

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

January 29, 2013

10:00 a.m.

Bridgewater State University
Rondileau Campus Center, Small Ballroom
19 Park Avenue
Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Bridgewater State University (BSU) in Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

The following Board members were present:

Charles Desmond, Chair
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair
Matthew Malone, Secretary of Education
David Barron
Gianni Falzone, Student Member, University of Massachusetts Lowell
C. Bernard Fulp
Nancy Hoffman
Saeyun Lee, Designee for Secretary Malone
Keith Peden
Tina Sbrega
Paul Toner
David Chapin, Segmental Advisor, Quinsigamond Community College

The following Board members were absent:

Fernando Reimers
Henry Thomas
Nathan Gregoire, Segmental Advisor, Fitchburg State University

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Desmond called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Mr. Ricciardi, BHE Vice chair and Chair of the Bridgewater State University Board of Trustees, introduced BSU President Dana Mohler-Faria.

II. WELCOME

President Mohler-Faria welcomed the BHE to campus and discussed BSU's successes, specifically in terms of its increased enrollments, retention rates, and graduation rates; its increasing numbers of full-time faculty; and the number of degrees conferred. He also discussed the transformative opportunities available to students at BSU (e.g., participation in undergraduate research and internships). President Mohler-Faria highlighted BSU's programs for at-risk youth as well as its standing as the largest public preparer of K-12 educators. He also discussed the goals outlined in BSU's strategic plan and its 5 major renovations and new building. A short question and answer session followed President Mohler-Faria's remarks.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Desmond brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2012, BHE Meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At Chair Desmond's request, all BHE members introduced themselves. He also introduced Tina Sbrega, the BHE's newest member, who is also the Chair of the Mount Wachusett Board of Trustees. He thanked President Mohler-Faria and his staff for hosting both the joint meeting of the BHE and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as well as the BHE meeting.

Chair Desmond noted that on May 31, 2012, Governor Deval Patrick signed Senate Bill 2254, An Act Relative to Veterans' Access, Livelihood, Opportunity, and Resources, also known as the VALOR Act. Among other provisions, the Valor Act calls for the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to develop a policy requiring each public institution of higher education to develop a set of policies and procedures governing the evaluation of a student's military occupations, military training, coursework, and experience, in order to determine whether academic credit shall be awarded for such experience, training, and coursework. To the greatest extent possible, this policy should provide for consistent application across all twenty-nine public campuses while also being consistent with each institution's admission standards and the mission of the Commonwealth's system of public higher education. To this end, the Department will be circulating an online questionnaire to all public campuses seeking information about current policies and procedures regarding the evaluation of students' military experience, training and coursework for academic credit, campuses' opinions of common methods for evaluating military experience and coursework and other pertinent information. Additionally, the Veterans staff is diligently working on Veterans Administration compliance visits.

Chair Desmond discussed the charge to the BHE included in the FY13 Budget to issue new guidelines for the search, selection, appointment, evaluation, compensation and removal of presidents. In the early Fall, the Department prepared draft guidelines covering search, selection, appointment and removal; a final version of these guidelines was approved by the BHE at its October meeting and is now in effect.

We are now turning our attention to compensation and evaluation guidelines. Although the BHE currently has compensation and evaluation guidelines in place for both the state university and community college segments, at its October 16, 2012 meeting the BHE recognized the current compensation and evaluation guidelines and charged Commissioner Freeland to work with the BHE's Executive Committee to review the document in the coming year, and to propose any revisions. A draft document which is in furtherance of that charge was forwarded to all Trustees, and copied to the Presidents, on December 21, 2012. Comments are due by May 21, 2013. This timeframe will allow the BHE to consider these guidelines at its June meeting. It will also allow for any new BHE-approved guidelines to be in effect in time to guide the next round of presidential reviews, which typically occur in the summer or early fall of each academic year. We look forward to the comments and final recommended guidelines.

Chair Desmond concluded his remarks and turned the meeting over to Commissioner Freeland.

V. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Commissioner Freeland began his remarks by recognizing the Presidents in attendance who would not be delivering remarks at the meeting: Cape Cod Community College President John Cox, Mount Wachusett Community College President Dan Asquino, Bristol Community College President Jack Sbrega, Roxbury Community College Interim President Linda Edmonds Turner, Fitchburg State University President Robert Antonucci, Worcester State University President Barry Maloney, as well as the Executive Officers of the Community College and State University Councils of Presidents, Bill Hart and Vincent Pedone, respectively. He also welcomed Ms. Sbrega to the BHE.

Commissioner Freeland discussed the recent BHE Retreat and noted the themes discussed which included: the BHE's interest in opportunities to interact with campus leaders and the BHE's desire to be a central point of collaboration among campuses. He also noted Governor Patrick's State of the State speech and its expressed support for public higher education.

He then noted that Sean Nelson has joined the Department of Higher Education (DHE) as Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance. A search is underway as well for a Chief Academic Officer for the DHE. In addition, searches for a Budget Director for Administration and Finance, an Executive Director of the STEM Council, and a Director of the Office of Trustee Relations are also underway. On a related note, the DHE is also looking for additional space to accommodate personnel.

Commissioner Freeland also highlighted recent presentations he has made to promote the Vision Project Report and upcoming speaking engagements. He concluded his remarks by commenting on the following items: the joint DHE/EEC group working on how to provide college-level training to children, the College Completion Agenda, and the Student Learning Agenda, the Rapid Response Fund, High-demand Scholarships, the Civic Engagement Task Force, and Collaboration & Efficiency.

VI. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

List of Documents Submitted by the Secretary of Education:

None submitted.

Dr. Lee delivered remarks on behalf of Secretary Malone. She thanked President Mohler-Faria and BSU Chair Ricciardi for their efforts in closing the gap in success rates at BSU. She then noted the themes and process involved in the FY2014 Budget recommendation, highlighting the Governor's focus on investment in education and transportation, access and improved quality at all levels, and closing achievement gaps. She then remarked on the following items: universal access to education from birth to age 5; increased Chapter 70 funding; and extended learning opportunities. She also remarked on the Mass Grant Scholarship, the Completion Incentive Fund, and workforce development. A question was posed about curriculum design and Dr. Lee noted that the Executive Office of Education (EOE) has launched a cross-sector educator preparation program. Dr. Lee also noted that the EOE is working with the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development on workforce development. In closing, Dr. Lee offered her thanks to Commissioners Chester and Freeland for their leadership on the PARCC Initiative.

Secretary Malone joined the meeting at this time – coming from the concurrent Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting – and emphasized the elements of the Governor’s plan which focus on closing achievement gaps and ensuring affordable access to public education for everyone.

Chair Desmond then invited Holyoke Community College President William Messner to deliver the report from the Community College Council of Presidents.

VII. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

A. Community College Presidents’ Report - President William Messner, Holyoke Community College

List of Documents Submitted by President Messner:

None submitted.

President Messner delivered remarks on behalf of the Community College Council of Presidents. He first extended an invitation to Secretary Malone to the monthly meetings of the Council of Presidents so that they can discuss ways to work together. He also welcomed Ms. Sbrega to the BHE. He made note that the 15 community colleges pledge support for the Governor’s budget. He also noted that it will be important for the formula to take into account the apparent inequities in funding of the community colleges.

He continued, conveying the Community Colleges’ support for the increase in the Mass Grant scholarships. He also noted that the Colleges are working with the Commissioner to develop momentum around the possibility of a new capital bond bill. He reported that the PACE initiative is moving forward and that a Memo of Agreement has been signed with the state Gaming Commission whereby the Community Colleges would take the lead in developing a workforce plan. Lastly, he noted a recent trip to the Complete College America Conference where it was observed that some states had been very intentional in their establishment of a task force on college completion –with members including the Governor, legislators, higher education representatives, and k-12 representatives.

Chair Desmond thanked President Messner for this report.

B. State University Presidents’ Report

List of Documents Submitted:

None submitted.

There was no report from the State University Council of Presidents.

Chair Desmond invited student BHE member Gianni Falzone to deliver remarks on behalf of the Student Advisory Council.

X. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

List of Documents Submitted by Mr. Gianni Falzone:

None submitted.

Mr. Falzone delivered remarks on behalf of the Student Advisory Council. He noted that the Student Advisory Council is working closely with the Board of Higher Education. They recently delivered their letter to the Governor and invited Senator Warren to the Student Leadership

Conference. March 5th, he noted, is Higher Education Advocacy Day. He expressed his interest in gathering more information on PARCC and communicating it to the campuses.

Chair Desmond thanked Mr. Falzone for his remarks.

XI. MOTIONS

A. BHE

List of Documents Used:
BHE Motion 13-01

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

BHE 13-01 MOTION TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF A BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS OF FINALISTS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCHES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education (BHE) hereby approves the creation of a Committee to conduct interviews of candidates selected as finalists by search committees in Community College Presidential searches, consistent with the *Guidelines and Procedures for the Search, Selection, Appointment and Removal of Community College Presidents*, as approved by the BHE on October 16, 2012.

The members of the Committee, as well as the Chair, shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Higher Education.

Authority: Board of Higher Education By-Laws, Article I, Section 3 and Article III, Section 3; *BHE Guidelines and Procedures for the Search, Selection, Appointment and Removal of Community College Presidents*, Section II.E (October 16, 2012).

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

XII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Massachusetts Articulated System of Transfer (MAST) – Paul Raverta, Ph.d., former President of Berkshire Community College and Kate Harrington, Ed.D., Acting Senior Director for Academic Policy

List of Documents Used: “*Massachusetts Articulated System of Transfer (MAST)*”, PowerPoint presentation, January 29, 2013.

Dr. Raverta and Dr. Harrington presented to the BHE the Massachusetts Articulated System of Transfer. They began with a history of the transfer program and shared recent developments and current goals which include: the creation of an electronic searchable database of course-to-course equivalencies across all of public higher education; the alignment of curriculum within majors to ensure smoother transfer and

reduced need for repeating courses and taking additional courses; and the development of a common transfer policy for community colleges.

After the presentation, a discussion included questions on how the database would be kept accurate and up-to-date and how its accuracy would be maintained. Another topic of discussion was how this work marries with stackable credits in certificate programs.

Chair Desmond thanked Drs. Raverta and Harrington for their work and for sharing their progress with the Board.

B. College and Career Readiness Communications Campaign: Future Ready – Linda Noonan, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education

List of Documents Used: “College and Career Readiness Communications Campaign: Future Ready”, PowerPoint presentation, January 29, 2013.

At this time, noting that the meeting was running over its allotted time, Ms. Noonan offered that she and her co-presenters could come back and present at the next BHE meeting. Chair Desmond agreed, and stated that he would put the Future Ready presentation on the next meeting’s agenda.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests from the public to participate.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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