

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
November 17, 2005**

The November 17, 2005, meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Framingham State College in Framingham, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

Stephen P. Tocco, Chair
G.L. (Peter) Alcock
Jeanne-Marie Boylan
John Brockelman

Kathleen Kelley
Amanda Lacouture
Ann Reale
Carole Thomson

Absent: Aaron Spencer, Richard Taylor and Karl White

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tocco called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2005, Board meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

WELCOME

Dr. Helen Heineman, President of Framingham State College, welcomed the Board to the newly renovated D. Justin McCarthy Student Center. Recent renovations at the College include the expansion of the dining area from 350 to 700 spaces, a game room, an art gallery and meeting rooms and renovations to the Beacon Tower, the dining hall, the Health and Wellness Center, and dormitory rooms. President Heineman highlighted recent campus construction projects, including a new recreation center, a technical center, campus signage, furniture, a track, artificial turf for the athletic field, and an entrance to Linsley Hall.

President Heineman noted that College personnel are working diligently on developing a new catalog and new College magazine. The College has also launched its pilot phase of the E-Portfolio for members of the Class of 2009. E-portfolio will allow students to document their growth over time in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service, as well as to engage in guided reflection about their experience as students at Framingham State College. a student résumé package. Development of new programs includes a new Business and Information Technology major, an Environmental Science major, and a Master's in Business Administration. The new College motto was also announced: *University Learning in a College Environment*.

After 32 years' association with Framingham State College, President Heineman is retiring at the end of January. Framingham's Vice President of Enrollment Management and Dean of Admission, Philip M. Dooher, will serve as Interim President while a presidential search is conducted.

Chair Tocco congratulated President Heineman on her remarkable career. Chancellor Judith I. Gill read the following proclamation:

R e s o l u t i o n

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education recognizes Dr. Helen Heineman's significant accomplishments during her 31 years at Framingham State College as an extraordinary teacher of Literature, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Acting President, and as President during the last six years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Heineman led Framingham State College to become the first public institution in Massachusetts to attain complete wireless technology and to require every full-time student to have a laptop computer; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Heineman, understanding the dynamic relationship of form to function, undertook major renovations of the campus, creating a new Athletic and Recreation Center, restoring the Ecumenical and

Cultural Center, establishing 30 “smart classrooms,” renovating dormitories, expanding the Student Center, and creating a beautiful, pedestrian-centered, campus quadrangle; and **WHEREAS**, Dr. Heineman, through her vision, wisdom, warmth and leadership, has enhanced public higher education by her service on countless Board of Higher Education task forces and committees and through her service as Co-Chair of the State College Council of Presidents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education commends Dr. Heineman for her devotion to students, to teaching and learning, and for her decades of service to Massachusetts public higher education and congratulates her on the occasion of her retirement from Framingham State College.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

The Chair spoke of the ABC News *Primetime* program to be aired this evening, which will highlight crime at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He said that the Board had only learned about the program earlier in the morning and expressed his concern about the reports of crime and alcohol abuse on campuses. He expressed regret that due to budget cuts, the Board no longer has a staff member assigned to monitor BHE campus policies in this area. He said that the Board would be diligent in reviewing any substantive allegations that may be made.

CHANCELLOR’S REMARKS

Chancellor Gill introduced new Board member, Ann Reale, Commissioner of Early Education and Care. Ms. Reale briefly addressed the Board, stating that her agency serves 50,000 children, newborn to 12, in the Commonwealth. Kathleen Kelley reported the many positive comments she had heard about the professionalism of the BHE staff from those who had worked with BHE staff members on the Early Childhood Educator Guidelines.

Chancellor Gill introduced Eileen O’Connor, who has recently been hired by the Board of Higher Education as Director of Communications. Ms. O’Connor is a former Corporate Communications Manager at Hill, Holiday, Connors, Cosmopolos; and has served most recently as the Communications Director at the Office of the Massachusetts State Treasurer. Ms. O’Connor will work with campus public relations directors and others toward the goal of advancing the importance and quality of public higher education to the public.

Chancellor Gill also:

1. congratulated Bristol, Cape Cod, and Massasoit Community Colleges, Bridgewater State College, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for their fine work in association with Connect, which was recently highlighted in a recent *Boston Globe* editorial.
2. announced that the Senate had passed Nursing and Allied Health Trust legislation; both public and private monies can be deposited so that the Board can make long-term grants in support of evolving priorities of the nursing initiative.
3. reported that the House and Senate passed economic stimulus bills, which are now in Conference Committee, have earmarked funding of up to \$4 million for the BHE to support STEM initiatives.

Chancellor Gill recognized presidents in the audience: Dr. Robert Antonucci of Fitchburg State College, Dr. Helen Heineman of Framingham State College, Dr. Robert Pura of Greenfield Community College, Dr. Carole Berotte Joseph of Massachusetts Bay Community College, Dr. Charles Wall of Massasoit Community College, Dr. Janelle Ashley of Worcester State College. Mr. Frederick Clark, Executive Officer of the State College Council of Presidents, and Janice Motta, Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges, were also recognized.

REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

Dr. Janelle Ashley, President of Worcester State College and Chair of the Executive Committee of the Council of Presidents, reported that in early summer 2004 the State College Council of Presidents appointed an ad hoc State College Task Force on Advising to determine current programmatic efforts and best practices in the areas of advising and retention. The Task Force was charged with identification and sharing of best practices, the determination of the importance of advising as it relates to student retention,

graduation rates, and student success. The work of the Task Force has been completed, and a report has been produced that identifies best advising practices among the campuses.

President Ashley thanked Chair Tocco and Chancellor Gill for their work on the state college faculty contract, and she brought the Board up to date on the contract's current status. She voiced concern that the Executive Office of Administration and Finance did not include roll-over costs for collective bargaining contributions from FY05 in the FY06 portion of the contract cost request, something that has been historically done for over 30 years. This omission has been brought to the attention of House and Senate leaders, as the state college presidents believe that roll-over funding must be included so that the colleges bear the actual contractually mandated campus funding commitments on a yearly basis and not the compounding costs for which the state has always assumed responsibility. They have further appealed that add-on funds to the contract, reflecting the roll-over issue, be debated separately from the underlying contract costs to avoid any disruption in having the primary contract funds approved expeditiously by the Legislature.

Aware that public higher education is now a priority with the Legislature, the business community, and editorial boards across the state, President Ashley affirmed the state college presidents' commitment to work with all stakeholders on a Higher Education Reform Act that would provide a solid foundation for future public and private investment in public higher education in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Robert Pura, President of Greenfield Community College and Chair of the Council of Community College Presidents, affirmed the community college presidents' commitment to access and affordability. He told the Board that the community college faculty contract has been endorsed by the Governor and has been sent to the House.

He thanked Chair Tocco, Chancellor Gill, state college and University colleagues for their efforts on the Senate Task Force Report. President Pura shared with the Board a brief description of several regional collaborative efforts. He noted that in the Northeast region, the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Salem State College, Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College and Northern Essex Community College have agreed to design a Northeast Regional Alliance called EdLink, and a mission statement has been drafted.

MOTIONS

John Brockelman, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, brought forth the following consent agenda motion. Mr. Brockelman advised that each motion had been reviewed thoroughly by Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy. The consent motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

AAC 06-01 APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MOTIONS ON A CONSENT AGENDA

AAC 06-02 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST: DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

AAC 06-03 BENTLEY COLLEGE: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ACCOUNTANCY, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BUSINESS

AAC 06-04 NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF ART: ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ADVERTISING

AAC 06-05 PINE MANOR COLLEGE: MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws, MGL Ch 15, Section 9(b), MGL Ch 69, Section 30 et seq.
Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

AAC 06-02 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST: DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the expedited application of the University of Massachusetts Amherst to award the Doctor of Audiology.

One year after graduating the program's first class, the University 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.

AAC 06-03 BENTLEY COLLEGE: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ACCOUNTANCY AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BUSINESS

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Bentley College to award the Doctor of Philosophy in Accountancy and Doctor of Philosophy in Business.

AAC 06-04 NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF ART, INC.: ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY, THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHOTOGRAPHY, AND THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ADVERTISING

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of The New England Institute of Art, Inc., to award the Associate in Science in Photography; the Bachelor of Science in Photography; and the Bachelor of Science in Advertising. Prior to enrolling students in the degree programs, The New England Institute of Art, Inc., must meet the following condition:

Submit the résumés or CVs of the department chairs to the Chancellor of the Board of Higher Education for approval.

AAC 06-05 PINE MANOR COLLEGE: MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Pine Manor College to award the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

Jeanne-Marie Boylan introduced the following motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved. Chair Tocco recused himself from voting on this motion.

FAAP 06-01 MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY - FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE STUDENT LIFE FACILITIES

MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF HOLMES DINING HALL, FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

1. The Chancellor of the System of Public Higher Education (the "Chancellor") is authorized and directed in the name and on behalf of the Board of Higher Education (the "Board") to make a written request to the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (the "Authority") that the Authority initiate the project(s) described in EXHIBIT A attached hereto.
2. Bonds issued by the Authority to finance the project(s) for which a request is hereby authorized may be issued together with or separately from bonds issued to carry out other projects of the Authority for which the Board authorizes a request.
3. The Chancellor and all other officers of the Board, each acting singly, are authorized to request the Commissioner of Administration to approve in writing the initiation by the Authority of the project(s) for which a request is hereby authorized,

and to do such other things and to take such other action as the officer so acting shall, as conclusively evidenced by the taking of such action, deem necessary or desirable to be done or taken to carry into effect the matters hereby authorized.

4. The Board and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through the Board, declare their official intent under §1.150-2(d)(1) and (e) of the Treasury Regulations as follows:

The Board reasonably expects that there shall be reimbursed from the proceeds of bonds issued by the Authority, expenditures (including expenditures made to support study, design, and pre-construction activity) temporarily advanced by the Commonwealth (including within such term the Board and the State Colleges) for the projects for which a written request is hereby authorized, the maximum principal amount of such bonds expected to be issued, all or a portion of the proceeds of which are reasonably expected to be used for such reimbursement purposes, being \$2,220,000.

AUTHORITY: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6, MGL Chapter 73 app.
CONTACT: Kurt T. Steinberg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy

Ms. Boylan introduced the following motion. Kathleen Kelley thanked Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Assistance, for her work in preparing the Guidelines. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

FAAP 06-02 PARAPROFESSIONAL TEACHER PREPARATION GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant Program Guidelines, as amended.

Authority: MGL Chapter 15A S-19, C. 45 of the Acts of 2005, Item 7070-0065
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Assistance

Marjorie Clapprod, Executive Director of One Family, Inc., which provides financial support for higher education to primarily homeless women and children, addressed the Board. This organization targets homeless mothers who demonstrate the commitment to work and pursue a degree in higher education, while keeping their family together. With the efforts of One Family—including education, career planning and essential services—women receive the opportunity to strive toward economic self-sufficiency.

One Family presently has programs in eastern Massachusetts but is pursuing opportunities to expand to western Massachusetts. This year there were 350 applicants, and 102 mothers were accepted to the program; One Family anticipates assisting 300 Scholars within three years. Some Scholars attend Bunker Hill Community College, where Jeanne-Marie Boylan, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, is familiar with its students and the One Family program. Ms. Boylan said that she is very pleased with the program and its students, who often pursue four-year college educations after receiving their associate's degree from Bunker Hill Community College. Ann Reale added that Early Education and Care also enjoys a good partnership with One Family, Inc.

One Family provides up to \$12,000 per year for tuition plus ancillary costs which, when totaled, average \$20,000 per year. This amount is less than half of the cost to house a family of three in a homeless shelter in the state, and the return on the investment is significant—with bachelor's degree workers averaging over \$40,000 per year.

The Fireman Foundation covers all administrative costs of One Family. Funding also is received from many sources, including the Smith Family Foundation, the Oak Foundation, and Putnam Investments.

Jeanne-Marie Boylan introduced the following motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

FAAP 06-03 ONE FAMILY, INC., SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached One Family, Inc., Scholarship Program Guidelines.

Authority: Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2005, Items 7070-0065

Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Assistance

Jeanne-Marie Boylan brought forth the following motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

FAAP 06-04 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached Early Childhood Educators' Program Guidelines.

Authority: MGL Chapter 15D Section 5 Clause (10)
C.45 of the Acts of 2005, Item 7070-0065

Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Assistance

Jeanne-Marie Boylan introduced the following motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved. Chancellor Gill added that waiver is for students who continue to be displaced in the aftermath of Katrina and who want to attend Massachusetts public institutions in the spring 2006 semester. Currently, there are about 50 students in the system as a result of Katrina.

FAAP 06-05 COMMONWEALTH HURRICANE KATRINA TUITION WAIVER

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby amends Section U of the Tuition Waiver Program Guidelines, *Commonwealth Hurricane Katrina Emergency Tuition Waiver*, by permitting the awarding of this waiver for the spring 2006 semester. The public campuses have provided fee waivers for these students.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 6 and 19

Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Assistance

FINANCIAL AID POLICY PRESENTATION

The Chancellor invited Michael Widmer, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Association, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Financial Assistance, Dr. Clantha McCurdy, to come to the table. Mr. Widmer remarked that members of the Task Force have worked very diligently on their analysis of state-funded financial aid programs, and are still in the process of developing recommendations and a final report.

Chancellor Gill explained that the Board of Higher Education is required statutorily to provide higher education access to Massachusetts residents. The Financial Aid Task Force was established to determine if state financial aid funding is used effectively to provide access to higher education. She stated that her presentation, "Access to Higher Education: A New Direction for Financial Aid in Massachusetts," is part of a conceptual framework for a possible new policy direction.

The Chancellor said institutional financial aid is not calculated into the framework currently under discussion and stressed that much more work and further development of new models need to be done. The presentation given today is to begin the discussion among Board members in anticipation of the

FY2007 budget request due in December and the need to include an appropriate amount in that request for financial aid. She welcomed questions and input from Board members.

The Task Force found that changing demographics and reductions in state appropriations have created new challenges for Massachusetts:

The percent of low-income students in Massachusetts public schools has continued to rise and now stands at close to 28 percent.

The population of white workers (with higher per capita income) in the state continues to drop, while workers of African, Hispanic and Asian descent (with lower per capita income) continues to rise.

Public college tuitions and fees have been increased, while appropriations to campuses have dropped over the past four years. Funding for financial aid has declined by about \$20 million over this same period.

As a result,

The number of financial aid recipients with the greatest financial need continues to decrease (35,107 in 2000 versus 27,276 in 2005), and

The average award for the students attending public (\$1,600) and private (\$2,100) institutions is not sufficient in promoting access to higher education for Massachusetts residents.

The Task Force is working to solve the challenge of how to provide sufficient financial aid to ensure that all students have an opportunity to enroll in college and complete their degrees. Currently, the size of financial aid awards provided by the state, especially those for students with the greatest financial need, are too small to make higher education affordable. Because the lowest cost of attending a Massachusetts college is \$11,700, many Massachusetts students must incur significant debt to attend college and often choose not to attend at all.

A chart of Massachusetts need-based aid programs was presented along with an explanation of the federal Pell Grant program. The following explanations were provided:

Cost of attendance – Expected family contribution = Financial Aid.

The cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, transportation, health insurance and other variables.

Using the present system of grants and waivers, an example of a student with highest financial need was given. Before work study, loans, and institutional aid are figured in, state and federal awards would still leave a student with the highest financial need with over \$6,000 of remaining need. Even with work study and a loan, the student would have a remaining need of \$2,850.

To make college a reality for students with the greatest financial need, the policy being considered recommends simplifying the state grant system and combining the three existing award programs (Mass Grant, Access Grant, Gilbert Grant) into one new program, based on a student's financial need, not on the institution the student attends. The new grant program would provide funds equal to the average tuition and fee charges at a community college, currently \$3,600. The earlier example of a student in need was again displayed, but this time it included the larger grant award, resulting in a lower unmet need for the student of only \$850 that could be made up by institutional funds.

The Chancellor then discussed the second part of the concept being discussed, which would increase funding for the current No-Interest Loan Program, created to help middle income families afford higher education; the proposal would include a loan-forgiveness clause for graduates who earn degrees and work in high need areas in the Commonwealth.

Discussion among the Board members followed. Chair Tocco said that he did not see how the reorganization of the programs alone would generate enough new funds and was concerned whether this

concept would work if state appropriations do not increase. He recommended that financial aid from all sources be reviewed, including aid from the campuses, as the concepts are further developed.

Chairman Tocco asked the Chancellor to summarize the purpose of the concept in one sentence. The Chancellor replied that it is to assure funding for those students with the greatest financial need.

The Chairman said that the gradations of income can be problematic and that there might be a shift from a lower financial category "middle-income" student to a higher financial category "low-income" student. He was concerned that the financial aid program would be overhauled to help low-income students at the expense of middle-class students, who also have a difficult time paying for higher education. He said that the Task Force had worked hard, and it is critical to learn how the Board can do more to help all students requiring financial assistance. He said that there needs to be more consistency across the system and added that he worries that students are not going to college because they do not know about all the available opportunities.

Michael Widmer said that the present programs are not sufficiently united by a philosophy, focus or a game plan. He agreed that more money is needed and the concept offered today is a thoughtful beginning, that all agree, needs more work. He said that, going forward, we need to link a clearer focus, a realignment of some programs and an increased funding commitment to financial aid.

Ann Reale said that a successful financial aid program must work for students on all financial levels and that we need a fuller description of the wider problem before we entertain any one solution. She said that the concerns raised are important and are relevant to her efforts to make more education available and affordable to workers in the early care and education community.

John Brockelman cautioned that Task Force recommendations must not leave any federal funding unused since the amount of money is so limited.

Kathleen Kelley urged that the financial aid process be simplified. She suggested that high school guidance counselors become involved in the discussion, because the present system relies on them. Chair Tocco agreed that high school guidance counselors need to be better informed in these matters.

Chancellor Gill thanked the Board for their attention and thoughtful comments on this critically important issue.

Chair Tocco closed this section of the meeting by stressing that it was important to understand the complexities of financial aid that are before the Board and the needs of the many different stakeholders who are involved. He asked the Task Force to do further work to determine whether the Commonwealth's financial aid programs provided access to all students, to define how many students will be helped with the amount of available funds and to suggest a funding level that would provide financial aid for low-income and middle-class students and families. He stated that, because it is unlikely that there will be enough money to provide for everyone in need, it was mandatory that a comprehensive, thoughtful strategy be developed and that we should not rush the development of policy. He said that this is a threshold question for the Commonwealth.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.