

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 7, 2016
12:00 p.m.

Department of Higher Education
1 Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Main Conference Room
Boston, Massachusetts

Special Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in the DHE Conference Room, Room 1401 of One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts.

The following Board members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair
Sheila Harrity, Vice Chair
Tom Hopcroft
Donald Irving
J.D. LaRock
James Peyser, Secretary of Education
Paul Toner
Owen Wiggins
Jahziel Chase

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

The following Board members were absent:

Nancy Hoffman
Robert Johnson
Dani Monroe
Fernando Reimers
Henry Thomas

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:23 p.m.

II. MOTIONS

A. Board of Higher Education

Documents Used:

- *BHE Motion 16-08 Springfield Technical Community College Presidential Appointment, and attachments*

BHE 16-08 Springfield Technical Community College Presidential Appointment

Chairman Chris Gabrieli turned the meeting to Commissioner Carlos Santiago and asked that he provide a brief overview of the presidential search process.

Commissioner Santiago provided a brief summary of the general procedure that the Board Higher Education (BHE) has established for presidential searches under the approved guidelines. The Springfield Technical Community College (STCC)

presidential search followed the guidelines and the BHE was represented on the search committee by Dr. Susan Lane, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner for P16 Access and Alignment Policy. Commissioner Santiago noted his involvement throughout the process, which included his review and approval of the proposed position profile, approval of the semi-finalist pool, and interviews the finalists. Staff from the Executive Office of Education joined Commissioner Santiago during the finalist interviews. Before turning the discussion over to STCC Chairman Christopher Johnson, the Commissioner finalized his remarks by stating his recommended approval of the recommendation.

STCC Chair Johnson thanked the Commissioner and Chairman for the opportunity to address the BHE. Chair Johnson began his remarks by stating that the current President, Dr. Ira Rubenzahl, will be retiring in December. He continued his remarks by further elaborating on the search process, which consisted of selecting members to serve on the search committee, developing a request for proposals, reviewing applications, and eventually selecting Association of Community College Trustees as the search firm.

Chair Johnson stated that the position was posted nationally and locally, and 40 candidates applied for the position. Of the 40 applicants, 11 semi-finalists were interviewed via webcam over the course of two days. Of the 11 semi-finalists, four finalists and an alternate were selected; one candidate withdrew leaving the finalist pool to just four candidates.

Chair Johnson then provided an overview of the campus visits by each candidate. In April, the STCC Board voted to recommend Dr. John Cook as the next President.

Chairman Gabrieli then invited Dr. John Cook to address the Board. Dr. Cook began by describing his family's background in education. Dr. Cook spoke of his educational and professional background, highlighting his previous experience with teaching online. He elaborated on his experience working with dual enrollment programs, partnering with career technical education programs, assessment and accreditation. He concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for the opportunity to address the Board.

Chairman Gabrieli invited BHE members to ask questions of Dr. Cook. Questions touched upon engaging local technology companies, online learning and regulation for online courses, partnering with the K-12 system, collaborating with other institutions of higher education, technology innovation, effective use of resources, and also strategic planning.

There being no further discussion Chair Gabrieli called for a motion. The following motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Cook was duly made, seconded and passed unanimously:

**MOVED: SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT**

The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the April 25, 2016 recommendation of the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees recommending John B. Cook as President of Springfield Technical Community College. Such appointment is effective on or about August 1, 2016, is subject to the successful completion of a State Police background check, 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

III. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlos E. Santiago
Commissioner of the Department and
Secretary to the Board