

Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

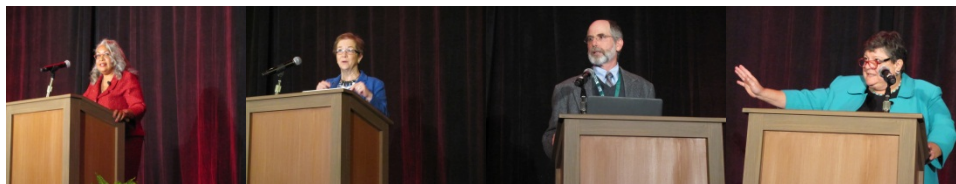
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Record Turnout for MSCHE Annual Conference

The 2016 MSCHE Annual Conference, held December 7 – 9 in Philadelphia was a rousing success. Nearly 1400 people attended, making it the largest conference in the Commission’s 97-year history.

The four plenary sessions examined topics of great importance to higher education leaders in the Middle States region. Mary E. Kennard, Vice President and General Counsel at American University, addressed *The Impact of Federal Regulation on Higher Education Institutional Culture, Diversity, and Leadership*. Lynne Schaefer, Vice President for Finance and Administration at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, spoke on *The CFO’s Perspective: Issues and Trends That Will Affect Higher Education*. Robert Clark, MSCHE Commissioner and Chair of the MSCHE Steering Committee on Process Review, provided a final update on the proposed process and cycle changes that are being presented to the chief executive officers of MSCHE institutions for their approval. Patricia McGuire, President of Trinity Washington University, discussed *New Administration but Old Higher Education Challenges*.



Mary Kennard Lynne Schaefer Robert Clark Patricia McGuire

In addition to the plenary sessions, there were more than 30 concurrent sessions on a variety of topics plus numerous networking opportunities in the Exhibit Hall. The Commission offers its special thanks to event sponsors TK20 (lanyards), ETS (conference bags), and LiveText (box lunches).



Materials used by conference presenters can be viewed on the MSCHE website at <http://www.msche.org/?Nav1=EVENTS&Nav2=2016.01.01&Nav3=PresentationMaterial> .

Mark your calendar for the Commission's 2017 Annual Conference, December 6 – 8 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel.

New Substantive Change Template

The Commission recently adopted a new standardized Substantive Change form to be used for all Substantive Change requests, except those involving Complex Substantive Changes. The form can be downloaded at www.msche.org/documents/SubChangeRequestForm.docx. Any questions should be directed to sc@msche.org.

Policies Under Review

MSCHE reviews various policies on an ongoing basis and seeks input from member institutions regarding proposed changes. A new page was recently added to the MSCHE website, identifying policies currently under review and inviting comments. The three policy drafts currently under review include *Conflict of Interest* (previously called *Conflict of Interest: Peer Evaluators and Commissioners*); *Conflict of Interest: Commission Employees*; and *Review of Commission Standards, Requirements of Affiliation, and Policies*. To review and/or comment, please [click here](#).

Welcome to New Commissioners

Four new Commissioners were elected during recent voting by MSCHE member institutions. They are Dr. MaryAnn Baenninger, President of Drew University; Dr. Herman Beavers, Professor of English and Africana Studies and Graduate and Undergraduate Chair, Department of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. James Sunser, President of SUNY Genesee Community College; and Dr. Kent Syverud, Chancellor and President of Syracuse University. Elected to his first full term as a Commissioner after serving an unexpired term was Dr. David Rehm, University Professor, Mount St. Mary's University.



Herman Beavers Kent Syverud MaryAnn Baenninger James Sunser David Rehm

Elected to second terms as Commissioners were Dr. Francis J. Felser, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bryant & Stratton College; Dr. Margaret M. McMenam, President of Union County College; Mr. Javier Miyares, President of University of Maryland University College; Dr. George A. Pruitt, President of Thomas Edison State University; Dr. Denise V. Rodgers, Vice Chancellor for Interprofessional Programs, Biomedical and Health Sciences Division, Rutgers University; and Dr. Gary Wirt, President of Goldey-Beacom College.

The terms of all of the recently elected Commissioners begin January 1, 2017 and conclude December 31, 2019.

During the Commission's November 17, 2016 meeting, the following officers were elected for 2017: Chair- Dr. Gary Wirt, President, Goldey-Beacom College; Vice Chair – Dr. Margaret McMenamin, President, Union County College; and Treasurer – Mr. David Hollowell, Executive Vice President and Treasurer-Emeritus, University of Delaware. Joining the officers on the Commission's Executive Committee for 2017 will be Dr. Meg Benke, Professor, School of Graduate Studies, SUNY Empire State College; Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour, President, Pennsylvania College of Technology; Dr. Karen Kershenstein, Public Representative; and Dr. Denise Rodgers, Vice Chancellor for Interprofessional Programs, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Commission Adds New Staff

The Commission has recently added the following new staff positions.

Christian R. Slater is the new Senior Support Specialist, providing technical support to MSCHE Commissioners, staff, and member institutions on matters related to accreditation. He will also conduct in-house training and staff the IT help desk. Mr. Slater began his MSCHE duties in late November. Prior to joining the MSCHE staff he was employed for 5-1/2 years by Villanova University, where he provided executive-level IT support.

Also recently hired was W. Allen Richman, who will begin in January 2017 as the Commission's new Senior Director for Research. Dr. Richman comes to the Commission from Prince George's Community College, where he served in a variety of roles, most recently as Interim Dean, Office of Planning, Assessment, and Institutional Research.

Once Dr. Richman joins the Commission, a search will begin to fill the position of Research Analyst. Additional details will be available in mid-January 2017.

Puerto Rico Institutions Are Considered 'U.S. – Based'

The Commission has received an increasing number of reports from students who previously attended MSCHE institutions in Puerto Rico that colleges and universities on the mainland United States have told them that before transferring, the students must have their credits evaluated because they had attended "international" institutions.

Puerto Rico is a Commonwealth of the United States, and the U.S. Department of Education considers all accredited Puerto Rico colleges and universities to be U.S. – based. Thus, the Commission's view is that students' credits that were earned in Puerto Rico do not need to be evaluated as if they had been earned at foreign-based institutions.

Winter/Spring Professional Development Workshops

The Commission has scheduled six professional development workshops for the Winter/Spring period. They are:

The 2014 Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation: Continuous Improvement and the Advancement of Mission-Critical Activities, February 23, 2017, Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel, 200 Convention Boulevard, San Juan.

Enhancing Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment of Administrative, Educational, and Student Support (AES) Areas: You Can Do It!, March 1, 2017, DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia Center City.

Understanding and Overcoming Institutional Barriers to Assessment, April 7, 2017, Courtyard by Marriott Philadelphia Downtown.

Developing Direct Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes in Student Services and the Student Experience (Standard IV), April 14, 2017, Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel.

Using the Interregional Guidelines for Evaluation of Distance Education for Program and Accreditation Review, April 24, 2017, Courtyard by Marriott, Philadelphia Downtown.

Integrating Periodic Assessment Everywhere, April 28, 2017, Courtyard by Marriott, Philadelphia Downtown.

For details on any of the workshops, visit http://www.msche.org/events_calendar.asp

Recent Commission Actions

The Commission held its most recent meeting on November 17 in Philadelphia. During the meeting the Commission took 117 actions. The Commission reaffirmed the accreditation of 68 institutions, granted Candidacy status to two institutions, deferred Candidacy for one other, placed two institutions on warning, and approved two complex substantive changes.

The two institutions granted Candidacy status are Daniel Morgan Academy, soon to be renamed Daniel Morgan Graduate School of National Security, and Johnson College.

For complete details on the November Commission meeting, [click here](#).