

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING
October 2, 2008

The October 2, 2008, meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at the Harrington Learning Center at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

Frederick W. Clark, Jr., Chairman
Peter Alcock, Vice Chairman
Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach
Dr. Mario Borunda
John Brockelman

James Coyle
Dr. Charles Desmond
Bernard Fulp
Kathryn Quigley
Paul Reville and J.D. LaRock
Henry Thomas

Absent: Jeanne-Marie Boylan and Dr. Nancy Harrington

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frederick W. Clark, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He immediately proceeded to call the Board into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of strategy for collective bargaining. Pursuant to Chapter 30A, Sections 1 and 2, of the Massachusetts General Laws, a roll call vote was taken, and the Board entered into Executive Session. At the conclusion of Executive Session, the regular meeting of the Board resumed at 10:12 a.m. Chairman Clark stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Chairman Clark welcomed and introduced three new Board members:

- Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach, a resident of Springfield and Superintendent of Ware Public Schools, has extensive K-12 administrative experience, has been a director of guidance, and has background in research and accountability development. Dr. Beach stated that she is delighted to be a member of the Board of Higher Education.
- Dr. Mario Borunda is Dean of the School of Education at Lesley University, where he has overseen the largest period of expansion in the University's history and has been deeply involved with partnerships. Dr. Borunda said that he looks forward to working with the Board.
- Dr. Charles Desmond, a former 30-year employee of the University of Massachusetts Boston, serves currently as the Executive Vice President of the Trefler Foundation, a nonprofit organization that works to improve educational opportunities for Boston's youth. He stated that he is pleased to have been appointed to the Board. He believes in the willpower and the greatness of public colleges and the University system to bring us to the top ranks of colleges and universities around the world.
- Kathryn Quigley, a Westfield State College senior from Wilbraham majoring in Psychology, serves as Student Board member. She has been involved in many collegiate activities, including Student Ambassador, Resident Assistant and Tour Guide. Kathryn also coaches and volunteers for Special Olympics Massachusetts and Habitat for Humanity.

Chairman Clark introduced Mr. J.D. LaRock, Policy Director at the Executive Office of Education, who was serving as an alternate member until Secretary Paul Reville's arrival at approximately 11 a.m.

Mr. LaRock told the Board that his new role is to transition from his former position as Senator Edward Kennedy's policy advisor. He said that he is pleased to be at the Board meeting today and excited about moving forward with the Readiness Project.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dr. Gail Carberry, President of Quinsigamond Community College, welcomed the Board to Quinsigamond Community College. She spoke of the tremendous growth (12.4 percent) of new students and of the challenges growth creates—especially that it may necessitate the College to rent space. With the cost of transportation increasing, so has the number of students who take online courses. She expressed her hope that the College would learn of budget cuts soon, so that fee increases could be modified for the spring semester and students receiving financial aid, comprising 53 percent of the student population, could be notified of the amount of aid they might expect.

Dr. Carberry mentioned that the passage of the Bond Bill authorization would greatly help toward the construction of a much-needed campus science/technology center, as the current science labs, built in the 1960s, are outdated.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Clark acknowledged the difficult fiscal environment, which will drive many of the Board's decisions going forward. He pledged to keep public higher education strong by working with the campuses on various issues. Chairman Clark announced that Aundrea E. Kelley was approved unanimously as Commissioner on September 5 and that he is proud of her performance to date.

Other announcements included:

- the recent passing of President Mary Fifield's mother; Jeanne-Marie Boylan is in Chicago attending services.
- notice of the investiture of Dr. Evan Dobelle as President of Westfield State College was held on September 27, 2008.
- that Kenneth Lemanski is now Vice President of Advancement and College Relations at Westfield State College, after having served as Executive Director of the State College Council of Presidents.
- that Dr. Kathleen Schatzberg, President of Cape Cod Community College, has announced her retirement, effective in summer 2009. (Please note that since the Board meeting, President Schatzberg has retracted her decision to retire due to the negative fiscal impact it would have on the College.)
- that the Commissioner Search will continue for the next several months under the leadership of Peter Alcock as the Commissioner Search Task Force Chairman. Jeanne-Marie Boylan and Henry Thomas will serve as Vice Chairs.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Ms. Aundrea Kelley, Commissioner, thanked Chairman Clark and Board members for their confidence in her. She said that with a small, lean staff, she appreciated the expertise of all Board members who have offered her their support and expertise. She also thanked President Carberry for hosting the Board meeting. She acknowledged in the audience Dr. Jack Sbrega, President of Bristol Community College; Dr. Robert Antonucci, President of Fitchburg State College; President Carole Berotte Joseph of Massachusetts Bay Community College, Julie Walsh of Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Jan Motta, Executive Director of Massachusetts Community Colleges, President Charles Wall of Massasoit Community College, President Wayne Burton of North Shore Community College, President Terrence Gomes of Roxbury Community College, President Patricia Meservey Wall of Salem State College, and Kate Harrington of the University of Massachusetts President's Office.

Commissioner Kelley thanked everyone for their expressions of support as she assumed the position of Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education and said that she looks forward to advancing the causes of public higher education campuses and students.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2008, Board of Higher Education meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

On behalf of the community colleges, Dr. Charles Wall, Chair of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents, congratulated the new members of the Board. He said that the community college community was enjoying its work with Commissioner Aundrea Kelley and that they looked forward to working with the new Board members, as well.

President Wall reported that enrollment at the community colleges is at its highest level, and, with budget constraints, the campuses will be under great strain. He expressed concern about the need to fund the budget gap, a just settlement of collective bargaining negotiations, and financial aid for students. The community college presidents remain optimistic about their mission, as the campuses are enjoying a good start to the academic year.

Dr. Robert Antonucci, Chair of the State College Council of Presidents, told the Board that the state college presidents' mission is to serve their students strongly through their academic programs. He reviewed some of the state colleges' present initiatives: the transfer policy of the Commonwealth Transfer Advisory Group, teacher development centers and teacher education programs, the Nursing Initiative, and the business program review.

President Antonucci announced that, for the fall, the state colleges are at full enrollment, and the campuses are looking forward to a year filled with commitment, energy, and enthusiasm.

MOTIONS

John Brockelman explained that the Board plays an important role in ensuring the quality of academic programs through a very rigorous process. He then introduced Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Vice Commissioner of Academic Policy at the Department of Higher Education, who provided historical background on Bentley College's move from a college to its application to the Board to attain university status. Presently, Bentley meets all criteria for becoming a university, and staff recommendation is for the approval of the request of Bentley College to change its name to Bentley University.

Dr. Purcell introduced Chancellor-for-Life Gregory Adamian, Provost Paul Galliers, and General Counsel Judith Malone of Bentley College. Provost Galliers thanked the DHE staff for their help in guiding Bentley through the application process and provided the Board with data that supports University status. Chancellor Adamian told the Board that Bentley has a truly great administration, faculty and students. He thanked the Board for passage of previous degree-granting programs.

Peter Alcock congratulated Bentley for "doing everything right" in its quest to secure university status.

John Brockelman asked the Bentley representatives why achieving university status is so important to them and how university status might give the institution an "edge." Provost Galliers replied that many business schools have very little interaction with the rest of the university to which they are associated. Bentley administration feels that there is more to education than simply training. Business students need to be well rounded in world affairs, ethics, philosophy, and other academic disciplines to become true leaders, and at Bentley, students learn in a well-rounded academic environment.

John Brockelman brought forth the following motion, which was seconded, and approved unanimously:

AAC 09-01 BENTLEY COLLEGE NAME CHANGE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Bentley College to change its name to "Bentley University."

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Dr. Francesca B. Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

John Brockelman introduced the following motion:

AAC 09-02 APPLICATION OF LASELL COLLEGE TO AWARD THE MASTER OF COMMUNICATION

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the application of Lasell College to award the Master of Science in Communication.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Dr. Francesca B. Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

Dr. Purcell told the Board that this is Lasell College's request for a second master's program. The curriculum emphasis is on public relations and integrated marketing for which there are job-growth expectations for each. The program is geared toward working professionals. Staff recommendation is for approval.

The above motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The next motion was introduced by Peter Alcock:

FAAP 09-01 SCHOLAR-INTERNSHIP MATCH FUND PROGRAM GUIDELINES AMENDMENT

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education rescinds the guidelines adopted on February 15, 2007, and adopts the following guidelines:

BACKGROUND

The Scholar Internship Program Guidelines, adopted in February 2007, included references to high school students in the "Eligible Student" section. Further experience with program implementation issues, including both academic factors and the appropriateness for internships, have led program administrators to focus on students already enrolled in public higher education in the award of a limited pool of funds. Program outreach limitations are also relevant in seeking to amend the guidelines to reflect preferred policies and current practice. The preferred guidelines, as amended, are:

SCHOLAR-INTERNSHIP MATCH FUND GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

As part of the 2006 Economic Stimulus legislation (Chapter 123 of the Acts of 2006), the Massachusetts Legislature enacted the Massachusetts Scholar-Internship Match Fund (Chapter 29, Section 2UUU of the Massachusetts General Laws). The purpose of the Scholar-Internship Match Fund is to provide a match for industry scholarships and internships given to Massachusetts students studying for a post-secondary degree at Massachusetts public higher education institutions. Students shall pursue post-secondary degrees and career paths in specific science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines that link directly related work experience with their academic program. These disciplines do and will directly support the economic development of the Commonwealth by fulfilling the employment needs of business and industry in high-demand fields. The Massachusetts Scholar-Internship Match Fund creates a framework whereby internship and scholarship funds from business, industry and others sources may be deposited as matching resources to enhance student progress toward degrees in fields vital to the Commonwealth.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION

An institution within the system of public institutions of higher education, as identified in Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM

An undergraduate degree program offered by an eligible institution in high-demand STEM areas, as designated in the Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) list, exclusive of foreign languages, as developed by the U.S. Department of Education and as amended by the Board of Higher Education.

ELIGIBLE STUDENT

A Massachusetts student who meets the following criteria:

- a) is a permanent legal resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for at least one year prior to the start of the academic year.
- b) is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen eligible under Federal Title IV Regulations.
- c) is currently enrolled, full time in an eligible program, at an eligible institution as defined above.
- d) submits an application for the Massachusetts Scholar-Internship Program, and for approval must:

1. meet satisfactory academic progress standards as defined by the institution and have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on all college work and meet other eligibility criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.
2. annually file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. sign an agreement to comply with the internship requirements of the Scholar-Internship Program with a designated Massachusetts employer in a career-related field under the guidance of the Department of Higher Education.
4. complete the minimum number of internships, as required.
5. upon the completion of the undergraduate degree program, seek and attain employment in a career-related field in Massachusetts.

MAINTENANCE OF ELIGIBILITY

It is the responsibility of each recipient of the Scholar-Internship Match Fund Program to maintain his/her continued eligibility for scholarship assistance and/or internship experience while completing the undergraduate degree program. Recipients must demonstrate continued progress in the academic discipline through an annual submission of the college academic transcript, which will be evaluated by the appropriate official. The recipient is responsible for providing the transcript to the proper official at the Department of Higher Education, as designated, in a timely manner to facilitate continued awarding of the scholarship and/or assigned internship.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD VALUE

The annual scholarship award to each recipient under this program, which must be matched through the Scholar-Internship Match Fund, shall not exceed \$5,000 per student. The scholarship is contingent upon receiving a corresponding industry scholarship or internship of up to the same amount.

AWARD PROCEDURE

The Department of Higher Education shall establish a committee to review and select applicants for the Scholar-Internship Match Fund program and to determine the high-need academic disciplines for this program.

Upon the submission and approval of a valid application, the Department of Higher Education will establish the appropriate combination of scholarship and recommended internship program for each student.

All scholarship funds awarded to applicants under this program will be disbursed to the institution for credit to the student's account. However, the student must comply with any internship requirements before scholarship funds may be disbursed.

REPORTS

The Commissioner of Higher Education shall, no later than July 1, annually report to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, the Joint Committee on Education and the Joint Committee on Higher Education. The report shall include:

- a) a list of matching scholarship recipients,
- b) the associated match amount,
- c) the amounts of non-state funding as a result of the match,
- d) the purposes of the match,
- e) whether there was an internship associated with the industry match,

- f) an annual statement of cash inflows and outflows detailing the sources and uses of funds,
- g) a forecast of future payments based on current binding obligations, and
- h) a detailed account of the purposes and amount of administrative costs charged to the fund.

The Commissioner shall include in the annual report a detailed five-year legislative review of the Scholar-Internship Match Fund for consideration for recapitalization.

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS

All institutions must file a State Financial Aid Participation Agreement to be maintained on file in the State Office of Student Financial Assistance.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

- a) It shall be the responsibility of each college and university to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility for the Scholar-Internship Program.
- b) The Commissioner shall require each campus to furnish annually to the Department of Higher Education a report detailing specific information regarding recipients of the Scholar-Internship Program. The Department of Higher Education will coordinate specification and procedures for this report.
- c) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall at all times be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives, who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records and documents are located. The institution shall retain such financial books, records and documents for seven years. An institution may retain such records for a period of five years if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Deputy Commissioner for Student Financial Assistance, explained that the Guidelines emerged from the Economic Stimulus legislation, whereby a funding match is given for industry scholarships and internships to Massachusetts students studying for a post-secondary degree at Massachusetts public college and University campuses. Post-secondary degrees pursued by students must be in specific science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects that link directly to related work experience with their academic program. In turn, the Commonwealth succeeds by fulfilling high-need business and industry employment.

A discussion among Board members ensued. Mary-Elizabeth Beach expressed concern that the amended Guidelines would not extend the program to high school students. She also asked if the Guidelines would prevent exemplary students from going on to graduate school since the Guidelines include a work requirement. David McCauley, Deputy Commissioner, replied that the main program focus, given the limited resources, is on assisting undergraduate students to achieve their degrees in STEM fields and then enter the workforce for Massachusetts STEM companies. While the work requirement is stated, program administrators concluded that it was infeasible to attach penalties when they were unlikely to be enforced. A qualified student could go on to graduate school without penalties, but the program administrators will see how they can work with the Guidelines to accommodate this concern. Mr. McCauley further noted that the Scholar Intern Match Fund came from the economic development committees in the Legislature and not the higher education sector. The fund focuses on industry internships as well as scholarships. To assist in designing the program, the administrators held focus groups with business leaders and academic leaders to determine how to build in internships without a negative impact on student performance in these demanding fields. These focus groups also recommended targeting students in the second through fourth year of college at a four-year institution or community colleges student who transition to a four-year school.

J.D. LaRock asked how many students have received awards under this program to date. Mr. McCauley replied that the number is between 45 and 50. Most have been mostly University sophomores and juniors from engineering fields of study.

The motion to adopt the new Guidelines was seconded and approved by the Board. Mary-Elizabeth Beach abstained.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 29, Section 2, UUU, Chapter 123 of Acts of 2006
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Deputy Commissioner for Student Financial Assistance

The following three motions were tabled:

FAAP 09-02 GUIDELINES FOR THE TUITION AND FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ADOPTED AND FOSTER CHILDREN, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 15A, SECTION 19

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the following guidelines for the Tuition and Fee Assistance Program for Adopted and Foster Children.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 19
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Deputy Commissioner for Student Financial Assistance

The above motion will be brought before the Board at its meeting on November 21, 2008.

FAAP 09-03 AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE ADOPTED CHILDREN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 15A, SECTION 19.

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the following guidelines for the Adopted Children Tuition Waiver.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 19
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Deputy Commissioner for Student Financial Assistance

The above motion will be brought before the Board at its meeting on November 21, 2008.

FAAP 09-04 AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE FOSTER CHILDREN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 15, SECTION 19.

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the following guidelines for the Foster Children Tuition Waiver.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 19
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Deputy Commissioner for Student Financial Assistance

The above motion will be brought before the Board at its meeting on November 21, 2008.

POLICY UPDATES

Data Points

Dr. Jonathan Keller, Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning and Information Systems, gave a PowerPoint presentation that covered the following highlights:

- 2009 early enrollment estimates, including undergraduate headcount at community and state colleges and the University of Massachusetts
- 2005 high school graduates report that included a summary of 2005 public high school graduates' enrollment at state and community colleges

Dr. Keller informed the Board that all of the reports are available online on the DHE Web site. Bernard Fulp asked if reports are available that indicate college-to-job employment. Dr. Keller replied that the DHE and the

Department of Revenue are working on producing a report of this nature. He also added that he would like to have the mechanism to contact alumni for fundraising and other purposes.

President Wall stated that the DHE has collected powerful data, and he inquired about the collection of community college student data. Dr. Keller replied that, if community college students stay inside the statewide system of public higher education, the DHE has the ability to track them. Once they leave the system, however, the tracking becomes more difficult.

Student Financial Assistance and Loan Market

Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Deputy Commissioner for Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), provided an status report on the student loan market. Over the course of the summer, OSFA monitored the student loan issue on the national and local levels, offering the advice to students and parents not to panic but to contact their college financial aid office to explore available options. As the academic year begins, the student loan crisis has abated somewhat for many students, with the availability of more money for student loan lenders and the ability of the Massachusetts Education Finance Authority to secure \$400 million to offer private loans to students.

The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 became law and:

1. Provides an increase in the amount of federal loans, thus decreasing student reliance on private loans
2. Allows deferment of payment of PLUS loans for parents
3. Strengthens lenders of last resort
4. Allows the U.S. Department of Education to act as a secondary market for loan providers that are having difficulty raising enough capital to make loans

The above program is heavily dependent upon the nation's economy. Dr. McCurdy advised that the overreliance on student loans, especially private ones, underscores the importance of the need to recommit to need-based programs.

OSFA will continue to monitor the financial market to assure student access to higher education. She suggested implementing a recommendation from the 2006 Financial Aid Task Force that was approved by the Board to create a statewide college financing literacy program to assist families in fostering a better understanding about the cost of college and financial aid opportunities. Another goal is to encourage every student to complete a FAFSA form. The Higher Education Act has provided that financial aid forms should be easier to complete and less intimidating, particularly for low-income students.

Chair Clark stated that Massachusetts has 6,000 students who need funding and asked if we are about to lose anyone. Dr. McCurdy answered that she is not aware of losing anyone.

Dr. McCurdy reminded Board members that the Governor established a Web site with information provided by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. Dr. McCurdy and J.D. LaRock of the Executive Office are currently working together on many student financial aid initiatives.

Student Transfer

Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy, introduced Dr. Lisa Johnson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston; and Dr. Brenda Mercomes, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Roxbury Community College. Drs. Johnson and Mercomes gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Using Technology and Partnership to Bridge the Transfer Student Gap," detailing recent grant-funded student transfer activities between the University of Massachusetts Boston and selected community colleges. Dr. Purcell explained that in June 2008 the Board of Higher Education accepted the Final Report of the Commonwealth Transfer Advisory Group, and there are efforts under way to respond to the recommendations of the Report, including:

1. With funds received from a Title II grant to improve transfer student recruitment, retention and services, the University of Massachusetts Boston created a Transfer Center to enhance the recruitment of transfer students, offer transfer advising and student advocacy, coordinate joint admissions and the Tuition Advantage Program, to develop articulation agreements, to conduct transfer credit evaluations, to

determine course equivalencies, to assist with transfer orientation and training, to provide representation of the University at state-wide committees, and to assist with marketing for transfer.

2. Partnerships have been developed with five feeder two-year colleges: Roxbury, Bunker Hill, Massasoit, and Massachusetts Bay Community Colleges; and Quincy College.
3. Fifty articulation agreements have been developed over the past five years.
4. There have been faculty-to-faculty discussions around curriculum, course alignment, course content, and course sequencing.
5. In technology, a transfer port with a Web-based academic roadmap has been developed (U-Select), electronic access to course descriptions is now being used (College Source), electronic transcripts can now be received (ConnectEdu), and electronic course evaluations can now be produced. Dr. Purcell explained that 50 percent of today's students attend multiple institutions before earning their degree. U-Select provides those students with an easy way to determine course equivalencies, program requirements, and applicability of course work among the schools of their choice. College Source is an on-line library of 43,692 college catalogs and approximately 37 million course descriptions, offered in original page format of two- and four-year, graduate, professional and international schools.

At 11:30 a.m., Secretary of Education Paul Reville arrived, and Chairman Clark thanked him for his efforts and his attention to all of the public higher education campuses.

Secretary Paul Reville thanked the Board for its cooperation and then welcomed new members of the Board on behalf of the Governor. He spoke of the Executive Office of Education as a new office that creates a new structure as its focus. The position requires that the Secretary advise the Governor on educational matters, serve as a spokesman, to work closely for a seamless P-16 program, and to encourage the individual silos of education to work better together.

Secretary Reville announced that he has named David Bunker as his new fiscal officer, who will be helpful in advocacy of the campuses, especially as 9C cuts are impending. He described the fiscal climate over the next several months as a balancing period, with his responsibility to apportion cuts across the silos.

J.D. LaRock, Policy Director at the Executive Office of Education, will help with the implementation of the Readiness Project, which will provide a 21st century education system that builds on higher education to make children successful. Secretary Reville continued that public higher education is a critical component of the 21st century, and EOE will serve to improve learning in the classroom with processes that ensure that all children begin their educational experience with high-quality programs in their early years—through elementary and secondary school—assuming excellence in education by improving the quality of teaching methods, and promoting college readiness.

Regarding the FY09 budget, Secretary Reville said that plans call for a budget that is practical to execute, financially feasible, is good for the students, and provides effective benefits. The cost of the Capital Bond Bill and what revenue mechanisms can be used to pay for it must also be considered.

Secretary Reville said that the challenge of providing excellence in our system of public higher education during fiscal restraint is important work. He told the Board that he looked forward to their work together.

Chairman Clark asked Secretary Reville about the timing of the 9C cuts, especially since it was important for the Board to know by November. Secretary Reville replied that the cuts are imminent.

Charles Desmond asked what the Board could do specifically to help during the financial crisis. Secretary Reville answered that there are many elements of the Readiness agenda that will bring joint cooperative projects among the agencies. He also remarked that the Governor is encouraging all in education to work harder and smarter, collaboratively, to achieve our goals in an efficient and effective manner.

Higher Education Reauthorization Act

J.D. LaRock, Policy Director at the Executive Office of Education, gave a detailed presentation on the Higher Education Act. He highlighted the following topics of the Act:

1. **Addressing Rising College and Textbook Costs:** The Act helps students and families deal with rising college costs by requiring each state's Department of Education to publish data about college pricing trends on its Web site, by requiring the top 5 percent of colleges that have the greatest cost increases over three years for their sector to submit to the Secretary of Education detailed reports explaining why their costs have risen and what they will do to hold costs down, and by requiring textbook publishers to "unbundle" materials, allowing students to purchase only the materials needed for class. More detailed information about textbooks will be made available on their online course catalogs.
2. **Reforming the Federal Financial Aid Application Process:** A new EZ-FAFSA form will be made available immediately to low-income students, and the seven-page form will be phased out over five years for all applicants. A pilot program will be created to allow students to receive an aid estimate in their junior year of high school. The Department of Education will be encouraged to work with IRS to share data that can be used to pre-populate students' financial aid application forms.
3. **Enhancing Ethics and Transparency in the Student Loan Sector:** The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) will halt unethical and questionable practices surrounding student loans by strengthening provisions that prohibit lenders, guaranty agencies and colleges from offering or accepting payments, gifts or other inducements as a condition of making student loans. It will require colleges to establish and follow a code of conduct regarding student loans. Colleges that identify "preferred lenders" will be required to place at least three lenders on the list, explaining clearly why the college believes the lender is offering attractive terms and conditions. A new student "self-certification" process for non-Federal private educational loans will be created to ensure that students maximize low-cost Federal aid first and prevent students from borrowing more private funds than they need to cover college costs. Lenders will be required to guarantee the terms and conditions they offer to a prospective private education loan borrower for 30 days after the borrower's loan application is approved, allowing borrowers to cancel a private education loan without penalty within three days after the loan is consummated.
4. **Increasing Grant Aid for Our Neediest Students:** The HEOA expands need-based grant aid by authorizing the maximum Pell Grant at \$6,000 in year 2009-10 and increases the maximum grant \$400 per award year through 2014-15, when the maximum award is authorized at \$8,000. Low-income students will receive Pell Grants year-round to help them accelerate the completion of their degrees. Permanent U.S. residents will become eligible for the Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grant programs. The Grants for Access and Persistence (GAP) program will be created to allow states to increase need-based grant aid to students.
5. **Enhancing TRIO and GEAR-UP to Strengthen the College Pipeline:** Required activities in the TRIO program will be expanded, focusing on students' financial and economic literacy. The Secretary of Education will be required to measure the quality and effectiveness of TRIO programs more rigorously, with a comprehensive evaluation of the Upward Bound program, to be implemented by 2010. New due process provisions will be created to ensure that TRIO program applicants are assessed fairly and accurately. GEAR UP programs will offer early intervention and extended school day programs and will encourage student enrollment in challenging secondary coursework, professional development, and dropout recovery.
6. **Promoting Innovative and Effective Teacher Preparation Programs:** Teacher quality, training and retention will be improved by promoting innovative, effective teacher preparation programs for new and prospective teachers, including effective preparation, induction, and residency programs. A pipeline for high-quality teachers to teach in high-need schools by promoting partnerships between teacher education programs and high-need districts will be created. Higher education institutions will be held accountable for the quality and progress of their teacher preparation and alternative certification programs.
7. **Expanding and Strengthening Nursing Faculty:** The nation's supply of nurses will be expanded by the creation of a new capitation grant program to help nursing schools enroll more students and the authorization of funds for nursing schools to improve and strengthen their faculty.
8. **Making College a Reality for More Students with Disabilities:** Students with intellectual disabilities will be eligible for Pell Grants and Federal Work-Study funds, and there will be a new program to expand the number of postsecondary programs for those students as well. The HEOA will support model demonstration projects to make college course materials more accessible for students with print

disabilities. A National Technical Assistance Center at the Department of Education will be established to support efforts to enhance the participation of students with disabilities in higher education.

9. **Helping More Military Veterans and Their Families Attend College:** Service members will be allowed to defer interest-free payments on Federal Direct Loans while they are on active duty. U.S. students who leave their college for military service will be enabled to re-enroll easily when they return. Military benefits will not count against service members' eligibility for federal grants and loans to pay for college. New college scholarships will be provided to children and family members of services members who have died since September 11, 2001. A new online clearing house will be created for service members to learn about college benefits available to them.

OPEN FORUM

Amy Everett, Vice President, and Dan Shartin, Day Bargaining Committee Chair, of the Massachusetts State College Association, spoke briefly about the MSCA's dissatisfaction with contract negotiations, especially with the need to negotiate equitable salaries for state college professors.

Next, Rick McDermott, President of the Association of Professional Administrators (APA), spoke on behalf of the 1,100 APA professional administrators who are employed at the Commonwealth's nine public state colleges. Mr. McDermott told the Board that the members of the union are discouraged by the recent salary offer of 2.5 percent. He stated that this proposed increase is fairly low, especially since other union workers have received greater salary adjustments. He asked for the Board's leadership in providing a more equitable salary increase.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.