

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & STUDENT SUCCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 4, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The October 4, 2022 meeting of the Academic Affairs & Student Success Advisory Council was held remotely, via the web-conference platform Zoom.

ZOOM.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present	Co-Chair Patty Eppinger; BHE Chair Chris Gabrieli; Secretary of Education James Peyser; Commissioner Carlos Santiago.
Other BHE Members Present	None
Committee Members Absent	Judy Pagliuca; Paul Toner; Bill Walczak; Student Segmental Advisor, Andrew Whitcomb.
Department Staff Present	Daniel Hay; Allison Little; Constantia (Dena) Papanikolaou; Elena Quiroz-Livanis; Christine Williams.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Academic Affairs & Student Success (AA&SS) Advisory Council Co-Chair Patty Eppinger called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Roll call attendance of committee members was taken (see attendance roster reflected above).

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the June 7, 2022 meeting of the AA&SS Advisory Council were unanimously approved through a roll call vote.

III. REMARKS

A. Chair's Remarks

AA&SS Advisory Council Co-Chair Eppinger began the meeting by acknowledging the meeting as Commissioner Santiago's last and thanking him for his service. She then invited Commissioner Santiago to share a few words.

B. Commissioner's Remarks

Commissioner Santiago thanked Co-Chair Eppinger for the opportunity to reminisce about his time as Commissioner working with her and the AA&SS Advisory Council. He highlighted the

transformation he has seen with the Academic Affairs staff through many achievements leading to the Department of Higher Education (DHE) being named the State Higher Education Executive Office (SHEEO) agency of the year in 2021, as well as increased opportunities for DHE staff to present at several national conferences and workshops.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

List of documents used:

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Equity Agenda Updates: FY23 Academic Affairs & Student Success Initiatives

Assistant Commissioner for Academic Policy & Student Success and Chief of Staff Elena Quiroz-Livanis led the presentation for the Equity Agenda update with a review of the Department goals and the strategies to achieve those goals. The presentation then moved into an overview of the ongoing or new Department initiatives that advance the Equity Agenda goals in alignment with the strategies. The initiatives highlighted included the following: Bridges to College, Dual Enrollment, Early College, Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (MAICEI), Veterans Affairs, MassTransfer, Open Educational Resources, SUCCESS, Developmental Education Reform, Competency Based Education, Prior Learning Assessment, Civic Engagement Learning, Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, Community College Internships, and the Training Resources and Internship Program (TRAIN). She was joined by Assistant Commissioner Allison Little who spoke about AA&SS efforts in different spaces, including the STEM Starter Transfer Academy, Basic Needs Security, STEM Starter Academy, and Education Preparation.

At the conclusion of the overview, Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis invited Advisory Council members to share what initiatives they would like to explore further at future meetings. Co-Chair Eppinger opened the floor for comment. She thanked DHE staff for the presentation, and stated that it represented lot of hard work and a commitent to improving student success. For policy and program areas she wished to identify for future Advisory Council presentations, Co-Chair Eppinger stated that she was interested in hearing more about the newer initiatives referenced during the presentation, including MAICEI, Student Mental Health, STEM Starter Academy, Civic Learning, and Community College Internships.

Co-Chair Eppinger then asked about the Department's work with the other two education agencies, the status of Early College Joint Committee (ECJC), and any other potential cross-Board meetings. Secretary Peyser answered saying the ECJC's work was ongoing and that the last joint Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and BHE meeting was in 2018 before the pandemic. He foresaw a convening of the two Boards happening in the new year and suggested that the Board of Early Education and Care be involved with the discussion. Chair Gabrieli added that the Evidence-Based Policymaking Committee met in August and invited BESE members. The agenda included different policy issues related connections between K-12 and postsecondary student success. Lastly, Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis provided Co-Chair Eppinger with a summary of other ways the DHE and DESE collaborate, including around developmental education.

SAT Optional Pilot and Undergraduate Admissions Standards: Updates & Workplan

Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Christine Williams introduced the next presentation on the SAT Optional Pilot and Undergraduate Admissions standards by reviewing the objectives of the presentation of which there were three: 1) provide a brief review, 2) share a proposed test requirement policy, and 3) review next steps. Her introduction was followed by Assistant Director for Access & Success Strategies and Program Approval, Dan Hay, who presented all the slides starting with the brief review.

The review encompassed the admissions standard components, the first-year applicant requirements, and the test optional pilot summary. A brief discussion ensued between the requirements of the admission standards and MassCore. Secretary Peyser said he believed the message should be one that encouraged college bound students to follow the MassCore curriculum where it guaranteed students met the course admission requirements. Assistant Commissioner Williams assured the Secretary that the DHE does promote MassCore as the standard and added that slide 17 was only included for better understanding.

Advisory Council members and DHE staff discussed issues such as SAT scores for specific programs, the sliding scale for students who have a high school GPA between a 2.0 and 3.0, the timing of a student's decision take the SAT, the 10% special admissions exception, and the difference between admissions, assessment, and placement. Assistant Director Hay responded saying DHE staff does plan to address the cliff issue and added that part of the challenge is the need to look at the GPA requirement in addition to sliding scale scores.

The presentation was then handed back to Assistant Commissioner Williams who reviewed next steps. Staff would solicit campus feedback on the test optional policy and address the Advisory Council's concerns to ready the policy as a motion for consideration by the full Board. Further, staff will complete the Equity Agenda Policy and Program Audit for the admission standards.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.