

In Maryland, the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges should be given the authority for planning and coordinating among the institutions under its control. Such matters of concern as institutional autonomy or duplication of programs and services ought to be dealt with at this level.

"Maryland has accepted the form of tripartite organization of higher education. Under this arrangement the state colleges are separate from both the University and the State Department of Education. The legislature has already recognized the special problems of the state colleges by following the Curlett Commission recommendations and placing the colleges under their own separate board of trustees. Planning and coordination in the interest of orderly development and growth should be in the hands of the governing board rather than the governor and the legislature on the one hand or the myriads of officials in the executive departments on the other.

"We urge the Constitutional Convention Commission to consider an extension of a framework that has already come into being. Responsibility for program and content at state institutions of higher education should be with the institutions themselves under a responsible governing board. Responsibility for planning and coordination should be on two levels. First, with the Board of Trustees insofar as it affects the institutions which it oversees; second, among the governing boards of the three parts of higher education. The Maryland Advisory Council for Higher Education has been given responsibility to aid and advise governing boards and institutions of higher education and to serve as a link between

them, on the one hand, and the governor and the legislature, on the other. We recommend that all of the basic principles implied in the present arrangement be made formal in the new constitution:

1. 'That the separate governing boards of higher education institutions be given constitutional status.
2. 'That these boards be given the authority to supervise the institutions under their control including the expenditure of their funds.'

"It is important to reiterate that the goals of planning and coordinating the entire system of higher education in the State are recognized at all levels. The notion that those involved in the administration and supervision of higher education live in a world in which the dictates of the State's needs are neither heard nor adhered to is not what is implied by constitutional autonomy. The Board of Trustees plans to avail itself fully of essential state services that are obviously relevant to its own needs. Such services right now would undoubtedly include both purchasing and building. The Board of Trustees is aware of the important role that is played by the Maryland Advisory Council for Higher Education. We feel there is no indication that constitutional autonomy for the Board would lead to any lessening of the present movement toward coordination and interdependence. We would argue that in fact autonomy would strengthen planning and coordination by placing responsibility in the hands of a Board whose activities would be visible to the governor, the legislature, and the public.