

Sheldon H. Knorr, *Commissioner for Higher Education*, 1988

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The State Board for Higher Education was created by Chapter 538, Acts of 1976, to replace the Maryland Council for Higher Education, which originally was created by Chapter 41, Acts of 1963, as the Maryland Advisory Council on Higher Education. Compared with its predecessor agencies, the State Board for Higher Education has considerably increased responsibilities and powers in the areas of coordination of the growth of public higher education, institutional and program approval, and fiscal matters. To the extent practicable, the Board consults with agencies and institutions affected by its actions and recommendations before taking final action on them.

The State Board consists of eleven voting members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The chairperson of the Student Advisory Assembly to the State Board for Higher Education serves as a non-voting member. Appointed members serve five-year terms and may not serve more than two full terms. The student member serves for one year (Code Education Article, secs. 12, 17, 24, 25).

The State Board appoints a Commissioner for Higher Education who executes the policies adopted by the Board, directs the Board's staff, and serves as a member of the Governor's Executive Council. The Commissioner serves a four-year term and is eligible for reappointment.

The Board carries forth its broad responsibility for coordinating the overall growth and development of postsecondary education through activities in the following functional areas:

RESEARCH, PLANNING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

A statewide master plan for postsecondary education in Maryland, adopted by the Board in 1978, is updated annually. Each year the Board reviews the short-range and long-range goals and objectives of State postsecondary education institutions and agencies to assure that they are consistent with the master plan. 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 federal 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.

The Board disseminates information concerning its activities through its newsletter entitled *Record*, preparation of news releases for public media, and publication and distribution of numerous studies, research reports, and other documents. The Board also promotes public awareness of opportunities in postsecondary education with its *Guide to Higher Education in Maryland*, which is published annually and distributed to high school and adult students throughout the State.

FINANCE AND FACILITIES

In consultation with the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning, the Board annually reviews and makes recommendations concerning 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 of Maryland, the State Board for Community Colleges, the State Scholarship Board, and the Higher Education Loan Corporation. On the basis of this review, the Board develops a consolidated operating budget for higher education 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 aided 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.