

RESEARCH, PLANNING AND EVALUATION

The Board prepared a statewide master plan for postsecondary education in Maryland, which was adopted by the Board on July 6, 1978. The Board is required to update the plan annually. Each year the Board reviews for consistency with the overall plan the short-range and long-range goals and objectives of the State's various postsecondary education institutions and agencies. The Board also coordinates participation by the postsecondary education community in the State's Executive Planning Process. In accord with its broad planning responsibilities, the Board serves as the State Postsecondary Education Commission under Title XII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

In support of its planning functions, the Board collects, compiles, analyzes, and disseminates data related to postsecondary education in the State. It develops and implements management tools and information systems to aid policy-makers at the State and institutional levels. In consultation with postsecondary education agencies and institutions, the Board conducts studies of educational needs in the State and the resources available to meet them. In order to encourage the effective and equitable use of resources for postsecondary education, the Board sets guidelines for tuition and fees and for faculty and administrative salaries. The Board also makes recommendations for improving the coordination and operation of student financial aid programs in the State, as well as recommendations about how State and federal programs of support for higher education can be meshed for maximum benefit to the citizenry.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

In consultation with the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, the Board annually reviews and makes recommendations upon operating budget requests from the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, the Board of Trustees of the State Universities and Colleges, St. Mary's College, the State Board for Community Colleges, the State Scholarship Board, and the Higher Education Loan Corporation. On the basis of this review, a consolidated operating budget for higher education is developed for presentation to the Governor. In consultation with the Department of State Planning, the Board also reviews proposals for capital projects requested by public and private institutions of higher education. This capital budget review function is facilitated by the Board's facilities inventorying efforts as well as

by its other activities in the area of space planning utilization. The Board also administers the State's program of aid to private institutions of higher education.

The Board must approve all proposals for new programs and for major changes in existing programs in the State's public postsecondary institutions. It also reviews and makes recommendations about the continuation, modification, or duplication of programs currently in operation in public institutions and about programs offered by private institutions that receive State funds. In relationship to its program review and approval functions, the Board is charged with making recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly about any name or governance change requested for a public institution of higher education.

In order to obtain maximum benefit from available educational resources, the Board encourages the development of cooperative programs among the State's public institutions. Policies for the transfer of students and the reciprocal acceptance of credits are also developed. In cooperation with the Southern Regional Education Board and with individual states, the Board pursues interstate approaches to meeting educational needs.

The Board engages in efforts aimed at improving cooperation between the federal government and policy-makers at the State and institutional levels. It also serves as the administrative agency in the State for programs under Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and Title IV, the Education Information Center Program. Title I provides higher education institutions in the State with opportunities for discretionary funding in the areas of community service and continuing education.

INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL TO OPERATE

The State Board is responsible for granting approval to operate to all public and private institutions of postsecondary education operating in the State. This approval is awarded based on an institution's ability to meet standards developed by the Board. These standards prescribe the minimum requirements for the issuance of certificates, diplomas, and degrees. The Board must review and approve educational programs that enroll veterans and war orphans in order for these students to become eligible for federal financial benefits under Title 38 of the U.S. Code. The Board also engages in a variety of other activities aimed