

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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March 12, 2013  
9 a.m.

Quinsigamond Community College  
Harrington Learning Center, Room 109 A&B  
670 West Boylston Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The following Board members were present:

Charles Desmond, Chair  
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair  
Saeyun Lee, Designee for Secretary Malone  
Dani Monroe  
Nancy Hoffman  
Tina Sbrega  
Henry Thomas  
C. Bernard Fulp  
David Chapin, Segmental Advisor, Quinsigamond Community College

The following Board members were absent:

Fernando Reimers  
Nathan Gregoire, Segmental Advisor, Fitchburg State University  
David Barron  
Gianni Falzone  
Keith Peden  
Paul Toner

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

Chair Desmond called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and noted that Senator Michael Moore, Chair of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, was in attendance. He invited Senator Moore to make remarks. Senator Moore noted the great work QCC has done in workforce development and reminded those present that revenue from gaming is earmarked towards education. Chair Desmond thanked Senator Moore for his comments and invited QCC President Gail Carberry to address the Board.

#### **II. WELCOME**

QCC President Gail Carberry welcomed the BHE to campus. She noted that 2013 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of QCC and emphasized its mission of social and economic justice. She then emphasized the school's goal of shortening the length of time it takes for a person to become fully educated and offered details on QCC's efforts in Southbridge, where a branch campus was opened in 2009.

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

Chair Desmond then brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the January 29, 2013, joint meeting between the BHE and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all board members present.

Chair Desmond then brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the January 29, 2013, BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all board members present.

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

Chair Desmond then introduced recently appointed BHE member Ms. Dani Monroe who expressed her enthusiasm for joining the BHE. Chair Desmond then continued his remarks, highlighting the upcoming "29 Who Shine Event" which will take place at the Massachusetts State House on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Student Leadership Conference which took place on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Fitchburg State University. He urged today's attendees to encourage students to apply for the student BHE member position. Chair Desmond then turned to Commissioner Freeland to offer his remarks.

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

Commissioner Freeland introduced the Department of Higher Education's new Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance, Sean Nelson. He expressed thanks to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Mitchell Chester for sharing staff resources and "loaning" to the DHE the DESE's Budget Director, Rachel Trant. He added that Elena Quiroz had recently joined the DHE as Administrative Assistant.

He continued his remarks, noting the presentations he has made and meetings he has held recently to generate support for the Governor's budget. He expressed thanks to the presidents who have been reaching out within their communities as well and to Mr. Toner who has been organizing the union's efforts.

Commissioner Freeland highlighted a recent meeting on the PARCC initiative and reported that the Common Course Numbering Initiative is moving forward. He shared that the Civic Engagement Task Force would submit a report in the spring.

Chair Desmond asked the BHE members to introduce themselves. After brief introductions, he invited Dr. Lee to make remarks on behalf of Secretary Malone.

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

List of Documents Submitted by the Secretary of Education:

*None submitted.*

Dr. Lee conveyed Secretary Malone's regret that he could not attend today's meeting due to an unavoidable conflict. She thanked President Carberry for hosting today's meeting and welcomed Ms. Monroe to the BHE. Dr. Lee went on to express thanks on behalf of Secretary Malone to the presidents who have welcomed him as he has toured campuses. She also thanked Mr. Chapin and his fellow students for their passion and commitment and for leading student advocacy.

Dr. Lee went on to address the budget, noting that the Governor's budget has been released and the House version will come out in April. The Executive Office appreciates the opportunity to testify before its legislative colleagues.

Regarding the action items on the agenda, Dr. Lee noted that the PARCC vote had been discussed at the joint meeting between the BESE and the BHE and that it this marks a critically important moment to move forward. She also highlighted that the theme of partnership would continue in today's presentations on Future Ready Massachusetts and on the Office of Workforce Coordination.

## **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 highlighted several actions and events involving the Community College Presidents including efforts to generate support for the Governor's budget. He also noted the Annual Legislative Breakfast held at Westfield State University and hosted by Westfield State President Evan Dobelle and Vice President of Government Relations Ken Lemanski at which students delivered a presentation to legislators. He added that public higher education is a priority for the state, but the challenge is identifying sources of revenue. The Funding Formula changes the budget for Community Colleges and draws attention to it. He continued, stating that the Collective Bargaining costs are as important as the Funding Formula. Regarding the Completion agenda, state and national meetings focus on college completion and there is a particularly keen focus on community colleges. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Boston Foundation report will be released. It focuses on developmental education and is being released in a collegial and collaborative fashion. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be a forum involving the business community and community colleges.

### **B. State University Presidents' Report - President Barry Maloney, Worcester State University**

List of Documents Submitted by President Maloney:

*None submitted.*

President Maloney offered remarks on behalf of the State University Council of Presidents. He highlighted last week's Public Higher Education Advocacy Day in which all three segments participated and of which the focus was investment in public higher education. He also noted the Council of Presidents' understanding of the fact that in five years, Massachusetts will lead in the number of jobs requiring a college education. He expressed the Council's advocacy for full funding of collective bargaining. Regarding collaboration and efficiency, he noted that the Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiency (PACE) is working to generate cost savings and additional revenue. He offered the Worcester Consortium – a public/private partnership of 12 member institutions and 14 associate member institutions as an example of the type of collaboration PACE encourages.

President Maloney also expressed his thanks to Commissioner Freeland and the BHE for its support. He shared that, through the Vision Project grant funds which were

applied to the school's "Succeed in 4" campaign, Worcester State University has improved its six-year graduation rate.

**VIII. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

List of Documents Submitted by Mr. David Chapin:

*None submitted.*

Mr. Chapin provided an update from the Student Advisory Council (SAC) extending thanks to the BHE staff for its support of the Student Leadership Conference. The students enjoyed it. He also thanked Secretary Malone for his energizing keynote speech. He also read an email from Springfield Technical Community College expressing thanks to all who helped with Student Advocacy Day. He noted that the members of SAC would like to have a presentation on PARCC and will choose a community college student to fill the student BHE member position for next year.

**IX. MOTIONS**

**A. Academic Affairs**

List of Documents Used:

*AAC Motions 13-16 through 13-21*

Dr. Hoffman reviewed the activities of the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) meeting. She noted that the Committee received an interim report from the Developmental Education Task Force and a brief report from the Task Force on For-profit Institutions and On-line Education. She added that the committee reviewed four new programs.

Dr. Hoffman then brought forth the following motions on a consent agenda. The consent agenda motion was made and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**AAC 13-20 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| AAC 13-16 | University of Massachusetts Amherst<br>Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food & Farming                    |
| AAC 13-17 | University of Massachusetts Amherst<br>Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Horticulture                      |
| AAC 13-18 | University of Massachusetts Amherst<br>Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Science and<br>Management           |
| AAC 13-19 | Northpoint Bible College<br>Associate of Arts in Bible and Theology<br>Master of Arts in Practical Theology |

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

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

Dr. Hoffman then brought forth the following motion, commenting that it is the foundation on which assessment development will be based. A brief discussion followed during which board members commented on the significance of the joint meeting and the opportunity it provided for important discussion. It was also noted that additional joint meetings would be beneficial.

The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AAC 13-21 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MASSACHUSETTS DEFINITION OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education (BHE) hereby approves the attached Massachusetts Definition of College and Career Readiness.

The Massachusetts Definition of College and Career Readiness, which has also been approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, is designed to align K-12 and higher education efforts by providing a common foundation on which to coordinate college and career readiness initiatives of the respective sectors. It articulates the knowledge, skills, attitudes and experiences that provide the framework for college and career readiness, support educational and workplace success, and serve as the basis for being an active participant in our democracy.

This shared definition will provide a touchstone for the Departments of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Education as we move forward on issues related to the Vision Project, MassCore, the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, and other joint projects, and will provide both agencies with a uniform definition of what the Commonwealth's students will require to be college and career ready. This definition signals a true partnership and common understanding between each sector regarding college and career readiness.

**Authority:** M.G.L. Chapter 15A, Sec. 9 (c) and (u)

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

Chair Desmond then turned to Mr. Fulp for an account of the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee meeting.

**B. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy**

*List of Documents Used:*

*FAAP Motions 13-23 through 13-38*

Mr. Fulp welcomed Board member Dani Monroe and Deputy Commissioner Sean Nelson. He then reviewed the activities of the FAAP Committee Meeting noting that Deputy Commissioner Nelson gave the Committee an update on the pending information technology assessment procurement. During Mr. Fulp's remarks, Mr. Ricciardi departed due to a previously scheduled commitment. Mr. Fulp concluded his comments noting that the Committee also considered amendments to the Optional Retirement Program (ORP), and received an update from DHE staff regarding their work in seeking an opinion from the IRS on a proposed correction to

the ORP plan regarding UMass Boston participant enrollment.

Mr. Fulp then brought forth the following motions on a consent agenda. The consent agenda motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FAAP 13-34 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- FAAP 13-23 Community Colleges  
Resident Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-24 Community Colleges  
Non-Resident Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-25 State Universities  
Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-26 State Universities  
Non-Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-27 State Universities  
Resident Graduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-28 State Universities  
Non-Resident Graduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-29 University of Massachusetts  
Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-30 University of Massachusetts  
Non-Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-31 University of Massachusetts  
Resident Graduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-32 University of Massachusetts  
Non-Resident Graduate Tuition Rates for FY2014
- FAAP 13-33 Berkshire Community College and  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
Alternative Non-Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for  
FY2014

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

**Contact:** Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance

Mr. Fulp then brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**FAAP 13-35 APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 CASH GRANT AWARDS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education allocates Cash Grant awards, contingent upon state funding, to institutions of public higher education for Fiscal Year 2014, as attached.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Sections 9(i) and 16

**Contact:** Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

Mr. Fulp then brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FAAP 13-36 APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 NEED-BASED TUITION WAIVER AWARDS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education requires that each institution provide a program of need-based tuition waivers to qualifying students and authorizes the Commissioner to administer the Need-Based Tuition Waiver Program at the level of \$19,905,043 for Fiscal Year 2014 with institutional need-based tuition waiver awards not to exceed the allocation, as attached.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9(i) and 19

**Contact:** Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

Mr. Fulp then brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FAAP 13-37 APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 MSCBA RENT CERTIFICATE**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the attached Fiscal Year 2014 residence hall rent schedules, effective July 1, 2013, provided that any subsequent increase in the rent schedules shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Higher Education.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapters 73 and 15A, section 9; Section 1-9 of Ch. 703 of the Acts of 1963, as amended; and the *Contract for Financial Assistance, Management and Services*, dated February 1, 2003, made between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through the Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts State College Building Authority.

**Contact:** Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner of Administration and Finance

Mr. Fulp then brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**FAAP 13-38 ADOPTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT**

**MOVED:** In accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 15A, Section 40, of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, the Board of Higher Education adopts Amendment No. 2 to the 2010 restatement of the Optional Retirement Program, represented by Attachment A, to be effective retroactively to January 1, 2012.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 40

**Contact:** Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance

**X. PRESENTATIONS**

**College and Career Readiness Communications Campaign: Future Ready**

Linda Noonan, Executive Director, Massachusetts Business Alliance of Education; Keith Westrich, Connecting Activities Director, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Nyal Fuentes, Educational Specialist, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Katy Abel, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs, Department of Higher Education.

List of Documents Used:

*Future Ready Massachusetts, PowerPoint Presentation, March 12, 2013*

Ms. Noonan and her colleagues detailed the efforts of the Future Ready public communications campaign to promote the Commonwealth's programs and tools to build college and career readiness. Efforts include the formation of an advisory council by GEAR UP; AT&T funding for the Youth Media Council; a summit to be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>; and Career Academics. Discussion followed and included comments on the differing challenges faced when educating children and adults and the importance of taking academically rigorous courses in middle school and high school. The concern was raised that a public awareness campaign alone will not be enough to meet the goal, and that grassroots efforts involving organizations that already work with families should be employed as well. This method would help reach people who otherwise would not receive the information due to obstacles such as language barriers or lack of internet access. The question of how "influential adult" is defined was also raised. The May 20<sup>th</sup> summit was noted as an opportunity to get information to people so that they can take advantage of the Future Ready initiative now.

**Office of Workforce Coordination**

David Cedrone, Associate Commissioner for Economic and Workforce Development, Department of Higher Education

List of Documents Used:

*Office of Workforce Coordination, PowerPoint Presentation, March 12, 2013*

Mr. Cedrone presented on the development of the Office of Workforce Coordination. He provided background for this new office which was created in response to legislation that charged the DHE with several workforce-related

mandates. He described the complex landscape of systems and programs involved in this endeavor. Entities involved will include the Executive Office of Education, the DHE, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. Programs include Pathways to Prosperity, the Nursing & Allied Health Initiative, and MassTransfer, among others. He went on to describe the funding landscape as well, noting federal, state and private funds to be utilized. He also described how this coordination would be managed. After detailing the various areas included in the workforce coordination agenda and in need of coordination, Mr. Cedrone noted additional consideration such as where else within higher education this type of coordination could be helpful. Topics of discussion after Mr. Cedrone's presentation included the skills gap in nursing, the filling of a workforce research position by the end of the year, and how the distance between Massachusetts' employment vacancies and its unemployed citizens is being bridged.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests from the public to participate.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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