

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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June 19, 2012  
10 a.m.

Cape Cod Community College  
Tilden Arts Center, Main Theatre  
2240 Iyannough Road  
West Barnstable, MA

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Cape Cod Community College (CCCC) in West Barnstable, Massachusetts.

The following Board members were present:

Charles Desmond, Chair  
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair  
David Barron  
Jeanne-Marie Boylan  
Angel Donahue-Rodriguez  
Nancy Hoffman  
Fernando Reimers  
Paul Reville, Secretary of Education  
Henry Thomas

The following Board members were absent:

Nancy Harrington  
Bernie Fulp  
Keith Peden  
Paul Toner

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Desmond called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and invited Cape Cod Community College President Kathy Schatzberg to offer greetings.

#### **II. WELCOME**

President Schatzberg welcomed the Board to the campus and noted her imminent retirement from the college after 14 years. She took this opportunity before the Board to urge the Board and the Department of Higher Education staff to make public higher education funding a priority. She noted that after 13 years of collective bargaining increases, increased technology costs, increased energy costs, and increased enrollment, the funding levels are the same as they were in the year 2000.

Chair Desmond congratulated President Schatzberg on her retirement, thanked her for her service, and added that he agreed that the public higher education funding must remain a priority.

### **III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Chair Desmond brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2012, BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

### **IV. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Desmond began his remarks by acknowledging President Schatzberg's retirement from Cape Cod Community College, and recognizing the following Board members who will be leaving the BHE:

- Jim Tarr, UMass Student Segmental Advisor, who has graduated from University of Massachusetts Lowell;
- Angel Donaghue Rodriguez, BHE Student Member, who has graduated from Salem State University; and
- Dr. Nancy Harrington, BHE Member and life-long contributor to public higher education who is stepping down for personal reasons.

Chair Desmond thanked each of these individuals for their contributions and their service, and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

In addition, Chair Desmond acknowledged that Dr. Francesca Purcell, DHE Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy, is leaving the DHE to become Provost at Massachusetts Bay Community College. He thanked Dr. Purcell for her tremendous contributions to the Department over the past eight years, and stated that he looked forward to continuing to work with her in her new role.

Chair Desmond concluded his remarks, noting recent and upcoming events celebrating student accomplishments, including: 29 Who Shine, the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Herter Scholarship Awards and the DHE's October 3, 2012, "Go Public" Event.

### **V. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

List of Documents Submitted by Commissioner Freeland:

*None submitted.*

Commissioner Freeland congratulated President Schatzberg on her retirement and her record of service and noted that he shares her goal of creating a sense of urgency for funding public higher education. He also acknowledged Francesca Purcell's departure from the DHE noting that she has been a mainstay in the Department for eight years. He went on to recognize the presidents in attendance: Bristol Community College President Jack Sbrega, Massasoit Community College President Charles Wall, Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn; he also recognized Executive Officers Bill Hart and Vincent Pedone from the Community College and State University Councils of Presidents, respectively. Additionally, he acknowledged Dr. Patricia Plummer of the University of Massachusetts.

He went on to review the meeting agenda, noting the high level of innovation that is taking place throughout Massachusetts public higher education and citing the Academic Affairs Committee motion regarding Northern Essex Community College's new Associate in Science in Medical Laboratory Technology as an example. He highlighted the presentation that would be made later in the day by Pat Crosson on Student Learning Outcomes, and noted that he would provide an end of the year "wrap-up," reporting on the major efforts of the year. He also announced that the University of Massachusetts Law School received provisional accreditation from the American Bar Association.

Commissioner Freeland commented on the FY13 budget, which is currently in conference and is slated to be finalized by the beginning of July. He commented on the marked difference between the House and Senate budgets in areas such as performance incentive funding, the scholarship accounts, the administrative account, and resources to advance the transfer agenda. He also noted that the two budget proposals are similar in that both call upon the BHE to play a stronger role, indicating that important discussions will need to take place in the fall regarding how this role will be implemented.

Commissioner Freeland also recognized the upcoming retirement of President Gomes at the end of the month. He commented that he had spoken with President Gomes and that President Gomes' sends his greetings to the Board. Commissioner Freeland, on behalf of the Board, expressed thanks to President Gomes for service.

## **VI. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS**

List of Documents Submitted by Dr. Saeyun Lee:

*None submitted.*

Dr. Saeyun Lee, Policy Director for the Executive Office of Education, delivered remarks on behalf of Secretary Reville who would arrive later in the day. Dr. Lee began by thanking President Schatzberg for welcoming the BHE to campus, and for her years of service. She continued, highlighting the work of the BHE and the Department in the following areas over the past year: student learning outcomes assessment, the Developmental Education Task Force, on-going conversations regarding increasing alignment across the system and on campuses, on-going cross-sector work such as higher education science requirements and the high school MassCore curriculum, Commissioner Killins' and Commissioner Freeland's attention to the training of early educators at community colleges, and the Education Preparation Initiative created at the EOE level.

Dr. Lee went on to comment on the FY13 budget, specifically noting the transfer piece in the Senate budget, as well as the proposed increase in funding for the community college sector. She then extended her best wishes to Dr. Harrington, Mr. Angel Donahue-Rodriguez, and Dr. Purcell as they move on from the BHE and Department.

## **VII. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS**

### **A. Community College Presidents' Report - President Wayne Burton, North Shore Community College**

List of Documents Submitted by President Burton:

*None submitted.*

President Burton delivered comments on behalf of the Community College Council of Presidents. He acknowledged Dr. Harrington's departure from the BHE and noted that she has

been an outstanding leader. He noted that upon her retirement, President Schatzberg's advocacy will be missed, and he extended congratulations to President Gomes on his 42 years of service to the Commonwealth. He welcomed Ellen Kennedy, Interim President of Berkshire Community College, commenting on her strength as a leader, and welcomed Francesca Purcell to her new on-campus role. Additionally, he thanked Dr. Lee for taking the time to listen to staff describe the transfer process.

President Burton noted that over the past year, as Chair of the Community College Council of Presidents, there have been challenges, but also successes - such as the \$20 million dollar grant that was secured collectively by the community colleges; the precision manufacturing program; and the Early College Program which is bearing fruit. He thanked Commissioner Freeland for his leadership.

President Burton also commented on the future challenges to be addressed such as the growing number of students with intellectual disabilities, the process of filling trustee positions, and supporting undocumented students in their pursuit of higher education.

He thanked Chair Desmond, Commissioner Freeland, Secretary Reville, and Dr. Lee for the opportunity to be the Community College representative on the Council of Presidents.

Secretary Reville arrived at 11:00 a.m., during President Burton's remarks.

**B. State University Presidents' Report – Fitchburg State University President Robert Antonucci on behalf of Salem State University President Patricia Meservey**

List of Documents Submitted by President Antonucci:

*Powerpoint presentation of the Task Force for Collaboration and Efficiency; Letter regarding the PACE Initiative.*

President Antonucci delivered remarks on behalf of the State University Council of Presidents. He echoed the sentiments of congratulations to all individuals previously mentioned and to the professional staff and faculty who focused on the students this year. He then noted that affordability and access are the focus of the State University presidents. President Antonucci provided a brief presentation on the Task Force for Collaboration and Efficiency, and outlined the activities of the Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency (PACE) initiative. He concluded by stating that the Council of Presidents is committed to advancing higher education in the state and will not settle for mediocrity. He bid everyone an enjoyable summer.

**X. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

List of Documents Submitted by Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez:

*None submitted.*

Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez delivered remarks on behalf of the Student Advisory Council (SAC). He remarked that SAC has enjoyed working with the BHE and he thanked the BHE staff for their effort on Higher Education Advocacy Day. He thanked Assistant Commissioner Nate Mackinnon for his support as a mentor and friend. Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez added that as an alumnus of Salem State University, it brings him joy to see individuals working to better other members of society. He commended the members of the Board for being model citizens.

**XI. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS (CONTINUED)**

List of Documents Submitted by Secretary Reville:  
*None submitted.*

Chair Desmond recognized that Secretary Reville arrived during the reports from the Presidents and asked if the Secretary had any remarks that he would like to share. Secretary Reville expressed his appreciation to President Schatzberg, Dr. Purcell, and Dr. Harrington for their service. He commented on Dr. Lee's work leading the teacher preparation commission.

Secretary Reville noted that BHE member Dr. Nancy Hoffman and Dr. Robert Schwartz of Harvard University are starting a national effort on building pathways with an early focus on careers. He also highlighted the work of a financial aid task force on family savings and noted upcoming retreats with the Boards and Commissioners of the Commonwealth's three education agencies to think about the long-term strategic plan for the entire education sector.

Board Member Thomas arrived at 11:20 a.m., during Secretary Reville's remarks.

## **XII. MOTIONS**

### **A. BHE MOTIONS**

List of Documents Used: *Board of Higher Education (BHE) Motions 12-08 to 12-09*

Commissioner Freeland introduced the motion to approve the appointment of Berkshire Community College (BCC) Presidential nominee Ellen Kennedy and described the role of the BHE in the presidential selection process which involves reviewing the local Board's recommendation and acting on it. He noted that the BHE had the opportunity to interview Interim President Kennedy. He then welcomed BCC Board Chair Susan Lombard, Vice Chair and Head of the Search Committee Ross Dindio, and Interim President Kennedy to address the BHE.

Chair Lombard began, recommending Ellen Kennedy as the next president of BCC. She noted that this recommendation came with the full, unanimous support of the BCC Board and BCC community. She noted that the national search yielded 38 candidates, including 3 strong finalists, and that the BCC Board concluded that Ellen Kennedy has the skill and leadership style to move the college forward and to help it excel in its performance measures.

President Kennedy addressed the BHE, stating that she was honored to be nominated and that she is committed to the college's providing valuable, high quality education at an affordable cost. She acknowledged the higher education leaders present and thanked them and the BCC community for this opportunity.

Chair Desmond brought forth the following motion. It was seconded and then approved unanimously by all Board members present.

### **BHE 12-08 BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the May 22, 2012 recommendation of the Berkshire Community College Board of Trustees to appoint Ms. Ellen Kennedy as President and Chief Executive Officer of

Berkshire Community College. Such appointment is effective July 1, 2012, and is subject to and in accordance with the attached terms and conditions of appointment.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(q) and 21

**Contact:** Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

Chair Desmond then brought forth the following motion. It was seconded and then approved unanimously by all Board members present.

**BHE 12-09 DELEGATION OF SUMMER AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSIONER**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education delegates to the Commissioner until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board its authority to take such action, in consultation with and upon the advice of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board, as is deemed necessary or desirable.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

**Contact:** Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

Vice Chair Louis Riccardi, excused himself from the meeting, citing a prior commitment.

**B. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Hoffman reviewed the activities of the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) meeting. Dr. Hoffman brought forth the following motions on a consent agenda. The consent agenda motion was seconded and then approved unanimously by all Board members present.

**AAC 12-45 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

AAC 12-38 Bristol Community College  
Associate in Science in Paralegal Studies

AAC 12-39 Northern Essex Community College  
Associate in Science in Medical Laboratory Technology

AAC 12-40 Fisher College  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

AAC 12-41 Johnson & Wales University  
Bachelor of Science in Equine Business Management and  
Bachelor of Science in Equine Business Management with

Riding

AAC 12-42 Marian Court College  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

AAC 12-43 MGH Institute of Health Professions  
Master of Science in Health Professions Education

AAC 12-44 University of Southern California  
Master of Arts in Teaching and the Master of Social Work

**Authority:** Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

**Contact:** Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 12-38 APPLICATION OF BRISTOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO AWARD THE ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN PARALEGAL STUDIES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Bristol Community College** to award the **Associate in Science in Paralegal Studies**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, the College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources, and program effectiveness.

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

**Contact:** Dr. Francesca Purcell  
Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 12-39 APPLICATION OF NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO AWARD THE ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Northern Essex Community College** to award the **Associate in Science in Medical Laboratory Technology**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, the College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources, and program effectiveness.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)  
**Contact:** Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 12-40 APPLICATION OF FISHER COLLEGE TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **Fisher College** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice**.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.  
**Contact:** Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

**AAC 12-41 APPLICATION OF JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EQUINE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EQUINE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WITH RIDING**

**MOVED:** The Board hereby approves the Certificates of Organization of **Johnson & Wales University** to offer the **Bachelor of Science in Equine Business Management** and **Bachelor of Science in Equine Business Management with Riding**.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.  
**Contact:** Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

**AAC 12-42 APPLICATION OF MARIAN COURT COLLEGE TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **Marian Court College** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Business Administration**.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.  
**Contact:** Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

**AAC 12-43 APPLICATION OF MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS TO AWARD THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **MGH Institute of Health Professions** to award the **Master of Science in Health Professions Education**.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

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

**AAC 12-44 APPLICATION OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO AWARD THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING AND THE MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK**

The Board hereby approves the Certificates of Organization of the **University of Southern California** to offer the **Master of Arts in Teaching** and **Master of Social Work**.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

Dr. Hoffman brought forth the following motions on a consent agenda. The consent agenda motion was seconded and then approved by all Board members present.

**AAC 12-48 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

AAC 12-46 Establishment of Massasoit Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program

AAC 12-47 Renewal of the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the Commonwealth Honors Program

**Authority:** Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 12-46 ESTABLISHMENT OF MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and approves the establishment of **Massasoit Community College** membership in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for six years, effective June 19, 2012.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006.

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P16 Policy

**AAC 12-47 RENEWAL OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **University of Massachusetts Amherst** in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for six years, effective June 19, 2012.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006.

**Contact:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P16 Policy

Dr. Hoffman introduced the motion to amend the science requirement admissions standards. Board member Barron noted that he had abstained during the Committee meeting on this motion because he is concerned that the proposal will shift the way that the natural and physical sciences are taken and that the view may become that the natural and physical sciences are no longer necessary. He supports the proposal, but feels that the content of the natural and physical sciences is very important. He suggested a resolution that the BHE monitor the effect of the change over the next three years to make sure the goals are achieved, by asking the Department to report back data. After discussion among the Board members, it was concluded that the Department will track, informally, baseline data and will report regularly any changes that they see, with the expectation that within a three-year period, there will be a report to the Board.

The following motion was then made, seconded and approved by all Board members present.

**AAC 12-49 AMENDING SCIENCE REQUIREMENT OF ADMISSION STANDARDS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the following standard for approving admissions policies for four-year public institutions of higher education in the area of science effective upon adoption by the Board:

Science, 3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 2 courses with laboratory work. Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school.

The Board of Higher Education further adopts the following standard for approving admissions policies for four-year public institutions of higher education in the area of science effective for the freshman class entering fall 2017:

Science, 3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 3 courses with laboratory work. Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, §§ 9(c) and 9(h); and Chapter 75, §§ 1, 1A(h), and 2

**Contact:** Aundrea Kelley, Deputy Commissioner for P-16 Policy and Collaborative Initiatives

Dr. Hoffman brought forth the following motion regarding BHE input into MassCore. Board Member Thomas questioned the need for the motion. Board Member Barron explained that this resolution came up at the AAC meeting in the context of discussing the proposal to amend the science requirement of the BHE's admissions standards. He stated that if the primary purpose behind that motion (AAC 12-49) was to achieve alignment with MassCore, then it was necessary for the BHE to have the opportunity to provide input whenever MassCore changes are being considered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Secretary Reville stated that he thought the motion was *pro forma*, since such inter-agency discussions are a necessary part of the process. He stated that he will vote in favor of the motion, but that he does not want that to be an indicator that the BHE has taken umbrage to the current process.

The motion was seconded and then approved by all Board members present.

#### **AAC 12-50 RESOLUTION CONCERNING INPUT INTO MASSCORE**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby resolves that it requests an opportunity to provide input when and if the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is considering any changes to MassCore.

**Authority:** M.G.L. Ch. 15A, Section 9

**Contact:** Aundrea Kelley, Deputy Commissioner for P-16 Policy and Collaborative Initiatives

#### **C. FISCAL AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

Board member Boylan review the activities of the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy (FAAP) Committee meeting, noting the various presentations that were made and motions that were discussed. She then brought forth the following motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously by all Board members present.

#### **FAAP 12-28 APPROVAL OF COMPLETION INCENTIVE GRANT FUND GUIDELINES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the attached guidelines for the Completion Incentive Grant Fund pilot program.  
**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9B  
**Contact:** Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

Board Member Boylan brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded and then approved unanimously by all Board members present.

**FAAP 12-29 2011 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT**

**MOVED:** That the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee accepts the 2011 Optional Retirement Program Annual Report as presented by the Department of Higher Education.  
**Authority:** M.G.L. c. 15A, §§ 6 and 40; and FAAP Motion 11-04  
**Contact:** Stephen Lenhardt, Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance

Secretary Reville left the meeting at 11:46 a.m., citing a prior commitment.

**XIII. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment**

*List of Documents Used: The Vision Project Timeline of Massachusetts' Work on Learning Outcomes Assessment, May, 2012; Davis Educational Foundation Advancing a Massachusetts Culture of Assessment (AMCOA) Grant Proposal; AMCOA: Phase II Project Narrative Submitted to Davis Educational Foundation; AMCOA Phase II Project Components, Activities, Resource Needs and Sources; MDHE Task Force on Statewide Assessment; MDHE Massachusetts Team; Multi-State Collaborative Meeting Invitation to State Higher Education Executive Officers; May 29-30, 2011, Multi-State Collaborative Meeting Program; Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment Proposal from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education with the Support of AAC&U and SHEEO, March 2012.*

Commissioner Freeland invited Dr. Patricia Crosson and Dr. Peggy Maki to present to the BHE on Student Learning Outcomes Assessment. He noted that they would provide a progress report on one aspect of the Vision Project (Student Learning Outcomes) and stated that the ultimate goal of this portion of the Vision Project is to improve the quality of student learning. Another goal is to work with campuses in Massachusetts to develop a different and more collaborative approach to the assessment of student learning and to work with other states as well on the same goals. He noted that there is potential for national leadership in this area. He added that the college completion agenda must go "hand in hand" with efforts to improve and assess the quality of student learning.

He then described the work of the AMCOA Team, led by Dr Maki and three faculty co-chairs, and the Massachusetts Team and State Partner Team led by Dr. Crosson. The AMCOA Team is supporting campuses in their own assessment efforts. The other two teams are working on a state level assessment system that will build from student and faculty work and allow for comparisons of assessment results across states.

Commissioner Freeland reviewed a timeline of activity over two years in outcomes assessment, with the campus and system work delineated.

Commissioner Freeland introduced Dr. Maki whose work is supported by a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation and noted that she is a nationally known assessment expert. Dr. Maki then described prior year activities, highlighting that she has visited all 29 institutions, met with chancellors and provosts, and has written assessment programs highlighting strengths and weaknesses.

Each institution had two representatives on the AMCOA team. They met monthly to focus on the authentic work that students produce. They also offered four statewide assessment conferences. They expanded their knowledge of the practice of scoring work and the AAC&U oversaw 15 criteria sheets on skills, tasks, and dispositions. Dr. Maki noted that next year will bring equally hard work.

Commissioner Freeland noted that Dr. Maki's report is remarkable in that it documents that we have built a coalition of people system-wide who are committed to this assessment movement. He then introduced Dr. Crosson, who presented on her work, using the timeline of activity previously referenced by the Commissioner.

Regarding LEAP state status, she offered two reasons for the working group's recommendation: 1) they saw it as a model of what Massachusetts could do; and 2) Commissioner Freeland asked them to develop a plan to compare Massachusetts student learning with other states. Twenty-two campuses indicated that they were willing to go forward with the state's request for LEAP status. Once LEAP status was achieved, Massachusetts approached AAC&U and SHEEO regarding convening a conference of states to discuss working together. That conference took place at the end of May 2012 and Massachusetts is preparing the next steps as part of the AMCOA II proposal. The Massachusetts Team and the Task Force will work on the next steps, and the State Partner Team will help them work on the collaborative work.

Commissioner Freeland stated that Dr. Maki's work goes to the heart of the teaching process and Dr. Crosson's work focuses on achieving national leadership in communicating outcomes to the public.

Board member Reimers inquired about institutional assessment. With respect to internal norms, alignment of norms and employees, and whether people are taking the right fields to contribute to the economic environment, he asked, how these three items get prioritized? Dr. Maki responded that there are 15 rubrics which were reviewed by business leaders. She added that the three rubrics that are being worked on now were on the top of the employers' list. Each assessment rubric can be applied to all areas of study. The institutions now have advisory boards and provide on-going commentary on this. Commissioner Freeland added that AAC&U places a big priority on ensuring that the priorities of the education community align with those of the business community.

Board member Thomas inquired about how outcome and portfolio assessment differ. Dr. Maki responded that the future is in electronic portfolios and Pat Crosson added that electronic portfolios will allow the communication across states and at the campus level.

He followed up, inquiring, if critical mass is not achieved, will this effort not offer those benefits? Commissioner Freeland offered that this has significant value even without the cross-state comparison.

Board member Thomas asked if employers would use the assessments as screening tools for hiring and Dr. Crosson added that Terry Rhodes, AAC&U Vice President for Quality, Curriculum, and Assessment, has said that business leaders want to see these portfolios with student self-assessments.

The discussion continued, touching upon whether or not this would be used as a sampling technique and how comparisons would be made in the absence of standardized courses. Commissioner Freeland commented that, ultimately, this form of assessment becomes embedded in all work and becomes a baseline. Dr. Crosson added that in this assessment, there are 15 essential learning outcomes (in both knowledge and skills) and rubrics are developed in connection with those 15 outcomes in mind. The rubrics are detailed and break down into a narrative. She added that this initiative has strong implications for training and retraining.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Freeland thanked Dr. Crosson and Dr. Maki for their work over the past years.

Chair Desmond introduced the next presentation which was the Commissioner's Year-end Report.

## **B. Commissioner's Year-end Report**

*List of Documents Used: Commissioner's FY12 Wrap-Up, PowerPoint Presentation, June 19, 2012*

Commissioner Freeland's year-end report highlighted a number of areas including Board oversight; the activities of the Academic Affairs Committee, specifically, its role in fostering constructive discussion and collaboration with UMass on doctoral education; the FAAP Committee's initiation of the financial aid pilot program to use financial aid in a more strategic way; and the Committee's review of the Optional Retirement Program which takes the level of Board oversight to a higher level. He also noted the new presidential appointments.

Regarding the Vision Project's college participation agenda, Commissioner Freeland reiterated that one goal is to ensure students arrive college-ready. He noted on-going efforts in strategic areas to advance the college participation agenda. Regarding the Student Learning agenda, he highlighted that the statewide STEM plan is serving as a national model. He also reviewed the Performance Incentive Fund and stated that the first Vision Project Annual Report is due in September 2012.

Commissioner Freeland summarized the Department's administrative duties, which involve Student Affairs, Administrative and Financial Affairs, Communication and Outreach, and External Funding, and highlighted FY2012 accomplishments.

Chair Desmond thanked Commissioner Freeland for his hard work. Board member Thomas added that the Board has provided intellectual oversight and leadership over

some tough issues this year. Chair Desmond commented that next year will be even more challenging, with heightened attention on all levels.

**XIV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**XV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests from the public to participate.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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