

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

October 29, 2013
9 a.m.

Mount Wachusett Community College
444 Green Street
North Cafeteria, First Floor
Gardner, Massachusetts

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) in Gardner, Massachusetts.

The following Board members were present:

Charles F. Desmond, Chair
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair
David Barron
C. Bernard Fulp
Nancy Hoffman
Matthew Malone, Secretary of Education
Kathy Matson
Fernando Reimers
Tina Sbrega
Henry Thomas
Paul Toner

The following Board members were absent:

Dani Monroe
Keith Peden

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Charles Desmond called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and invited Mount Wachusett Community College President Asquino to offer remarks.

II. **WELCOME**

Dr. Daniel M. Asquino, President, Mount Wachusett Community College

President Daniel Asquino began by welcoming the Board of Higher Education and attendees to MWCC. He commented that Board Members Tina Sbrega and Kathy Matson were from Mount Wachusett College. He then presented on the five pillars of MWCC: academic excellence access and success, civic learning and engagement, workforce training, partnerships with K-12, and sustainability and efficiency.

MWCC believes in the Vision Project and stated that the key is to partner and make sure there is collaboration. Chair Desmond saluted President Aquino's energy and thanked him for hosting the Board meeting. He said that having the meeting at MWCC has

allowed Board members to gain a deeper understanding of what is occurring at the community colleges.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Desmond then brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2013, BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chair Desmond thanked everyone for their help in the North Shore Community College presidential search. Dr. Patricia Gentile's nomination was approved by the Board during the BHE's October 22nd Special Meeting. He thanked Board Member Paul Toner and Dr. Saeyun Lee, Designee for Secretary Malone, for participating in the interview process. Chair Desmond added that there was currently another presidential search underway at Framingham State University. He said Board members should have already received a memorandum with the interview schedule and stressed the importance of active BHE participation in the interview process.

Chair Desmond then invited BHE members to two events, the Vision Project Forum at the Boston Foundation on November 5th and the Statewide Trustees Conference at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester on November 7th. He continued his remarks and spoke about new grants, particularly the STEM Starter Academy, the Performance Incentive Fund, Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program and others. He said FY14 was a great budgetary year with over \$13 million in new initiatives. Chair Desmond stated that it was an exciting time for institutions to have additional resources.

V. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Commissioner Richard Freeland thanked Chair Desmond and President Asquino, adding it was great to be back on a campus. He commented on MWCC sustainability and thought it was great they were running on 100% renewable energy. He also recognized Bill Hart and Vincent Pedone, Executive Officers for the Community College Council of Presidents and State University Council of Presidents, respectively.

Commissioner Freeland said it was the season of conferences over the past couple of months and mentioned some of the meetings that had recently taken place. He also spoke of the first enrollment reports, which Jonathan Keller had cautioned were preliminary. He stated the enrollment numbers were about level and that shows the continued strength of public higher education with an overall 22% increase over the past 10 years. Commissioner Freeland predicted that the state will see a decline in the number of graduates in some high need fields. He mentioned that the Vision Project Conference on October 18th had 450 people in attendance and said Special Assistant Anne Perkins and Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs Carlos Santiago did a great job organizing it with the advice of the Steering Committee. He also shared details about a regional forum that connected educators and employers with LEAP, and a meeting with the eight state partners at a Multi-State Collaborative Event. Finally, he stated that on November 7th there would be a Statewide Trustees Conference organized by the new Director of the Office of Trustee Relations Jen Perkins. He commented that Governor Deval Patrick would open the meeting. He also congratulated Events and Executive Meetings Manager Stacy Bougie for doing a terrific job organizing all of these events.

Commissioner Freeland briefly referenced the situation at Westfield State University, which he said has been very much on everyone's minds and in the media. He briefly summarized the actions the Department and the BHE's Executive Committee had taken in seeking answers from both the local Board and the President to the finding in the pending O'Connor and Drew reports. He added he hoped that the situation would come to a fair and reasonable resolution.

He continued his remarks by turning to the new process of evaluating presidents, which under the new guidelines includes evaluating light of statewide priorities, as approved by the BHE. Commissioner Freeland also introduced Dr. Jorge Perez from Kennesaw State University in Georgia who is an American Council on Education Fellow with the Department of Higher Education.

Commissioner Freeland also mentioned that Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance Sean Nelson was working on a system-wide strategic planning process that covered several issues, including efficiency goals. Finally, a discussion with State University Presidents has been initiated regarding a State University budget formula.

VI. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

List of Documents Submitted by the Secretary of Education:

None submitted.

Before Secretary Mathew Malone began his remarks, Chair Desmond asked Board members to introduce themselves. He then introduced Secretary Malone, stating that he has been a strong advocate for public higher education. Secretary Malone thanked the Chair and Commissioner Freeland, who he said has led the Department with integrity and honor. He also thanked President Asquino for hosting the Board meeting at MWCC. He said MWCC was doing great work, especially with work on early college/high school dual enrollment, as well as the Veterans Center. He also congratulated North Shore Community College for hiring Dr. Patricia Gentile.

Secretary Malone continued, saying he was excited for the work of the Vision Project. The Executive Office of Education organized a one-day Back to Fall Tour and he took his niece and her friend to visit Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Worcester State University.

VII. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

A. Community College Presidents' Report – Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy

List of Documents Submitted by President Kennedy:

None submitted.

The Board was informed that President Ira Rubenzahl from Springfield Technical Community College was unable to attend the meeting and President Ellen Kennedy would offer remarks on behalf of the community colleges.

President Kennedy initiated her remarks by discussing the importance of collaboration and spoke of the partnership between Berkshire Community College (BCC) and MCLA. She attended the October 18th Vision Project Conference and was inspired by keynote

speaker President Freeman Hrabowski, III, of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She continued her comments, remarking on all of the important work including that on Developmental Math and the Massachusetts Articulated System of Transfer. President Kennedy also spoke on the FY15 budget, deferred maintenance, health insurance, the Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology collaborative effort with the Community Colleges in creating an online learning program, MA Partnership for Collaboration and Efficiencies, and the STEM Starter Academy. She added that she looked forward to welcoming Dr. Gentile on January 7th when she starts as President at North Shore Community College.

**B. State University Presidents' Report – Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
President Mary Grant**

List of Documents Submitted by President Grant:

None submitted.

Before President Grant began her report, Commissioner Freeland shared that the rule regarding MassHealth had changed and would be effective January 1st. He applauded the work that Nate Mackinnon did to make that happen and indicated that Anne Perkins would be soon forwarding additional information in this regard.

President Grant started her remarks by stating that MCLA had been named one of the top ten public liberal arts colleges in the country and the school was about to go through its ten year accreditation cycle. She thanked everyone for their work on the FY14 budget, which was the first major increase she had seen in her 12 years as President. She applauded the BHE for continuing to support public higher education institutions and thanked Commissioner Freeland for organizing the Vision Project Conference. President Grant also thanked the members of the Task Force on Transforming Developmental Math Education.

President Grant mentioned that this year marks the 175th anniversary of the Commonwealth's State Universities and what began as the need to address one set of circumstances has evolved. She added that 90% of those who graduate from State Universities stay in Massachusetts.

VIII. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

List of Documents Submitted by Ms. Matson:

None submitted.

Board member Kathy Matson welcomed everyone to Mount Wachusett Community College, where she was currently a student, and stated that the Student Advisory Council has met twice this semester and has major concerns in regard to student debt, retention and completion rates. She said the Council still needed to elect segmental advisors and encouraged better attendance. Board Member Matson said that the Council also discussed the Vision Project and would like to embrace and would be happy to help advance any areas. She shared that the next meeting would be on November 21st.

At this point during the meeting, Secretary Malone excused himself, and his designee, Dr. Saeyun Lee, Policy Director of the Executive Office of Education, took his place.

IX. MOTIONS

A. Academic Affairs

List of Documents Used:

AAC Motions 14-01, 14-02 and 14-04 through 14-10

Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Chair Hoffman said the Committee continues to work on revamping its procedure to allow for substantive conversations about both the program applications and issues related to academic policy. She said that there were some concerns expressed at the AAC meeting about the University of Massachusetts Boston's proposal to offer the Master of Arts in Global Inclusion and Social Development, and for that reason, the University of Massachusetts Boston motion was pulled out of the consent agenda. However, the issues have been addressed in a memorandum to the Committee and is now before the full BHE for consideration today. She also said that there was not enough time to discuss the AICUM legislation or the Community College housing criteria. Committee Chair Hoffman then brought forth the following motions on a consent agenda and provided time for discussion.

Vice Chair Louis Ricciardi mentioned Salve Regina University's program, which had been operating in Massachusetts without having been approved. He asked how often this happens and Commissioner Freeland responded that this is an issue, in that the Department is not able to monitor programs that do not come to the Board. Committee Chair Hoffman shared with Board members that Assistant Commissioner Shelley Tinkham said at the AAC meeting that there were a number of programs that did not know there were supposed to seek approval. Assistant Commissioner Tinkham added that the reason the Board is seeing more out-of-state institutions seeking program approvals was because of new federal requirements.

The following motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

AAC 14-10 CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

- AAC 14-01 Fitchburg State University
Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- AAC 14-02 Springfield Technical Community College
Associate in Science in Health Information Technology
- AAC 14-04 University of Massachusetts Boston
Doctor of Education in Higher Education
Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education
- AAC 14-05 Bay Path College
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Non-Fiction Writing
- AAC 14-06 College of Saint Rose
Master of Science in Education: Leadership and Administration;
Certificate of Advanced Study, School Building Leader; Certificate

of Advanced Study, School District Study

- AAC 14-07 Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Master of Science in Nursing;
Master of Science in Education
- AAC 14-08 Salve Regina University
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- AAC 14-09 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Master of Public Administration
- AAC 14-10 University of Southern California
Master of Education

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

Contact: Shelley Tinkham, Ph.D., Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

Committee Chair Hoffman then brought forth the motion to approve the application of the University of Massachusetts Boston to offer the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Global Inclusion and Social Development. Board Member Henry Thomas seconded the motion. Board Member Fernando Reimers thanked Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs for his memorandum and said it clarified the concerns of the Committee.

The following motion was passed unanimously.

AAC 14-03 University of Massachusetts Boston
Master of Arts in Global Inclusion and Social Development;
Doctor of Philosophy in Global inclusion and Social Development

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)

Contact: Carlos Santiago, Ph.D., Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs

Committee Chair Hoffman then turned the discussion to the Report from the Commissioner's Task Force on Transforming Developmental Math Education. She said the Academic Affairs Committee was deeply appreciative of the work of the Task Force. It was very critical work, she stated, and would make sure that students can move forward quickly. She continued, saying the rates of students requiring remediation were too high. Unfortunately, the Committee was not able to finish the discussion, but was able to recommend approval of the recommendations, particularly with regard to the USE of GPAs. Committee Chair Hoffman explained that it allowed institutions to use GPA as a method of placing students and was a revision of the 1998 Common Assessment Policy. In December, the Academic Affairs Committee would vote on the rest of the Task Force's recommendations, including the creation of multiple pathways. Committee Chair Hoffman added that there was an increasing amount of research that showed statistics and quantitative reasoning are both also appropriate pathways.

Board Member Paul Toner said some of the union presidents had expressed concerns over the implications of approving the Task Force's recommendations. He said that although there were some math professors involved in the Task Force, math faculty members were worried that students would not be sufficiently prepared to take college-level courses without having first taken remedial courses. After further discussion, Board Member Thomas said that there was a dichotomy between Board Member Toner's point and that which was being voted on.

Chair Desmond recognized a member of the public who wished to offer comments on the topic; Richard Bisk, Professor of Mathematics at Worcester State University, shared his concerns with the Board and said that he did not support the Task Force's recommendations. He did not believe that high school GPA would be a placement method and Commissioner Freeland thanked him for attending the Board meeting and sharing his opinion. He added that the Department would like to pilot the new approach because Developmental Math education in Massachusetts was an issue that needed to be addressed, and he thought an experimental roll out was the appropriate way to move forward.

After further discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

AAC 14-12 Receipt of the Report from Commissioner's Task Force on Transforming Developmental Math Education

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6 and 9

Contact: Carlos Santiago, Ph.D., Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs

B. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy

List of Documents Used:

FAAP Motions 14-01 through 14-20

Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy (FAAP) Committee Chair C. Bernard Fulp began the presentation of FAAP motions by bringing forth a motion to Endorse the Berry Dunn Report on the State University and Community College IT Collaboration and Efficiency Project. It was seconded. He said that by accepting the Berry Dunn Report's recommendations, it would free up much needed assets.

The following motion passed unanimously:

FAAP 14-01 Endorsement of the Berry Dunn Report on the State University and Community College IT Collaboration and Efficiency Project

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, 9

Contact: Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance

Committee Chair Fulp brought forth FAAP consent agenda motion 14-15 and shared with the Board that there were 13 construction projects that range from new residence

halls, to parking lots to increase infrastructure improvements on our campuses. The following motion was seconded and passed unanimously:

FAAP 14-15 CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the following motion on a consent agenda:

- FAAP 14-02 Approval of MSCBA New Residence Hall Project, Salem State University
- FAAP 14-03 Approval of MSCBA Weir Surface Parking Project, Salem State University
- FAAP 14-04 Approval of MSCBA Public Safety Relocation Project, Salem State University
- FAAP 14-05 Approval of MSCBA One-Stop Student Interface Center Renovation, Salem State University
- FAAP 14-06 Approval of MSCBA Mainstage Theater Project, Salem State University
- FAAP 14-07 Approval of MSCBA New Student Housing Capacity and Renewal and Adaption Project, Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- FAAP 14-08 Approval of MSCBA Mess Deck Expansion, Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- FAAP 14-09 Approval of MSCBA Woodward Hall Renewal and Adaption Project, Bridgewater State University
- FAAP 14-10 Approval of MSCBA Flagg Townhouses Fire Protection Project, Massachusetts College Of Liberal Arts
- FAAP 14-11 Approval of MSCBA Aubuchon Hall New Capacity and Renewal/Adaption Project, Fitchburg State University
- FAAP 14-12 Approval of MSCBA Renovation of Hammond Campus Center Library Project, Fitchburg State University
- FAAP 14-13 Approval of MSCBA Maple Street Athletic Fields Project, Framingham State University
- FAAP 14-14 Approval of MSCBA Parking Improvements Project, Framingham State University

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Sean P. Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance

Committee Chair Fulp then brought forth four MSCBA motions, also on a consent agenda. The following motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

FAAP 14-21
MOVED:

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Higher Education approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

- FAAP 14-16 Approval of MSCBA Center For Design + Media Supplemental Funding, Massachusetts College of Art And Design
- FAAP 14-17 Approval of MSCBA Haley Academic Center Supplemental Funding, Mount Wachusett Community College
- FAAP 14-18 Approval of Delegation of Authority to the Commissioner to Amend the Contract for Financial Assistance, Management and Services Between the Massachusetts State College Building Authority and the Commonwealth, for the State Universities
- FAAP 14-19 Approval of Delegation of Authority to the Commissioner to Approve the Contract for Financial Assistance, Management and Services Between the Massachusetts State College Building Authority and the Commonwealth, for the Community Colleges

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Sean P. Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance
Fiscal and Administrative Policy

Committee Chair Fulp brought a motion for Approval of Criteria for Evaluating Student Housing Projects on Community College Campuses. It was seconded. He said that after substantial discussion FAAP Committee members believe they should move forward. There was not enough time, he explained, to vote on the same motion during the AAC meeting and AAC members were invited to join the FAAP Committee meeting. FAAP Committee members voted on this motion and it was passed unanimously.

Board Member Thomas called for a point of information, and asked whether the Board had already voted to allow Community Colleges to have residence halls. Commissioner Freeland replied that the motion to allow Community Colleges to present housing projects to the Board was voted on and passed by AAC and the Board in June. This motion was to approve the criteria that those projects would be evaluated on. Dr. Lee thanked the Department for making the revisions that were discussed during the FAAP meeting.

The following motion passed, with one abstention; Board Member Thomas abstained.

FAAP 14-20 Approval of Criteria for Evaluating Student Housing Projects on Community College Campuses

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9; Sections 121 and 122 of Chapter 68 of the Acts of 2011

Contact: Carlos Santiago, Ph.D., Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Sean Nelson, Deputy Commission for Administration and Finance

X. PRESENTATION

A. FY15 Budget

Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance

List of Documents Used:

FY15 Budget Development PowerPoint

Commissioner Freeland stated that in December, Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance Nelson would present the FY15 budget proposal and that today's discussion was intended to inform that vote. Deputy Commissioner Nelson began his presentation by stating that the Department wanted to continue the momentum it gained in FY14. He shared that the budget was separated into different "buckets:" financial aid, DHE administration and strategic initiatives, workforce development, Commonwealth commitments, State Universities and Community Colleges.

The BHE members asked questions that ranged from financial aid topics, to the use of PIF grants to scale up initiatives that were moving the Vision Project goals forward. Deputy Commissioner Nelson summarized his presentation and stated that the recommended top priorities were the Massachusetts State Scholarship, learning outcomes assessment, Commonwealth Dual Enrollment, and funding formulas for the community colleges and state universities. Commissioner Freeland told Board Members that the proposed FY15 budget would be circulated before the next Board meeting.

B. Civic Education Update

List of Documents Used:

*Draft Report from the Study Group on Civic Learning and Engagement:
Preparing Citizens*

*Summary of Recommendations from Study Group on Civic Learning and
Engagement*

Update from Study Group on Civic Learning and Engagement PowerPoint

Presentors

Daniel M. Asquino, President, Mount Wachusett Community College
Carlos Santiago, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs, Department of Higher Education

Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16, and Veterans Policy, Department of Higher Education

John Reiff, Director, Civic Engagement and Service Learning, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Senior Deputy Commissioner Santiago introduced President Asquino, Assistant Commissioner Tinkham, and Director John Reiff to the Board. A brief video on civic education was then played. President Asquino spoke about the reason why the study group was created and thanked Senator Michael Moore for his work. Assistant Commissioner Tinkham then went over the recommendations found in the report, and

summarized in the board materials.

Commissioner Freeland noted that special attention should be paid to the rubrics. After some discussion, Board Member Barron shared that as that draft is finalized he would think carefully about how the outcomes are phrased to ensure that students are not being measured against a value set. The BHE members thanked the study group for their terrific work.

C. Vision Project Report and Conference

Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner, Department of Higher Education

In the interest of time, Commissioner Freeland spoke briefly about the Vision Project Report and Conference. He told the Board that Associate Commissioner for External Affairs Katy Abel and Director of Publications and New Media Sarah Mealey wrote *Within Our Sights: Inside Campus Efforts to Achieve National Leadership in Public Higher Education* and did a wonderful job. He said the report showed that Massachusetts had a lot of work to do in order to become a national leader, but the stories from the campuses gives the state a reason to claim that national leadership is within our sights.

XI. MOTIONS

C. Board of Higher Education

Chair Desmond brought forth a motion to approve Commissioner Freeland's FY2013 Performance Evaluation. It was seconded. Chair Desmond explained the process used by the Executive Committee in preparing the Commissioner's evaluation. He added that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Early Education and Care had similar processes where the Executive Committee evaluated their respective Commissioners and that those evaluations were voted on by their respective Boards. Chair Desmond said that Board appreciates the good work of the Commissioner.

The following motion was passed unanimously.

BHE 14-02 Commissioner's FY2013 Performance Evaluation
Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)
Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests from the public to participate.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard M. Freeland, Ph.D.
Commissioner of the Department and
Secretary to the Board