

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
November 16, 2006

The November 16, 2006, meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at the University of Boston in Boston, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

Stephen P. Tocco, Chair	Kathleen Kelley
Aaron D. Spencer, Vice Chair	Colleen McKiernan
Peter Alcock	Ann Reale
Jeanne-Marie Boylan	Richard Taylor
John Brockelman	Carole Thomson (designee for Dr. David Driscoll)

Absent: Karl White

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tocco called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. He thanked Chancellor Michael Collins for hosting the BHE meeting for the second time this year.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2006, Board meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

WELCOME

Dr. Michael Collins, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB), welcomed members of the Board of Higher Education. He gave a short slide show, which included pictures on the progress of the work on the campus garage, projections for increases in enrollment, and information on the receipt of recent grant funding from the National Science Foundation and the United State Department of Education. He spoke of the many articulation agreements with many local colleges and UMB financial aid to undergraduate students (meeting 88 percent of student financial need). Chair Collins stated that he is pleased that the BHE Chair is also the UMB chair.

The Board learned of UMB's plans to increase enrollment to 15,000 students by 2010 and research development of \$50 million by 2008. UMB is the most diverse institution in New England and has been receiving grant funds to develop collaborations with other colleges and institutions.

Chair Tocco replied that he was pleased with UMB's linkage with the community college system, a model for the other University campuses to follow. He suggested a University/state college linkage would be beneficial, as well.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

1. Chair Tocco spoke of the critical need of financial aid to students, forcing many students not to attend higher education institutions.
2. He expressed confidence that incoming Governor Deval Patrick will pay attention to the problems that public higher education is facing and will work in partnership with public higher education leadership to effect solutions. The BHE stands ready to add value to the future of the state.
3. Deep disappointment was expressed on the recent 9C cuts to public higher education, which should greatly impact the campuses and their faculty. Chair Tocco will work for an override during this very serious and complicated time.

CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS

Dr. Patricia Plummer, Chancellor of the Board of Higher Education, thanked Chancellor Collins for hosting the BHE meeting and Chair Tocco for his commitment to the Board of Higher Education.

She spoke of Governor Mitt Romney's \$37.8 million cut from higher education, including \$20 million from collective bargaining at the campuses and \$15 million from the University, the state and community college campuses. The effects of these cuts eliminate any FY07 increases to the University and the state and community colleges, meaning the net increase over FY06 is less than 1 percent. She described these cuts as "unnecessary and disruptive" to the campuses, further burdening the students of an under-funded system of public higher education.

Chancellor Plummer announced a \$149,000 grant from Nellie Mae to support the new P-16 database. This one-time grant will provide the initial support needed to organize the process of data collection, reporting and dialogue between high schools and colleges.

She thanked Board and Joint Committee of Higher Education members for their feedback on the Report on Student Financial Assistance, released in October. Continued feedback will be important as the Board prepares its FY08 budget request, which will likely include a call for additional funding for financial aid based on the expanded recommendations that will be announced today.

REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENTS

President Mary Grant, Chair of the Council of Presidents, congratulated the University of Massachusetts Amherst on the awarding of the Nobel Prize to Dr. Craig Mello and Chair Tocco on his new role as the Chair of the University of Massachusetts. She also thanked the Financial Aid Task Force for their work in developing their Report. She spoke of the hardship of the 9C cuts—particularly to the faculty—and the importance of restoring the funds for the sake of maintaining the colleges' competitive edge.

President David Hartleb, Chair of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents, thanked Chair Tocco for his many years of service to the Board and wished him the best on his new position as Chair of the University of Massachusetts.

President Hartleb also expressed concern with the 9C cuts, predicting that jobs will be lost, and services will be cut. On behalf of the community colleges, he told Chair Tocco that any help he could provide would be greatly appreciated.

A discussion among Board members found Mr. Brockelman suggesting that it was important to communicate that the timing of the 9C cuts is detrimental as they are forging cuts on money that has already been spent. Further, the long-term impact of the cuts could be very devastating. Kathleen Kelley stated that more information would be helpful in the Board's attempt to restore the cuts, particularly for the sake of the faculty.

TRIBUTE TO CHAIR STEPHEN P. TOCCO

The discussion on 9C cuts was interrupted by the arrival of Senate President Robert Travaglini, who addressed the Board to honor Chair Tocco. He thanked Chair Tocco for the energy and commitment that he has brought to public higher education and read a proclamation, signed by Governor Romney, honoring Chair Tocco. Senate President Travaglini wished Chair Tocco continued success and best wishes.

Chair Tocco responded by thanking the Senate President and spoke of the value that both have shared as friends and colleagues for over 20 years. He characterized the Senate President as a higher education champion, who has made higher education a priority with the Legislature. He predicted that the Senate Chair will reveal the importance of public higher education to the incoming governor with the hope of a better future for the Commonwealth's public colleges.

Vice Chair Aaron Spencer presented Chair Tocco a plaque from the Board. He recalled Chair Tocco's devotion and dedication to public higher education for many years.

On behalf of the BHE staff, Chancellor Patricia Plummer presented a book to Chair Tocco, *The Shaping of American Higher Education*. She said that we all look forward to the next edition when Chair Tocco, too, might be mentioned in the book.

Chair Tocco graciously thanked everyone for his gifts and kind words—especially the Board for their support over the past seven years, while advocating for better graduation rates, accessibility, affordability, and recommendations for student financial aid.

Moving to the University of Massachusetts, Chair Tocco announced the goal of making the University of Massachusetts one of the top ten systems in the country, which will be accomplished in cooperation with the state and community colleges. Chair Tocco thanked everyone across the system for his or her support. He said he has a great place in his office to hang pictures of every public college campus, and he hoped that the pictures would be forthcoming soon.

Chair Tocco received further accolades from Board members and public college presidents.

DISCUSSION ITEM: FINANCIAL AID RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Vice Chancellor of Student Financial Assistance, announced that she was very encouraged that the Report on Student Financial Aid is being discussed nationally.

Dr. McCurdy next displayed a PowerPoint presentation, "BHE Strategic Initiatives—Financial Aid," that focused on recommendations based on three broad areas:

1. fostering economic and workforce development
2. expanding eligibility for need-based aid
3. creating college aspiration

Since the Report was released in October, additional analysis has focused on expanded access, student loan forgiveness, and the Community College tuition and Fee Program. The Task Force has also presented funding scenarios, engaged in discussions, and received feedback from the Board's Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy (FAAP) Committee and the Assessment and Accountability Committee (AAC) and from the Joint Committee on Higher Education. FAAP and AAC suggested looking at the high-water mark and the funding history for MASSGrant and to restoring MASSGrant funding to 1990 levels in today's dollars (\$79 million for 2008).

Another recommendation was to expand the program to include middle-income families through incremental annual increases—an additional 25 million in FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011 and expand the program to include middle-income families through incremental annual increases:

	EFC	Income
FY2009	4,001-5,000	\$40,000-60,000
FY2010	5,001-7,000	46,000-56,000
FY2011	7,001-10,000	56,000-70,000

Other recommendations, which require more discussion and development, include the:

- Student Loan Forgiveness, the goal of which is to support economic and workforce development in the Commonwealth, and
- Community College Tuition and Fee Program, the goal of which is to promote outcomes that correlate to college attendance and success.

The next steps of the Task Force will be preparing the FY08 budget request for financial aid, including an additional \$56 million to restore the MASSGrant program to a \$79 million benchmark and \$100,000 for further development of Loan Forgiveness and Community College Access Program, including evaluation and outcome measures.

Dr. McCurdy encouraged Board reaction and feedback on the recommendations.

A discussion of the recommendations among Board members ensued. Citing the Report of Financial Aid as a powerful report, Chair Tocco suggested that the request for funding should be over a one- rather than three-year time period.

Richard Taylor praised the staff for its fine work on the Financial Aid Report and recommendations. Jake Oliveira, Student Representative from Framingham State College, said that the Financial Aid Report caused considerable excitement from the students at a recent Student Advisory Committee meeting. How this program impacts middle-income students is very important. Colleen McKiernan, Student Board member, in her discussions with UMB students, found that reaction to the financial aid recommendations was positive.

Chair Tocco advised that in putting together a plan, a constructive, respectful approach should be used in dealing with the Legislature.

Ann Reale thanked the BHE staff for their work in writing a clear and wide-ranging report on financial aid. Nevertheless, she said that this Report must be set in a broader context. The Report identifies a great need for aid, but the performance measurement outcomes often state that a given campus is meeting a high percentage of student needs. To avoid confusion, this point should be clarified in subsequent presentations. Dr. McCurdy responded that the recommendation was made on the average unmet needs of students.

MOTIONS

John Brockelman, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, brought forth the following motion. Jesse Thompson, Chief Financial Officer at Bunker Hill Community College, stated that the following two programs are industry-driven and consistent with the goals of the College to prepare students for 21st century STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) objectives and are of strategic value to the College and the region. Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Policy, emphasized that these programs will be accredited by ABET.

A brief exchange among Chair Tocco, John Brockelman, and Jeanne-Marie Boylan revealed that these programs are clearly moving into the new economy, and other, less popular courses at the College may be eliminated by the integration of the new engineering programs after a formal program review of college courses is completed in January. Ms. Boylan said that this is a strong example of the community colleges responding to the needs of the Commonwealth and the workplace.

The following motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

BHE 07-03 ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING: ENGINEERING TRANSFER AND BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING OPTIONS AT BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of **Bunker Hill Community College** to award the **Associate in Science in Engineering: Engineering Transfer and Biomedical Engineering Options** and the **Associate in Science in Biological Sciences: Biology Transfer and Biotechnology Options**.

For each program, one year after graduating the program's first class, 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: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

John Brockelman brought forth the following two motions, which were seconded and unanimously approved.

AAC 07-08 PCIPP APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM AT ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the **Associate in Science in Criminal Justice** at Roxbury Community College under the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs*. The programs have been found to meet or exceed all quality standards established by the *Guidelines*.

As stated in the *Guidelines*, the institution shall submit two copies of a report to The Board annually, certifying that each program is being maintained and operated within the provisions and spirit of the criteria and guidelines set forth by the *Guidelines*.

Authority: Chapter 41, Section 108L (as amended)
Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

AAC 07-09 REVISION OF COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the revised Commonwealth Honors Program Guidelines

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)
Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

STAFF UPDATES

Tuition and Fees

Sue Wolfe, Director of Fiscal Policy, gave a PowerPoint presentation of two charts that offered the updated status of increased tuition and fees for Massachusetts' segments in FY06.

4-Year Public (UMass and State Colleges)	\$7,585
New England	7,658
National	5,836

2-Year Public (Community Colleges)	\$3,536
New England	3,363
National	2,272

Average Tuition and Fees:

University of Massachusetts	\$9,000 (3% increase)
State Colleges	5,855 (7% increase)
Community Colleges	3,526 (1% increase)

Chair Tocco asked why state college rates have increased significantly, as compared to the University and Community Colleges. Ms. Wolfe responded that no in-depth analysis had been done on the information, but that Fiscal Policy would work with the Executive Office to better understand the factors driving rate increases at the state colleges.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chair Spencer reminded that Board that when it had previously discussed in-state tuition, it expressed a favorable position. The topic of in-state tuition recently became a gubernatorial issue. Because of Governor-Elect Patrick's support of the issue and because Vice Chair Spencer believes that most people do not understand the topic, it is in the Board's best interest to have BHE staff prepare a factual report in February 2007 on the cost of in-state tuition for the children of immigrants. Chair Tocco added that the Board's policy issue of in-state tuition will become a priority early in the next session of the Legislature. Mr. Taylor encouraged the Board to be prepared for this discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.