



**Maryland Higher Education Commission Agency Report  
Maryland Community Colleges Facilities Planners Council  
Meeting April 10, 2026**

**Governor**

Wes Moore

**Lt. Governor**

Aruna Miller

**Interim Secretary**

Elena Quiroz-Livanis

**Commission Chair**

Catherine J. "Cassie" Motz

**Commission Vice Chair**

Chike Aguh

**Commissioners**

Kathleen Bands, Ph.D.

Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D.

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.

Barbara Kerr Howe

Narcisa A. Polonio, Ed.D.

Rebecca Taber Staehelin

Sheila D. Thompson, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Janet E. Wormack, Ed.D.

Sarah Otwey, Student  
Commissioner

**Principal Counsel**

Kimberly Smith Ward

**A. MHEC Leadership Changes**

- a. Interim Secretary Elena Quiroz-Livanis started 3/30/2026
- b. Geoff Newman has retired from MHEC; new Assistant Secretary of Finance and Administration is Domenic Ionta; he started 3/18/2026 (briefly another Assistant Secretary in between)

**B. FY27 Budget process now adopted by Assembly and already signed into law by Governor**

- a. Assembly added \$4.325M for MC Rockville Theater Arts; everything else adopted as proposed by Governor
- b. By end of April, notifications should go out to colleges regarding specifics – including assignment of project numbers for new projects and award letters for FY27 FRG

**C. FY26 Q3 cash flow/project status reports are due Thursday 4/30/2026**

**D. FY28 capital budget request instructions will be sent in May**

**E. MHEC facility program (Part I/ Part II) review continues**

- a. Includes site visits upcoming at Harford CC and AACC for FY28 projects
- b. For several reasons, FY29 project program review is behind schedule; could be that some won't see questions until fall

**F. MHEC will be using a new methodology for the way 10-year space needs are calculated; in almost all cases, will likely show less space will be needed than previously shown on CC-tables**

- a. Issue is that the previous published FTDE figures included a component related to distance learning that skewed numbers
- b. Nothing new will be required to be submitted by the colleges
- c. Some formulas on S-6 form will change

**G. Questions/Discussion**

**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

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