

Senate Bill 136
Michael A Besche, CSM Trustee Emeritus
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

I am writing this letter out of great concern for the negative consequences that the enactment of SB 136 will have on the College of Southern Maryland.

The College's wellbeing is important to me personally, as I was involved in its governance for more than 20 years. I served two full terms and two partial terms on the Board of Trustees, was Chair for two years and later was a Board member of the Foundation for another 10 years.

When I was first involved with the College, there was only one campus, situated outside the town limits of La Plata. Then known as Charles County Community College, it ran small learning centers in both Calvert and St Mary's counties. As those centers grew, the local leaders became increasingly unhappy with having no ownership in the programs. Regionalization was the solution to problem, but getting all three sets of county commissioners to agree to a power-sharing agreement was delicate, and it took patience and tact to accomplish that goal.

No one can argue that the regionalization was anything but a resounding success.

SB 136 throws that away. You have received many letters with all the reasons why it's important for CSM to remain as is. I won't duplicate those arguments. Rather I will argue that no reasonable case can be made for the bifurcation of the institution.

I urge you to vote against SB 136.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A Besche, Trustee Emeritus