veterans lounge at UB.

Host Comments/remarks: Jeff Lesch, University of MD, Baltimore

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

- Introductions
- Roster is available on a Google Doc. Please update as required.

Agenda Items:

- 2020 Meetings:
 - 1st: UB
 - 2nd: Frostburg
 - 3rd: UMGC
 - 4th: UMBC
- VA Topics:
 - **Tungsten:**
 - Jeff asks how the move to Tungsten is going?
 - Frostburg: All invoices have been paid but The Frostburg Bookstore can not generate invoices. Tungsten does not have this option
 - Towson: Bookstore is used to 1905, printing out PO as bookstore is not able to process. Is there a lack of training? Counselors are not putting the
 - UB: Registrar felt veterans did not need the book stipend or housing voucher
 - Different schools have different processes for allowing for the Chapter 31
 - Payments however are being made quickly in most situations but not all.
 - *Discussed what can we do as a committee to assist with these issues. Do we need training? Frostburg will reach out to Rich Brady for possible speaking at Frostburg*
 - **Delayed payments? Any delayed Chapter 31 payments?**
 - UB has several from fall still pending.
 - Frostburg has delays since fall of 2018.
 - Case managers change with no notice so lose POC
 - UMGC has some delays but not many
 - Rich Brady is a good POC for Voc Rehab
 - Josh Pittinger is also good POC here in Baltimore
 - **VR&E – Nothing at this time**
 - **Colmery Act:**
 - Jeff gave background regarding the zip code issues
 - NASPA overview of Colmery Act – they have to account for the last 3 semesters, so schools have to go back.
 - There will be no impact on the students but for accounting, schools have to report.
 - Frostburg: Reached out regarding and got a response to not do anything yet. Enter new students as new and assign the correct code. All back dating; hold off for further instruction. Guidance was to wait.
 - Question raised - How does this impact students that graduated?
 - MHEC has received different guidance. Pending official notice from the VA. Hoping for stages as everyone importing at once could crash the system.
 - **Benefits in general:**
 - UMGC (KH) How many students per SCO should be the recommended? Recommendation is 200 for every 1. 14k-16k veteran students. UMGC is

currently about 1500-1800/SCO. Towson is 1 SCO per 650. The recommendation is created so that there are more than 1. Most SCOs, certification is not their only job.

- MHEC (TGM): Training Requirement: Existing or brand new SCO have different training requirements. New SCOs will NOT be issued a log in until they have completed training. **Make sure you have a transition plan.** Training takes about 5 hours – National conferences by the VA can fulfill some of this but only if hosted by VA reps.
- Frostburg (DD): If they can't pay the bill, they can opt for a payment plan. School has a deferment form, charged \$45 for Veterans. Send copy of delayed payment letter as if they are 100%, the school cannot charge anything. MHEC will send a reminder. Recommend making
 - Section 103 – For 31 and 33 cannot charge for delayed VA payments – can charge for delayed owed by student if less than 100%.

MDVA UPDATE (DN): Denise gave a handout of all Veteran related legislation on the table.

- Commissions that are staffed cannot “lobby” on a piece of legislation. She will determine if we are able to even have a combined voice. State level apparently not, and federal with caution. You can testify as a private citizen or member of another group but not this group.
 - Can we come back as a group with a general statement?
- Frostburg (DD): Has the billing office sent an impact request? For this school it's about 500,000 because they are unlimited yellow ribbon
- UMGC (KH): Impact Chapter 33 and Chapter 35 800-850k. Last year we were 4 million plus in YR.
- Keith talks about PA 111 – instate tuition for all students using Post 9/11 even after they benefits are exhausted.
- UB (JL): Take it back to your school. Talk about impact to your institution. If passed, let's talk about what we can do?
- MDVA (DN): Who we are and what we do
 - <https://veterans.maryland.gov/>
 - Basic History of the Commission.
 - Started as consortium. In 2017 they became an actual commission.
 - USM, MICU, MACC, MD Dept of Veterans Affairs. Any other state institution of higher learning can participate.
 - Appointments are for 2 year terms.
 - Letter from President of the university to Secretary George Owings requesting appointment on to the commission.
 - **Please view spreadsheet with term date and get an updated letter if needed.**
 - Can do lunch and learns with veterans – happy to help with programming
 - Has nationally certified officers within their department if veterans need additional assistance
 - Sends out E newsletter: 137k population.
 - 2020 is Year of the female veteran
 - Requesting all females on Commission to submit a biography and photo
 - UB (JL): We are trying to get more attendance. Send a representative if you cannot make it.

JOINT SUMMIT UPDATE: UB (JL)

- Recap of MD Veterans Affairs Summit: Attended by Jeff and Kristin.

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

- Presentations and panels
- Number of counties attended
- Resources from event Jeff will compile and get out to all
- Showed that the population it was serving was on the older side
- Encourage getting your younger student population involved.
- Purpose was to show the counties that there are these commissions.
- If your county has a veteran's commission, encourage you to get involved. And often these commissions are more focused in areas that may not be the same as the areas of your student populations.
- Baltimore County does not have a commission, Baltimore City does' Anne Arundel does

MDVA (DN) Actual MD Veteran Related Commissions

- MD Veterans Commissions – 27 commissioners
- War Memorial Commission
- MD Home Commission
- MCCSVC

NEW BUSINESS

1.) PENDING LEGISLATION:

- Overall Comments:
 - UMGC: Any other schools working through a stance on these legislations?
 - MHEC:
 - UB: Waiting to draft a response. Should we work as a unit (schools as part of the commission) in an overall response to this proposed legislation. Next meeting it will be done so if we want to get a group effort have only a couple of weeks:
- School stances on pending legislation [MD SB282](#) for National Guard from 50% to 100%
 - TU (DAF) is trying to get all information together for stance on
 - UMGC (KH) is working on their position as well. They have already gone on record for being in favor of the move
 - UMGC has signed an MOU with MD National Guard – 50% off military rate. Policy is 50% off in-state rate.
 - All are participating at this point.
 - USM does not have any stance at this point
 - Link will be sent
- School stances on pending legislation [MD SB0294](#)
 - 90/10 rule application
 - No discussion
- School stances on pending legislation [MD SB0318](#) (MD HB0597)
 - Question raised by TU (DAF) and UMGC (KB): Legislation appears to benefit dependents and spouses but does not address the veteran themselves. Federal Law is specific as an out of state of individual. Veterans access choice and accountability act.
 - The bills are all trying to do the same thing. They should not be paying out of state rates, but they are doing it
 - The bills are not written in such a way that will allow for the overall goal.
 - Pursue a meeting with a legislator for the fall.
 - Recommendation to meet with Delegate Pat Young as the representative to try and use the commission to aide in clarification?

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

- *US Code recognizes “uniformed services” to include NOAA and Public Health Service.*

2.) UB (JL) Recommendation to incorporate statistics:

- In our next annual report, include some statistics in our graduation rates over the next 2 semesters.
 - Track overall graduation numbers over next two semesters (Spring and fall 2020)? Discussion as to what to include and how to obtain buy in from schools.
 - Criteria to use:
 - Anyone using veteran’s benefits
 - Consensus is to keep with heads receiving benefits and academic year
 - Do not break down by degree

3.) ELECTIONS:

- Jeff: Chairman, re-elected
- Danielle Dabrowski: Vice-Chairman, re-elected
- Kristin Byerly: Secretary, Elected

4.) MISC INFORMATION

- Meeting Schedules
 - Frostburg will send out a Doodle request for remainder of 2020 meeting dates
- Online Google Doc is available for all please update!

Meeting Concluded at 1:15 pm

Minutes for 2nd Quarter Meeting:

- Meeting cancelled due to COVID – 19 Restrictions
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Minutes for 3rd Quarter Meeting: Meeting held virtually due to COVID – 19 Restrictions

DATE: July 16, 2020

The Maryland College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission (MCCSVC) conducted its third quarter meeting for the calendar year 2020 on July 16, 2020 via Zoom due to the current COVID –19 Pandemic. The MCCSVC Chairperson convened the meeting at 10:00 am. There were 17 members in attendance.

Commissioner Matthew B. Fraling III, Coppin State University (CSU)

Commissioner Danielle Dabrowski - Vice Chair, Frostburg State University (FSU)

Commissioner Wanda Colon-Canales, Washington Adventist University (WAU)

Commissioner Dr. Antonio Silas, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

Commissioner Kristin Byerly - Secretary, University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)

Commissioner Dr. Jennifer Frank, Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA)

Commissioner Dr. Derrick Little, Community Colleges of Baltimore County (CCBC)

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

Commissioner Dena Allen-Few, Towson University (TU)
Commissioner Rachel Nachlas, Frederick Community College (FCC)
Jerry Isaac, Bowie State University (BSU)
Kat Schorr, Anne Arundel Community College (AACC)
Elizabeth A. Atherton, McDaniel College
Sharon Hardester, Salisbury University (SU)
Cliff Taylor, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
Alfred Taylor, Washington Adventist University (WAU)
Denise Nooe, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
Everett D. Jackson, Jr. Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

- 2019 4th Quarter Minutes and 2019 Final Report were approved with no changes.

ORDER of BUSINESS:

1. Addressing Presidential Vacancy: Denise Nooe
2. Farewell to Jeff Lesch, Chairperson
 - a. One applicant for Chair: Danielle Dabrowski – uncontested and appointed
 - b. One applicant for Vice Chair: Dena Allen-Few – uncontested and appointed
3. COVID
 - a. Impact on GI Bill Benefits
 - i. Issues seen by schools:
 1. Most schools adapted
 2. Re-certifications due to the tuition freeze and fees caused backlog but has been addressed by those impacted
 - ii. Towson moved all certifications online – benefit of COVID
4. MHEC Updates
 - a. Advised online and distance allowance for MD institutions.
 - b. Updates can be found on COVID page
 - c. Waiting for updates from Federal side
 - d. Working remotely but minimal staff must show up periodically
 - e. Email is best to schedule contact
 - f. SCO – be sure to document online or distance instruction (for audit purposes)
 - g. Recently updated catalog review
 - i. Will be going online
 - ii. New vendor for project
 - iii. Application is available on website
 - h. Continue to update SAA
 - i. For example, changes to grading policy – please update
 - i. Training
 - i. Hoping to do a webinar for training over this fall – probably September
5. Question was asked if anyone has received their operating budgets yet? There was not a consistent response.

6. IMPACT of COVID-19 on Individual Institutions

a. *Frostburg*

- i. Talk occurring about rolling furloughs and salary reduction
- ii. Froze state purchasing cards
- iii. All classes end by Thanksgiving
- iv. Frostburg has brought all staff in - working in stages
 1. Issue with staff whose family had traveled abroad and tested positive
 2. Caused some staff to have to stay home and not sure how to pay for this?
 3. Union is involved

b. *Bowie*

- i. Opening in phases
- ii. Students coming back – Freshman only ones with F2F
- iii. All others will be online
- iv. Potential furloughs
 1. Graduated based on salary

c. *University of MD Baltimore County*

- i. Hybrid approach
- ii. Reduce density as much as possible
- iii. Staff if you do not need to come in do not.
- iv. Essential will be going back – roughly 25%
- v. Some classes in person
- vi. Budget cuts are in place
- vii. Next couple of weeks will know more
- viii. After Fall – all online through end of year

d. *University of Maryland Global Campus*

- i. All hybrid classes reverted to Zoom format
- ii. Phased approach for returning staff
- iii. UMGC President announced staff will not return to Largo/Adelphi prior to Christmas break
 1. This does not include military sites where MOUs are in place
 2. Some NTC (National Testing Centers) have been opened at request of military
 3. Separate phased approach for these sites

e. *Salisbury*

- i. Unsure of staff returning phases
- ii. Students are coming back in the fall
 1. Example, classes held MWF – adjust who will go on what days
- iii. Talk of furloughs but no official documentation
- iv. Gave every staff member 80 hours of emergency sick leave.

f. *Washington Adventist University*

- i. Open Aug 30 for classes
- ii. Some students to come in, some stay online
- iii. No impact on staff at this time

- g. Frederick CC*
 - i. 4 phase approach for staff returning
 - ii. Most staff working remote
 - iii. Budget allowed for some furloughs but none at this time
 - iv. 2nd half of summer – Instituted 3 modalities
 - 1. Online
 - 2. Structured remote
 - a. Asynchronous MW @ 11 – students sign in at that time
 - 3. Hybrid remote – certain students to come in on certain days for “hands on” required classes
 - v. Plan to keep this through the fall
 - vi. All start dates are staying the same
- h. Towson*
 - i. Moved up start date to 8/24. Each dept is supposed to have plan by 7/24
 - ii. No talk of furloughs – have had hiring freezes, caps on raises, mil vet center is down to bare minimums (regarding purchasing no swag or additional programming.)
- 7. Old Business – Nothing to add
- 8. New Business- Nothing to add
- 9. Meetings:
 - a. 4th quarter meeting will be held by UMBC and a link for potential dates will sent in the near future. Request was made to not hold during NASPA virtual conference Week of October 11th, 2020
 - i. Need to complete year-end report no later than 12/22/2020
 - b. 2021 meetings – we are unsure if they will be virtual or in person, so if agreeing to host, please be prepared for either
 - i. January 2021
 - ii. April 2021 - Frostburg (POC Danielle Dabrowski)
 - iii. July 2021
 - iv. October 2021

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 am

Minutes for 4th Quarter Meeting: Meeting held virtually due to COVID – 19 Restrictions

DATE: October 22, 2020

Attendees: Cliff Taylor, Denise Nooe, Jerry Isaac, Danielle Dabrowski, Kat Schorr, M. Antonio Silas, Everett Jackson, Kristin Byerly, Dena Allen-Few, Jennifer Frank, Cathy Camp, Betsy Atherton, Jason Franklin

OPENING REMARKS:

Welcome and thank you to everyone

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Approved

ORDER of BUSINESS:

10. UPDATES on COVID

- a. MHA – In Residence Extension
 - i. Extended through Dec 2021
 - ii. Everette: through Dec
 - iii. Kristin: UMGC has approved through May (end of Spring semester)
- b. Updates of USM
- c. Updates of individual institutions
- d. UMGC: (Kristin):
 - i. Javier Miyares has announced his retirement, Lawrence Leak is interim president
 - ii. Full time teleworking for all staff through May 11, 2021
 - iii. Using Virtual Advising rooms (VAR) as well as virtual veterans lounge
- e. Towson (Dena)– nothing new
 - i. Job sharing – outsourcing if there is not much to do.
 - ii. No layoffs/furloughs/staying remote and low density through Spring
 - iii. Utilizes ZOOM and a Netflix watch party!
 - iv. Hosted 2 fundraising events for Veterans Day to benefit relief fund.
- f. UMBC (M. Antonio) – mostly remote
 - i. Low density about 33% of students on campus, programming for veterans and helping with certs. Helping to find different ways with interacting with student populations. What are other schools doing for Veterans’ day
 - ii. Kristin – UMGC will host a Virtual Pre-recorded Live event at 11 am. Commemorative of 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor & announce Student Veteran of the Year
- g. Bowie (Jerry) –
 - i. Brought in only freshman all other only online.
 - ii. Resource office open since October and he has seen no one since opened.
 - iii. Veterans Day will be a team’s Veterans day
- h. AACC (Kat) – fully remote. Currently 100% online
 - i. Will keep student services fully remote through spring.
 - ii. Maybe Stage 3 in spring with students at 50% capacity.
 - iii. Have about 550 veterans students and Kat is the only advisor for veterans.
 - iv. Program Manager position is still available. Student advising virtually.
 - v. Veterans appreciation month! They utilize the booking app for meetings. They also use virtual advising rooms. They use VA work study students are set up to help with Veterans Virtual Rooms
- i. MICUAA – Jennifer Frank took Matt Powers place.
 - i. 8 campuses exclusively online. Some have small members online if needed. 5 campuses that are at hybrid.
 - ii. Most campuses are finalizing plans for spring. Many campuses ending semester with Thanksgiving
- j. McDaniel: (Betsy) – truncated sessions

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

- i. estimate most leave at end of Nov. Spring pushed back one week and remove spring break and end of term remains the same.
 - ii. A lot of classes are offered online with some hybrid. There are some going every day. Successful with keeping things as safe as possible.
 - iii. Veterans Day will not have much recognition for the actual day but keep in close contact with their veteran students.
 - iv. Change terms instead of 4 classes for the term, created 7 shorter terms which did impact students using VA benefits to understand how the process worked so as to not use their housing allowance.
 - 1. Spring they are moving back to the 15 week term. A challenge to the students that are not great online learners.
- k. Frostburg: (Danielle) – SVA has done well with keeping safe
 - i. Danielle set up computers in all offices that could offer spacing and 14 areas that are COVID compliant in the veterans’ lounge.
 - ii. Veterans Day - There will be multiple outside events hanging wreaths and 1000 flags ordered to help. They will send food to veterans’ center but won’t attend. SVA is doing a letter writing campaign to send to the VA homes.
 - iii. Created a mask making event – veterans have made over **1400** masks and donated them all over the state! Making them for competitive schools and different services.
 - iv. Have started with the Toys for Tots campaign
 - v. single occupancy on campus with no shared restrooms. A lot of outdoor programming such as movie nights.
 - vi. Spring SALUTE went off campus at Cumberland outdoor club and celebrating all grads
 - 1. Nov 17th is the ceremony and students go home right before Thanksgiving.
 - vii. A lot of limited student services and a lot of outbreak mostly with athletics. They shifted to the 7 week format as well and have been able to work through it.
 - viii. FSU is under contract – union said no to pay cut and 12 people ended up losing their jobs within 90 days. Students are doing well but staffing is taking a toll.
- l. Montgomery College (Jason F.) – Remote work - limited individuals allowed on campus, essential personnel only. Certain trade has limited enrollment but required labs so allowing for smaller sized. No hard date at this time to re-open.
- m.
- n. MDVA (Denise) – never shut down but some working remotely
 - i. Charlotte hall and cemeteries are open. Benefits specialists are taking appts.
 - ii. If students have issues with benefits specialists, call Denise and she will connect them.
 - iii. Veterans Day host ceremonies at 5 areas and provide infrastructure but committees take on event
 - 1. Nov 6th newsletter will state what events are taking place
 - iv. MD Trust Fund – grants to veterans in need.

1. Just received a large amount of money from the MD lottery – 220,000 in the fund – they do not pay for educational expenses but evictions etc. There is an application process.
 - a. Where do we find this?

11. Recent 85/15 Rule Updates

- a. MHEC response
 - i. SAA has had a training before SCO received theirs.
 - ii. VA stance is that this has always been the law, just bolstering their compliance.
 - iii. Make sure with training that you understand supported vs unsupported students.
 - iv. Institutions with a waiver – (may have to reapply) waives reporting by term but you should still be doing the tracking for compliance. They will be looking for 3 years – if you are a waiver school, you should still be in compliance.
- b. Betsy – had a question during the training. Not answered, but VA stated they would offer another training – How to identify supported and unsupported students as it's not clear. Definitions may not match with what is being reported. Cheat sheet is not very helpful.
- c. Everette: SAA side has concerns as well as they are being asked to review for compliance. Are they supposed to confirm calculations, it needs to be clear.
- d. VA has stated there will be an additional training for SAs as well that will hopefully clear up some of the clarity issues. Webinars do not allow for questions.
- e. Betsy: Can the SAA work with schools and the state to ensure that all is being done properly.

12. MHEC Updates – Associate director of Veterans Affairs – operating remotely

- a. SAA best option is email or phone. Extended COVID for MHA – online classes can be certified as hybrid if they were already set up to have it as a hybrid modality.
- b. SAA – business as usual. Trying to keep surveys virtual with a secure site – upload sensitive information. They will set up with credentials. For survey itself, it would be handled very similar to a face to face set up with set date for review. If you do not have access to the docs needed, please let them know in advance so they can adjust.
- c. Catalog submissions – still working on getting the process to be electronic. Launch for spring terms? Some schools are still sending it in? Patience as they work through catalog submissions. If an update has not been addressed within 30 days, reach out to Everette directly or if a student is waiting for an approved program, reach out directly.

13. Old Business

- a. New term has rolled over for SCO training – make sure you are on top of it

14. New Business

- a. NASPA Military Conference
 - i. Virtual Feb 24-Feb26
 - ii. Early bird deadline Dec 4/Deadline Jan 29
 - iii. Call for papers' deadline Nov 6
- b. National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) – NAVPA.org POC Danielle Dabrowski
 - i. Virtual conference next week – closes Friday

1. \$175.00 Membership to NAVPA includes 2020 conference registration, 2021 membership (Disney), & access to the Listserve for up to 5 individuals per institution.
 2. #Stronger Together Virtual Conference October 27th & 28th, 2020
 3. SAA & VA Presenters (Charmain Bogue, Joe Wescott)
 - a. Topics VR&E, 85/15 Rule Updates & Legislation regarding Educational Benefits
 - c. UMBC – no protections for students if there are delays for payments
 - i. Student was having issues registering for spring classes.
 - ii. Is anyone having issues regarding waiving the fee? – FSU has had some issues – they do have deferment – They put a transcript hold and billing office goes in manually – certified in Aug what is up with the delays? They show it was processed but wasn't closed out properly so never went to Dept of Treasury. Danielle completed 2 step authorization, but 1/3 bills not paid because of the Buffalo cloud and did not get closed out properly.
 1. She also gets permission when it's a dependent to speak to the student and the parent.
 - iii. Danielle will send information on how FSU processes these payments.
 - iv. Dena – has a detailed spreadsheet that goes directly to the bursar's office so they are aware and can stop any outward calls for payment due. She also works within PS to manually state student is pending benefits.
 - d. Dena – Virtual meeting room (MVC?) to have veterans come in and work with the M-F 9-5. There are counseling centers and library check-in staff that work once a week
15. End of Year Data
- a. Compilation and review due NLT 12/20
 - b. 2021 quarterly meeting dates:
 - January/February - Frostburg State University
 - April - University of Maryland Global Campus
 - July – Towson University
 - October - University of Maryland Baltimore County
16. Meeting ended 11:31

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 am

THE COMMISSION'S GRATITUDE AND WAY-AHEAD

The MCCSVS extends their gratitude toward the hosting Universities, Presidents and staff for their continued support and hospitality. We look forward to continued partnerships and expansion of the commission's initiatives, to best serve our veteran community.

For Calendar Year 2021, the MCCSVC establishes the following tentative meeting schedule:

- a. 2021 quarterly meeting dates
 - January/February - FSU - POC Danielle Dabrowski
 - April - UMGC – POC Kristin Byerly

2020 FINAL REPORT | MD COLLEGE COLLABORATION FOR STUDENT VETERANS COMMISSION

- July - Towson - POC Dena Allen-Few
- October UMBC - POC - M. Antonio Silas

RECOMMENDATIONS for 2021

- Continued monitoring of best practices in regard to COVID-19 related restrictions/impact on the institutions and the students
- Develop a schedule of guest speakers to report on MCCSVC relevant topics. Recommendations:
 - Charmaine Brogue
 - Delegate Pat Young