

**Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

December 05, 2022
2:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The December 05, 2022 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Higher Education (“BHE” or “the Board”) was held virtually on the web-conference platform Zoom.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:	BHE Chair Chris Gabrieli; Bill Walczak; Patty Eppinger; and Commissioner Noe Ortega (non-voting, ex officio).
Committee Members Absent:	Vice-Chair (vacant seat); and Veronica Conforme.
Others BHE Members Present:	Mary Burns; Paul Mattera; and Andrew Whitcomb (non-voting member, UMass Student Segmental Advisory).
Department Staff Present:	Constantia Papanikolaou; Elena Quiroz-Livanis.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Chris Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. Roll call attendance was taken (see above for attendance roster).

II. DISCUSSION

List of Material's Used

BHE Motions 23-12 through 23-15; PowerPoint Presentations

Chair Gabrieli began the meeting by proposing a motion to approve minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion to approve the Executive Committee minutes for October 11th was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote.

Chair Gabrieli introduced BHE Motion 23-17- Approval of Berkshire Community College Mission Statement. Chair Gabrieli noted that the institution reworked and streamlined their mission statement. Berkshire Community College's President, Ellen Kennedy, commented that they while they "loved" the current mission statement, no one could recite it off top of their head. They spent time to be concise and precise on the production of the updated mission statement. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion to approve BHE 23-17. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote.

Chair Gabrieli moved on to introduce the BHE 23-18- Approval of Berkshire Community College Strategic Plan. Chair Gabrieli commented on the impressive document, more specifically, the analytics, quality and provided information. Berkshire Community College President, Ellen Kennedy, commented on the importance of smart goals, and noted that they were aligned to ensure that the college was able to produce a strong assessment plan. Chair Gabrieli asked President Kennedy to comment on a few hard decisions they had to make. Berkshire Community College's Director of Strategic Initiatives, Maureen McLaughlin, answered that data informed culture of inquiry being the infrastructure that is needed in order to do in-depth analysis of the data and having a data warehouse. President Ellen added that the BHE is publishing reports that they had to quickly incorporate into the strategic plan; it was an interesting process to figure out how to incorporate the New Undergraduate Experience, as it was being developed in parallel, and the Equity Agenda. Berkshire Community College's Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Laurie Gordy, seconded Maureen's response noting that having a data warehouse is key in storing, keeping track, improving, and accessing the data, as this is a big challenge. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion to approve BHE 23-18. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote.

Chair Gabrieli introduced BHE Motion 23-19- Approval of Letter of Intent of Berkshire Community College to Award the Associate of Science in Natural and Physical Sciences and Authorization for Fast Track Review. Chair Gabrieli commented that he appreciated the institution's approach at giving students an opportunity to use MassTransfer in a wider range. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion to approve BHE 23-19. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote.

Chair Gabrieli introduced BHE Motion 23-20- Approval of Letter of Intent of Bridgewater State University to Award the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics

and Authorization for Fast Track Review. Hearing no discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion to approve BHE 23-20. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote. Bridgewater State University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Karim Ismaili thanked the Executive Committee Members for the approval, and welcomed the Commissioner.

Thereafter, Chair Gabrieli introduced BHE Motion 23-21- Approval of Board of Higher Education Motions 22-19 and 22-20 on a Consent Agenda. Hearing no discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion to approve BHE 23-21. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote.

Chair Gabrieli introduced the final motion, BHE Motion 23-22- Approval of North Shore Community College Strategic Plan. Chair Gabrieli asked representatives from the institution how they would summarize what they think will be the biggest drivers of their growth. North Shore Community College's President, William Heineman, responded that Early College, and better aligning credit and non-credit training would be the biggest drivers; this would make it easier for students to pursue both, which could attract more adult students back to school. Chair Gabrieli spoke about the Reconnect Program and asked if they believed it would meaningfully affect the students they are serving. President Heineman responded in the affirmative, stating that he believed it would provide better opportunities to students who did not have initial, positive experiences with school. Committee member Walczak asked Mr. Heineman to describe how this is a different approach to strategic planning, and what worked. President Heineman replied that the different approach was appreciative inquiry. He also spoke about keeping the momentum going, and keeping frontline staff engaged, using a strength-based approach and addressing weaknesses. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion to approve BHE 23-22. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved unanimously by all members present, by roll call vote.

Chair Gabrieli moved on to Advisory Council updates, and asked Committee member Eppinger for an update on the Academic Affairs and Student Success (AA&SS) Advisory Council. Committee member Eppinger stated that she received updates on two department initiatives that are directly related to the Equity Agenda: Basic Needs Security, with a focus on student mental health, and Civic Learning and Engagement. The updates included an overview of the holistic approach to ensure they are meeting all of the student's needs. She spoke about the Housing Scholarship Program that was launched in 2018, which 72 homeless students have been able to utilize the program; the 14 institutions participated in the ARPA funding; and the FY23 providing \$2 million to community colleges for mental health services and \$2 million to state universities.

She stated that an awareness building program called "Did You Know?" is a priority, so students know where they can receive these services on their campus. She advised that with the Civic Learning and Engagement, the DHE was asked to assume leadership as one of four foundational leader states for the Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement Coalition, due to the Commonwealth's work with the Equity Agenda. She also spoke about Salem State University's Center for Civic Engagement, and the new program, Career Pathways for Community Leadership.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Gabrieli stated that in anticipation of the new administration, and in light of the fact that we have a new Commissioner who was only recently appointed, it would be best to delay the BHE's comprehensive budget recommendations until the beginning of 2023. Chair Gabrieli then expressed his preference of possibly changing the substance of the BHE's comprehensive budget vote, to align with the lighter touch of DESE and DEEC's approach which focuses on strategic priorities rather than actual line-item recommendations.

After no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli concluded the meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.