Among the responsibilities of the Board of Regents articulated in the governance legislation that created the University System of Maryland is the following statement:

12-104 (C) The Board of Regents (1) is responsible for the management of the University System of Maryland and has all the powers, rights, and privileges that go with that responsibility, including the power to conduct or maintain any institutions, schools, or departments in the University at the locations the Board determines;

While the Board of Regents has delegated to the institutions authority for the creation of academic departments or the changing of department or college names, the creation of new schools or colleges within an institution usually involves the creation of additional administrative structures, increased staffing requirements, and increased infrastructure costs, and may suggest a change in mission emphasis.

Therefore, in order for the Board to fulfill its responsibilities under the law, it is the policy of the University System of Maryland that any institution proposing the creation of a new school or college, regardless of whether such an action involves the development of new academic programs, shall submit a proposal to the Chancellor for consideration by the Board. This requirement for Board review and approval shall apply even if the creation of the new school or college is accomplished through the reallocation of existing resources and the realignment of existing academic departments.

The proposal should include the following elements.

. Rationale/need for creation or significant modification of the new school or college;

. Decision-making process involved, role played by various stakeholders;

. Mission statement for proposed or significantly modified school or college, and description of how the new or significantly modified entity relates to the approved mission of the institution;

. Description of proposed administrative structure, including current and eventual departments, staffing, organization chart; and
Faculty resources now in place.

Approximately two years after initial Board approval, the institution shall provide to the Chancellor for submission to the Board a status report on the new school or college. That report shall include the following elements.

- Strategic plan for the school or college;
- Planned changes to faculty resources (five year projections);
- Five-year budget projections (revenue and expenditure detail);
- Program development and modification plans, if any; and
- Enrollment projections for programs within the new school or college, if applicable.

It is understood that the approval by the Board of Regents of a new or significantly modified school or college in no way implies approval of new academic degree programs. Additions to the program inventory that will be housed in the new school or college must be made through the regular new program approval process.

The terms “college” and “school” are used interchangeably to designate an administrative or operational unit of the university, generally comprising departments in related disciplines, which carries out teaching, research, and scholarship functions. A school or college normally is headed by a senior administrative official who holds the title of “dean.”