

(2) In consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, the Commission shall present to the Governor, on or before a date set by the Governor, and simultaneously submit a copy to the General Assembly, a consolidated operating and capital budget for higher education that includes the operating and capital budget requests of the governing boards and institutions listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the operating budget request of the Commission, a report on the current funding of the adopted sets of peer institutions, and recommendations regarding the funding of higher education.

(3) In cooperation with the Department of Budget and Management, and without affecting the authority or responsibility of the Department under the State Finance and Procurement Article, the Commission shall:

(i) Review proposals for capital projects and improvements proposed by the public institutions of higher education in this State, [and] by the Maryland Independent College and University Association, AND BY THE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS; and

(ii) Develop and submit to the Governor and the General Assembly recommendations as to these projects, which shall be consistent with the State Plan for Higher Education provided for in this section.

(4) In submitting recommendations pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Commission shall comment on the overall level of funding for higher education in order to achieve the goals established in the State Plan for Higher Education, and may comment regarding funding priorities among segments of higher education and, within public senior higher education, among institutions. In reviewing the various budgets and submitting recommendations thereon, the Commission:

(i) May not require, of any segment or institution, a detailed budget presentation that tends to duplicate other presentations required in the budget process;

(ii) As to the funding priority of any institution, may comment only on the entity as a whole and not on any separate unit of the institution; and

(iii) As to the operating and capital budgets of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland:

1. May review and comment only within the broad context of the State Plan for Higher Education; and

2. May not recommend against a budget item approved by the Board of Regents unless the item is clearly inconsistent with the State Plan for Higher Education.

(5) (i) In this paragraph, "higher education" means:

1. The University System of Maryland;

2. Morgan State University;