

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING**  
**November 21, 2008**

The November 21, 2008, meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held in the Hammond Building at Fitchburg State College in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

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

James Coyle  
Dr. Charles Desmond  
Dr. Nancy Harrington  
Kathryn Quigley  
Paul Reville  
Henry Thomas, III

Absent: C. Bernard Fulp

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Frederick W. Clark, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. 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 for the purpose of discussion of strategy for collective bargaining. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the regular meeting of the Board resumed at 9:59 a.m. Chairman Clark stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

**WELCOME**

Dr. Robert Antonucci, President, welcomed the Board to Fitchburg State College. He told the Board that the principles that guide Fitchburg State College are

1. to provide a positive environment of teaching and learning
2. to support the standard of excellence in education and the desire to be the best in the field
3. to excel in customer service with those who work with the College

Ms. Kristen Kramer, President of the Student Body and a nursing student at Fitchburg State College, was introduced. She told the Board that the Fitchburg College campus is full of outstanding leaders and offers many activities that engage students in becoming well-rounded and prepared for their future professions.

Dr. Paul Weizer, Chairperson and Professor in the Department of Economics, History and Political Science, invited all present to attend the qualifying round of the Moot Court Nationals Competition, to be held that afternoon on campus. He told the Board that the qualifying team—hopefully, students from Fitchburg State College—will advance to the finals in January. Dr. Weizer added that the College's priorities are centered foremost on the needs of its students.

President Antonucci continued his remarks and informed the Board of recent campus activity:

1. The campus is at 113 percent enrollment capacity.
2. The College recently received ABET accreditation for computer system programming.
3. The SAT scores of enrolled students continue to rise, and the quality of students is greater than it has ever been.

Based on his belief that the quality of public campuses should be at least equal to those of private colleges, President Antonucci highlighted the recent renovations made to the campus residence and dining halls and administration building, the removal of 23 rundown buildings in the immediate area of the campus, and the management takeover of the Wallace Civic Center, which will be renovated to provide state-of-the-art, high-quality ice skating and recreation services. He told the Board that the Fitchburg State College community is proud of its facilities, faculty, students, and their work. Very much needed, however, is the passage of the Bond Bill that will provide \$59 million for the construction of a new science building and renovation of science labs that will aid the College in the expansion of their nursing programs.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2008, Board of Higher Education meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

On behalf of Governor Deval Patrick, Secretary Paul Reville thanked John Brockelman for his lengthy and dedicated service to the Board of Higher Education. Vice Chairman Peter Alcock recalled Mr. Brockelman's outstanding leadership and guidance as Chairman of the State College Graduation Rate Task Force. Jeanne-Marie Boylan thanked Mr. Brockelman for his service and remarked that she appreciated Mr. Brockelman's insight and creative approach toward reaching goals. On behalf of the Department of Higher Education staff, Commissioner Aundrea Kelley told Mr. Brockelman that he has been a delightful and engaged member of the BHE. Dr. Nancy Harrington stated that although she did not have considerable opportunity to work with him as a Board member, she enjoyed working with him as President of Salem State College, when Mr. Brockelman chaired on the Graduation Rate Task Force.

Mr. Brockelman thanked all for their kind words and best wishes and said that it has been a great honor to serve for the past six year on the BHE and to work with the Department of Higher Education staff. He remarked that in this difficult fiscal environment that the Board has many challenges ahead, and he offered his best wishes as the Board endeavors to provide top-quality higher education opportunities at its public college and University campuses.

## **EDUCATION SECRETARY'S REMARKS**

Secretary Paul Reville stated that the past seven months have been dominated by the development of a budget in a difficult deficit economy and that the Governor's administration has been working hard to make judicious cuts during complicated circumstances. Further, the Governor's administration recognizes the degree of difficulty under which the campuses are working, and it appreciates the quality of the work that is being accomplished. He commented on the following

- The Governor is deeply committed to the work of the Readiness Project and the Readiness Centers. Sector funding through collaborations is being sought to provide programs, including support to teachers in their first three years of their job. The Readiness Project is designed to improve the quality of students, teachers and course content and to bridge the gap between elementary and secondary education, high school and college.
- Some public college presidents have offered support to Readiness Schools. Secretary Reville encouraged more presidents to become involved in providing much-needed help.
- On child and youth development, plans were announced for the development of a pre-K database that will provide notification of early-warning student drop-out.
- Work continues on the development of a free community college initiative, which the administration is proposing to offer to low-income students and to those who wish to teach in early childhood education areas.
- Dual enrollment will continue through the Readiness Project.
- Personnel from the Secretary's office are moving ahead aggressively to secure support from the Legislature to create an education system that teaches students the importance of financial savings, which will ultimately advance our economy.
- Recommendations from the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills have been received by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Task Force was originally charged with identifying standards, curriculum, assessment and accountability components, professional and teacher development, and employers' needs. Report recommendations, which are diverse, will be integrated into the Commonwealth's current educational program. The Secretary encouraged review of the Report.
- It is projected that the Department of Early Education and Care will select a new Commissioner, to be approved by Secretary Reville, in early December.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

Commissioner Aundrea Kelley acknowledged in the audience Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, President of Bridgewater State College; Dr. Jack Sbrega, President of Bristol Community College; Dr. Robert Antonucci, President of Fitchburg State College; Ms. Julie Walsh of Massachusetts College of Art and Design; Dr. Mary Grant of

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Charles Wall of Massasoit Community College; Dr. Daniel Asquino, President of Mount Wachusett Community College; Dr. Wayne Burton, President of North Shore Community College; Dr. David Hartleb, President of Northern Essex Community College; Dr. Terrence Gomes, President of Roxbury Community College; and Dr. Kate Harrington of the University of Massachusetts President's Office.

Commissioner Kelley spoke of her recent visit to Cape Cod Community College, where she attended a dedication "baby shower" for a SimBaby. She shared how appreciative the staff at the College are to receive this remarkably useful teaching aid. Commissioner Kelley thanked David McCauley, Deputy Commissioner, for securing the funding for this simulation mannequin to Cape Cod Community College and the entire Cape Cod region.

Commissioner Kelley congratulated Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Vice Commissioner for Academic Policy, as the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Award Winner for the Department of Higher Education. Recognized by the Department of Higher Education and the state for her exceptional work performance, Commissioner Kelley praised Dr. Purcell as one of the most outstanding employees with whom she has ever worked. She extolled the results of the Commonwealth's Transfer Advisory Group Report, written by Dr. Purcell and Dr. Purcell's ability to motivate others with excitement and purpose in performing their work. Ms. Boylan added that the results of Dr. Purcell's endeavors are exceptional and that it is always a pleasure to work with her. Chairman Clark congratulated Dr. Purcell and introduced her mother and her wife, who were in the audience. Commissioner Kelley presented Dr. Purcell with a certificate that acknowledged her outstanding employee performance and a box of candy.

#### **REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONER SEARCH TASK FORCE**

Mr. Peter Alcock, Chair of the Commissioner Search Task Force, submitted a letter of transmittal to Chairman Clark. The letter stated that "The Commissioner Search Task Force, at its meeting on November 28, 2008, made, seconded and unanimously voted:

That the Commissioner Search Task Force recommend to the Board of Higher Education the name of Dr. Richard M. Freeland to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education."

Mr. Alcock thanked the Committee for its work on the selection of the candidate. Board members were given a packet of information, which included, among other documents, the letter of transmittal and the Commissioner Search Leadership Statement.

Chairman Clark thanked Mr. Alcock and the Task Force members for their work. He told the Board that the next step in the process of the selection of a Commissioner is to hold a Special Board meeting, scheduled for December 5, when the candidate will be interviewed in open session. Following the interview, Board members will decide to send the name of the candidate to the Secretary of Education for approval. If the Secretary disagrees with the Board's recommendation, the Task Force will re-open the search.

#### **REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENTS**

Dr. Robert Antonucci, Chairman of the State College Council of Presidents, told the Board that the fall season has been busy, with the state colleges' preparing for the next academic year with open house activities. Interest in attending the public institutions has been high during the economic downturn, as parents and students recognize the excellent value the public institutions offer. Further comments included:

- Dr. Patricia Meservey, President of Salem State College, has been reviewing state college academic programs. Upon completion, a white paper will be prepared on the reviewer's findings.
- The state colleges continue to focus on their involvement with the Readiness Centers.
- Despite the great concern about the anticipated 8 percent cut in the budget, the state colleges will continue to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality higher education. The state colleges need to be competitive, and courses need to be comparable to those offered in the private sector.
- Help to push the Capital Bond Bill forward was requested. An overall increase in the state's employment would be one positive result of the Bill's passage.

Dr. Charles Wall, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents, told the Board that, despite economic uncertainties, the community colleges will continue, with great enthusiasm, to educate their students. He said that the community colleges look forward to continuing to work with the Board, Commissioner Kelley, and the Executive Office of Education to keep opportunities available. Further comments included:

- Because resources are needed to provide the services that the community colleges offer, the budget request is of tremendous concern to community college campuses.
- The importance of educating students to fill the needs of the workforce will promote a regeneration of the economy.
- Community colleges are inundated with student applications for next year.

In closing, he emphasized that as community college education has never been more important, community college leadership is determined to keep quality education accessible and affordable.

### **MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL WORKFORCE STRATEGIES INITIATIVE**

Chairman Clark introduced Ms. Nancy Snyder, President of Commonwealth Corporation, who gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Regional Workforce Strategies Initiative." Ms. Snyder told the Board that the purpose of this initiative is to build upon strategic partnerships among business, education and the workforce to address persistent regional skill shortages. She then presented comprehensive data, compiled specifically for Massachusetts regions and New England, including educational attainment, civilian labor force by age, gender native status, race, and ethnicity; resident data for the New Bedford area by educational attainment; employment trends across 16 workforce areas; industrial structure of employment in various Massachusetts' regions; educational attainment of employed individuals in various Massachusetts' regions; and job vacancy rates of major industry sectors in various Massachusetts regions. The results of the findings of these data define the next steps of the Initiative, which include:

- The release of the data and convening key leaders in business, education, workforce, labor and elected officials.
- The development of shared strategies, partnerships, plans and goals with clear roles, responsibilities and timeframes.
- The launch or expansion of programs in high-demand fields of study and the development of regional workforce strategies.

Workforce development partnerships and business relationships will ensure that there are jobs and internships and will provide input into curriculum. Partnerships will also make available resources from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, the Workforce Training Fund and individual training accounts.

### **MOTIONS**

Dr. Nancy Harrington, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, brought forth the following motion. She explained that this motion had been fully reviewed at the Committee meeting on November 14, 2008. After receipt of positive reports from Department of Higher Education and University of Massachusetts staff, recommendation was for approval. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **AAC 09-03 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE IN INCLUSIVE SETTINGS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the expedited application of the University of Massachusetts Boston to award the Bachelor of Arts in Early Education and Care in Inclusive Settings.

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 this report and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty, resources, and program effectiveness.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)  
**Contact:** Dr. Francesca B. Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

Dr. Nancy Harrington introduced the following motion. She introduced Dr. Jonathan Keller, Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning, and Information Systems, who told the Board that the following indicator took several years to develop. It is a cutting-edge indicator that considers transfer and other measures of success. It also utilizes a more inclusive cohort of entering students. Only a few states have this type of indicator in place. Massachusetts used the Maryland model that has received widespread national approval. Secretary Reville stated that he was pleased with the indicator and applauded the DHE for bringing forward the motion for approval. This indicator will allow for the tracking of students who are graduating after four years and beyond. Currently, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, Virginia and North Carolina are working on the development of a similar indicator.

Dr. Keller assured the Board that he would work with the Performance Measurement Task Force to determine the feasibility of including the measure that focuses on an even more inclusive cohort of entering students, specifically students who earn less than 18 credits, a proposal that was recommended by the Executive Office of Education.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **AAC 09-04 CHANGE IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS INDICATOR FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the attached performance indicator for measuring the success of community college students. Further, the Board of Higher Education directs the Department of Higher Education, in collaboration with the community colleges and the Performance Measurement Task Force, to present to the Board of Higher Education a recommendation for an additional performance indicator or indicators to measure the success of community college students who have attempted less than 18 credits during their first two years. Said recommendation shall be made to the Board of Higher Education no later than June 1, 2009.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15 A, Section 7(a)  
**Contact:** Dr. Jonathan Keller, Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning and Information Systems

#### **Overview of the New Community College Student Success Indicator**

##### Cohort Definitions

- 1) All first-time and transfer new-degree and non-degree credit students enrolled in fall
- 2) Attempted a minimum of 18 credits during the first two years
- 3) Not enrolled in ESL credit coursework during the first two years

##### Success Outcomes

- 1) Graduated from same institution as started
- 2) Transferred to any other institution (utilizing the National Student Clearinghouse data)
- 3) Earned 30 credits
- 4) Still enrolled at college

##### Tracking Time Frame

- 1) 4, 5 and 6 years from initial fall term

Dr. Nancy Harrington introduced the following motion. Chairman Clark told the Board that there has been much discussion about this issue for a long time, but now is the right time to build on the work already done and to determine what is best for public higher education. Chairman Clark said he looks forward to the results of the recommendations.

Secretary Reville said that all three educational sectors are involved in recognizing strengths and integrating them to promote student access. Commissioner Kelley told the Board that Drs. Eileen Lee and Francesca Purcell will represent the Department of Higher Education in this effort.

Dr. Beach questioned why this process was not originally tried by the Elementary and Secondary Education sector. Chairman Clark replied that as the Task Force is populated, it will include representation from Elementary and Secondary Education, and Secretary Reville added that going forward, it is vitally important that the Task Force be fully integrated.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **AAC 09-05 TASK FORCE ON 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education recognizes the need to ensure that graduates from the public institutions of higher education are prepared with the skills necessary for success in a technologically complex, globally competitive world. If the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is to prosper in the future, college graduates must master the academic knowledge and applied skills necessary for success in the knowledge-driven 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In furtherance of the above, the Board of Higher Education hereby establishes the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, the purpose of which is to make recommendations on how 21<sup>st</sup> century skills—such as global awareness, critical thinking, and ethical leadership—can be more fully integrated into college student learning to better prepare students for today's career and citizenship challenges and demands. Task Force members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Higher Education.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9

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

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Boylan, Chair of the Fiscal and Administrative Policy Committee, introduced the following consent agenda motion. She stated that each motion was discussed fully with Edward Adelman, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State College Building Authority, and recommendation is for approval.

#### **FAAP 09-07 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**FAAP 09-02 MSCBA PROJECT APPROVAL  
FRAMINGHAM STATE COLLEGE**

**FAAP 09-03 MSCBA PROJECT APPROVAL  
MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN**

**FAAP 09-04 MSCBA PROJECT APPROVAL  
SALEM STATE COLLEGE**

**FAAP 09-05 MSCBA PROJECT APPROVAL  
WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE**

**FAAP 09-06 MSCBA PROJECT APPROVAL  
RESIDENCE HALL RENEWAL AND ADAPTION**

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

**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

**FAAP 09-02 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY PROJECTS PERTAINING TO RESIDENCE HALLS**

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY LAND ACQUISITION, SITE PREPARATION, AND PARKING RELOCATION – FRAMINGHAM STATE COLLEGE**

1. The Commissioner of the System of Public Higher Education (the “Commissioner”) 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 projects described in EXHIBIT A attached hereto.
2. Bonds issued by the Authority to finance the projects 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 Commissioner and all other officers of the Board, each acting singly, are authorized to request the Commissioner of Administration (Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance) to approve in writing the initiation by the Authority of the projects 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 within the last 60 days) 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 \$7,130,000.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6  
**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

**FAAP 09-03 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY PROJECTS PERTAINING TO RESIDENCE HALLS**

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY REPAIR, RENOVATION, AND CONSTRUCTION OF STUDENT LIFE FACILITIES—MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN**

1. The Commissioner of the System of Public Higher Education (the “Commissioner”) 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 projects described in EXHIBIT A attached hereto.
2. Bonds issued by the Authority to finance the projects 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 Commissioner and all other officers of the Board, each acting singly, are authorized to request the Commissioner of Administration (Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance) to approve in writing the initiation by the Authority of the projects 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 within the last 60 days) 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 \$11,700,000.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6  
**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

**FAAP 09-04 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY PROJECTS PERTAINING TO RESIDENCE HALLS**

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RESIDENCE HALL AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE**

1. The Commissioner of the System of Public Higher Education (the "Commissioner") 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 projects described in EXHIBIT A attached hereto.
2. Bonds issued by the Authority to finance the projects 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 Commissioner and all other officers of the Board, each acting singly, are authorized to request the Commissioner of Administration (Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance) to approve in writing the initiation by the Authority of the projects 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 within the last 60 days) 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 \$66,100,000.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6  
**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

**FAAP 09-05 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY PROJECTS PERTAINING TO RESIDENCE HALLS**

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW RESIDENCE HALL AT WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE**

1. The Commissioner of the System of Public Higher Education (the "Commissioner") 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 projects described in EXHIBIT A attached hereto.
2. Bonds issued by the Authority to finance the projects 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 Commissioner and all other officers of the Board, each acting singly, are authorized to request the Commissioner of Administration (Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance) to approve in writing the initiation by the Authority of the projects 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 within the last 60 days) 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 \$28,060,000.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6  
**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

**BHE 09-06 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY PROJECTS PERTAINING TO RESIDENCE HALLS**

**MOVED: MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY RESIDENCE HALL RENEWAL AND ADAPTION**

1. The Commissioner of the System of Public Higher Education (The "Commissioner") 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 projects described in EXHIBIT a attached hereto.

2. Bonds issued by the Authority to finance the projects 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 authorized a request.
3. The Commissioner and all other officers of the Board, each acting singly, are authorized to request the Commissioner of Administration (Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance) to approve in writing the initiation by the Authority of the projects 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 §1.150-1(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 within the last 60 days) 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 \$21,850,000.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6  
**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

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

#### **FAAP 09-08 MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached amended Guidelines for the Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship pilot program.

**Authority:** MGL Chapter 15D, Section 5, Clause (10)  
Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2005, Item 7070-0065  
Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006, Line Item 7061-9804  
**Contact:** Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

### **COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

##### **INSTITUTION**

Any regionally accredited public or private college or university in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that offers an approved educator preparation program for an initial license in Mathematics or Science or a program of study or related coursework leading to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education licensure in Mathematics or Science.

##### **ELIGIBLE STUDENT**

To be eligible for the Math and Science Teachers Scholarship Program, an applicant must:

- be employed, full or part time, as an educator in a Massachusetts public school or school that provides publicly-funded special education, and
- be currently teaching Mathematics or Science (including Technology or Engineering) under a preliminary license, waiver, or outside their licensed area; and meet the following criteria:
  - (a) be a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts
  - (b) be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen
  - (c) be enrolled in up to three higher education courses per academic semester in fulfillment of degree or program requirements in a state-approved educator preparation program for the initial license in the Mathematics or Science field and level of interest.
  - (d) sign an agreement to continue teaching Mathematics or Science (including Technology/Engineering) in a Massachusetts public school for a term of service after completion of courses or program (no longer teaching out-of-field) or repay funds as defined below
  - (e) be eligible under Title IV Regulations and not in default of a state or federal education loan or grant
  - (f) annually file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Priority consideration will be given to applicants meeting the above criteria who are teaching full or part time in a high-need district. A high-need district is a district that has been identified for corrective action in which there are one or more schools identified for corrective action or restructuring or districts in which the percentage of low-income students is 40 percent or greater.

Preference will be given to applicants who are identified by superintendents or principals as highly talented educators, who have demonstrated a commitment to education and to instructional excellence.

**AWARD VALUE**

The award for eligible applicants under this program shall include the cost of tuition, fees, and related expenses as determined by the Board of Higher Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for up to three eligible courses per academic semester at an eligible institution of higher education in Massachusetts. Eligible applicants may receive a scholarship award for all academic semesters, including summer terms, based on availability.

Priority will be given to teachers employed in high-need districts. Teachers in high-need districts are eligible to receive full funding for tuition, fees, and related expenses. Teachers employed in non-high-need districts are eligible for partial funding (75 percent) of the cost of tuition, fees, and related expenses.

The Board of Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, will annually review the tuition and fee charges at Massachusetts public and private colleges and universities and adjust the program award values, as it deems necessary.

**TEACHING OBLIGATION**

Recipients of the Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship Program must sign a Terms and Conditions Statement acknowledging their obligation to provide service as a full-time teacher in a Massachusetts public school (K-12). The service commitment will range from a minimum of one and a maximum of four years of employment as a full-time teacher, depending on the number of courses taken with scholarship assistance, as follows:

1-2 courses	one year
3-4 courses	two years
5-7 courses	three years
8-10 or more	four years

Teachers in high-need districts are expected to fulfill their term of service in a high-need district. If a teacher in a high-need district fulfills the term of service in a non-high-need district, the teacher must repay the difference between the full scholarship rate and the partial scholarship rate.

A teacher who benefits from the scholarship and fails to provide the required service in a Massachusetts Public School will be responsible for repayment of the scholarship award received, prorated on the length of service provided, as defined in the Terms and Conditions Statement and as determined by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **INSTITUTIONAL DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS**

Each participating institution must certify that the recipient is eligible in accordance with guidelines established for the Mathematics and Science Teachers Scholarship Program.

All funds appropriated for this program must be expended by June 30 of each fiscal year or as otherwise determined by the Legislature.

### **PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

Each institution participating in the Pilot Scholarship Program for Mathematics and Science Teachers must file a State Financial Aid Program Participation Agreement to be maintained on file in the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance.

### **AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

- a) It shall be the responsibility of each institution to maintain documentation of a recipient student's eligibility.
- b) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall require each campus to furnish to the Board of Higher Education a report detailing specific information regarding recipients. The Office of Student Financial Assistance 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 of Higher Education, 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 General Laws, Chapter 30, Section 42.

### **AUTHORITY**

Chapter 139 of the Acts of 2006, line item 7061-9804.

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

### **FAAP 09-09 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, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

### **SECTION P: DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ADOPTED CHILDREN TUITION WAIVER AND FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:**

In July 2008, the Massachusetts Legislature amended Chapter 15A, Section 19 - Public Education Tuition Waiver, of the General Laws. This law provides for full tuition and fee waivers for foster children in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and children adopted through this agency that choose to attend a Massachusetts public institution of higher education, and it requires the Board of Higher Education to establish guidelines for these waivers. Section 19 also states, "The commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of these waivers, after all reimbursement from the federal government have been exhausted."

## **DEFINITIONS:**

### ***ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION:***

An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

### ***ELIGIBLE PROGRAM:***

Any eligible state-supported undergraduate degree or certificate program offered by the institution.

### ***ELIGIBLE STUDENT:***

Eligible students shall include children who were in the custody of the Department of Children and Families who were:

- adopted by an eligible Massachusetts state employee through the Department of Children and Families; or
- adopted by an eligible Massachusetts resident through the Department of Children and Families;
- and who meet the following criteria:
  - a) Is a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts or was a permanent resident of the Commonwealth at the time of adoption
  - b) Is a U.S. citizen or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations
  - c) Is under the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the academic year
  - d) Is enrolled in an undergraduate degree, certificate or short-term certificate program, or is taking noncredit courses
  - e) Has applied for financial aid, using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and,
  - f) Is in compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service
  - g) Is not in default of any Federal or State Student Loans for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received
  - h) Is in good standing and meets the institution's requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress

### ***ELIGIBLE STATE EMPLOYEE AND RESIDENTS:***

Eligible state employees shall include all individuals determined to be Massachusetts state employees at the time of adoption of the eligible student including:

- All full- and part-time employees employed at the time of the adoption by Massachusetts state government at least six months,
- Employees who are working for the state at the time of the adoption and who continue to be employed by the state for at least six months after the adoption.

Eligible Massachusetts residents shall include:

- All individuals determined to be Massachusetts state residents at the time of the adoption of the eligible student.

**ELIGIBLE COURSE:**

Any state-supported course offered by an institution at a public college or university, excluding all graduate courses and courses in the M.D. program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Eligible courses include those toward an undergraduate degree program, certificate program, short-term certificate program, and non-credit courses.

**AWARD VALUE:**

The award under this program shall be equal to 100 percent of all tuition and fees at the resident rate as follows:

- a) a waiver of tuition for all students who qualify for a waiver of tuition under this section of the Commonwealth Tuition Waiver Program, plus 100 percent of all fees for all state-supported courses or program of study.

In all cases, assistance under this program is awarded after consideration of all other federal scholarship and grant resources. Institutions may not use this tuition and fee assistance program to supplant other state, federal or institutional aid previously awarded to the student. Wherever possible, institutions are encouraged to use the Tuition and Fee Assistance Program to reduce student education loan debt.

**INSTITUTIONAL DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT:**

Each participating institution must provide information to the Board of Higher Education regarding the student's financial aid award for the current academic year. This information will be used to determine the student's Tuition and Fee assistance. Institutions must disburse funds in compliance with guidelines governing all state financial aid programs.

**PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT:**

All institutions receiving the Massachusetts Tuition and Fee Assistance funds for eligible Adopted and Foster Children must have an active State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

**AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:**

- a) The Commissioner shall require each campus to furnish annually by August 31 a report detailing the number of Department of Children and Families recipients for the previous year and the corresponding amount of tuition waived.
- b) 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 and documents for a period of five years if approval is received from the Records Conservation Board in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 30, and Section 42.

The following motion, introduced by Ms. Jeanne-Marie Boylan, was introduced, seconded and approved unanimously.

**FAAP 09-10 AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE FOSTER CHILDREN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM, AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 15A, 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, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

**SECTION Q: DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
FOSTER CHILD TUITION WAIVER AND FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**PURPOSE:**

In July 2008, the Massachusetts Legislature amended Chapter 15A, Section 19 - Public Education Tuition Waiver, of the General Laws. This law provides for full tuition and fee waivers for foster children in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and children adopted through this agency that choose to attend a Massachusetts public institution of higher education, and it requires the Board of Higher Education to establish guidelines for these waivers. Section 19 also states, "The commonwealth, not the institutions of public higher education, shall bear the cost of these waivers, after all reimbursement from the federal government have been exhausted."

**DEFINITIONS:**

***ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION:***

An institution within the system of public higher education under Section 5 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

***ELIGIBLE PROGRAM:***

Any eligible state supported undergraduate degree or certificate program offered by the institution.

***ELIGIBLE STUDENT:***

Shall mean a student who has not earned a baccalaureate degree and meets the following conditions:

- Is a current or former foster child placed in the custody of the Department of Children and Families and remained in custody through age 18 without subsequently being returned home, or
- Is a child whose guardianship was sponsored by the Department of Children and Families through age 18;
- and who meet the following criteria:
  - a) Is a permanent legal resident of Massachusetts or was a permanent legal resident at the time of the Department of Children and Families sponsored guardianship
  - b) Is a US Citizen or noncitizen eligible under Title IV Regulations
  - c) Was in the custody of the Department of Children and Families for at least six months before age of 18
  - d) Has applied for financial aid, using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and
  - e) Is enrolled full time, half time, or part time in an eligible program or is taking an eligible course as defined
  - f) Is in compliance with applicable law regarding Selective Service
  - g) Is not in default of any Federal or State Student Loans for attendance at any institution or owes a refund for any previous financial aid received
  - h) Is in good standing and meets the institution's requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress

***ELIGIBLE COURSE:***

Any state-supported course offered by an institution at a public college or university, excluding all graduate courses and courses in the M.D. program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Eligible courses include those toward an undergraduate degree program, certificate program, short-term certificate program, and non-credit courses. Institutions are encouraged to develop waiver programs for eligible students that would provide 50 percent tuition waiver for any non-state supported course and/or certificate program.

***AWARD VALUE:***

The award under this program shall be equal to 100 percent of all billed tuition and fees, at the resident rate, as follows:

- a) a waiver of tuition for all students who qualify for tuition waivers under this section of the Commonwealth Tuition Waiver Guidelines, plus 100 percent of all fees for all state-supported courses or program of study.

In all cases, assistance under this program is awarded after consideration of all other federal scholarship and grant resources. Institutions may not use this tuition and fee assistance program to supplant other state, federal or institutional aid previously awarded to the student. Wherever possible, institutions are encouraged to use the Tuition and Fee Assistance Program to reduce student education loan debt.

***INSTITUTIONAL DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT:***

Each participating institution must provide information to the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education regarding the student's financial aid award for the current academic year. This information will be used to determine the student's Tuition and Fee assistance. Institutions must disburse funds in compliance with guidelines governing all state financial aid programs.

***PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT:***

All institutions receiving funds under the Massachusetts Foster Child Tuition and Fee Assistance Program for eligible Foster Children must have an active State Financial Aid Participation Agreement on file with the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

***AUDIT REQUIREMENTS:***

- a) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall require each campus to furnish annually by August 31 a report detailing the number of Foster Children assisted for the previous year and the corresponding amount of tuition waived.
- b) All financial books, records and documents pertaining to this program shall at all times be open to inspection, review and audit by the Commissioner of Higher Education, the State Auditor or their authorized representatives who shall have access to the premises wherever such books, records and documents are located. The institutions shall retain such 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 General Laws, Chapter 30 Section 42.

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Boylan brought forth the following motion. She then thanked Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy, for his work in creating the budget document. Dr. Hamel, in turn, thanked Ms. Jessica Cogswell, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Policy, for her work in developing the budget.

Dr. Hamel presented a PowerPoint overview of the budget that includes five Massachusetts Higher Education initiatives:

1. **Supporting the colleges, University and campuses.** The FY10 budget request for the state and community colleges is \$470.8 million (with a gap of \$257 million), and the budget request for the University is \$510.1 million (with a gap of \$313 million).
2. **Expanding access and affordability:** The FY10 requested budget for the Community College Access Program is \$7 million, which includes funding for Early Education and Care Provider Students and parents or guardians of income-eligible students. The funding request includes \$2.5 million for Foster Care/ Adopted Children Aid, which is legislatively mandated for expansion of the Foster Care and Adopted Children Tuition Waiver program to cover fees at public campuses. The request for MassGrant expands by \$14.1 million to a total of \$43.9 million to include 16,000 additional public and private students, which will increase the average award from \$2,400 to \$2,500.
3. **Enhancing student proficiency and success:** Funding to support initiatives includes the budget request of \$422,000 for the School-to-College Report, initially funded by the National Governor's Association; enhanced access to online courses and full-degree programs offered by the state and community colleges through a funding request of \$250,000; an early assessment-Accuplacer budget request of \$100,000 to



cover assessments of 15,000 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students; and a financial literacy budget request of \$250,000 to expand the College and Career Web Portal.

4. **Growing our competitive advantage** budget requests include funding of the STEM Pipeline Fund (STEM networks, project support and state-level policy grants) of \$4 million, and a \$2 million request to address the shortage of nurses and health professionals in Massachusetts.
5. **Providing outreach and program management** budget requests include the following: (1) \$2.5 million for DHE staff support, which includes the refill of vacant position to support BHE initiatives; (2) private fund raising incentive match of \$7 million, as a supplemental funding request; \$5.9 million for Health and Welfare contractually negotiated incremental costs; and \$467,500 for the restoration of funding to support New England Board of Higher Education programs.

The above FY10 budget requests total \$1,048,021,269, an increase of \$78,923,774, or a 7.5 percent increase of the FY09 funding. It leaves a 7-10 percent gap closure. The increase is aspirational but recognizes the needs of the public higher education system. Ms. Boylan added that the budget request represents an affordable, accessible, and quality as an investment in the Commonwealth's students.

The following motion was seconded and approved unanimously, with Mr. Paul Reville, Secretary of Education, abstaining.

#### **FAAP 09-11 APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FY2010 BUDGET**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached Board of Higher Education budget request for Fiscal Year 2010.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9

**Contact:** Dr. Dale Hamel, Acting Associate Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Policy

#### **STUDENT TRANSFER PRESENTATION**

Dr. Keller provided a PowerPoint presentation that defined the meaning of "student transfer" and presented data that indicated the scope of the transfer function for Massachusetts public higher education. The presentation also provided the source of transfer students to two-year colleges. Data were presented that showed direction of transfer, degrees and credits attained prior to transfer, transfer by region, and the graduation rate at the transfer institution of new transfer students. Further data were presented comparing the graduation rates of all full-time new students to the graduation rates for full-time new students with 60 plus credits at time of transfer. Lastly, Dr. Keller presented data that showed the association of community college GPA with the success of transfer students.

Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Vice Commissioner for Academic Policy, thanked Dr. Jonathan Keller for providing data that informed policy decisions concerning transfer. She told the Board that 270 faculty members have attended regional transfer conferences, and all campus chief academic officers have met for discussion of the subject. Discussion with faculty governance has taken place, and feedback thus far has been quite positive. The Commonwealth Transfer Advisory Group continues to meet, and a new subcommittee will be established soon to work on implementation guidelines.

Dr. Keller, who appeared before Board with Dr. Purcell, told the Board that certain community colleges had a higher transfer rate than others. Because the missions of the community colleges reflect the community in which they are located, the transfer rates are not even across the segment.

Mr. Thomas asked if data were available to assess transfer rejections. Dr. Keller replied that he is hoping to gather more information on how credits will transfer.

Chairman Clark called the Massachusetts transfer policy one of the best in the nation, and Secretary Reville remarked that the work performed by our institutional researchers is critically important in making policy. He thanked Chair Clark for moving this policy forward.

## GEAR UP PRESENTATION

Mr. Robert Dais, GEAR UP Director, presented a PowerPoint overview of the GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), which is a federally funded grant program that receives matching funds from the Commonwealth. The program is designed to increase the number of low-income students, who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

GEAR UP serves students in grades 7-12, who qualify for free or reduced lunch. In Massachusetts, 6,200 students are served from seven middle and nine high schools in Lawrence, Lowell, Boston, Worcester, New Bedford, Springfield, and Holyoke of which 45% are Hispanic, 26% are white, 23% are African American, 4% are Asian, 17% have limited English proficiency, and 13% have Individual Education Plans.

Objectives of the program and success from intervention:

GEAR UP OBJECTIVES	SUCCESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve attendance and academic retention rates</li><li>• Provide academic support through tutoring, after-school and summer programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 72% of students showed improvement in attendance</li><li>• 62% of students at risk of repeating a year moved on to next grade</li><li>• 61% showed improvement in academic subjects</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve student performance in math</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Average MCAS math pass rate increased 15.75% between 2005-2007</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase enrollment in advanced placement, honors classes, and Dual Enrollment programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since 2005, enrollment in AP courses has more than doubled</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase pass rates on MCAS exam and scoring at the Advanced/ Proficient levels</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recent data show that 69.5% of GEAR UP students took SAT versus 40.2% of non-GEAR UP peers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase student and parent college awareness and financial aid awareness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2007-2008 GEAR UP Student Survey data show that, 66% and 85% 11<sup>th</sup>- and 12<sup>th</sup>-graders, respectively, sought advising about college entrance requirements; and 45% and 78% of 11<sup>th</sup>- and 12-graders, respectively, sought advising about college entrance.</li></ul>

Since 2005 Massachusetts' GEAR UP students have been awarded \$1,049,963 in total scholarships to over 640 recipients.

Future growth opportunities include the expansion of STEM programs and achievement and the initiative to increase the number of schools achieving annual yearly progress.

Chairman Clark remarked that GEAR UP is great model that truly makes a difference in the lives of low-income students. Dr. Desmond applauded the program, as well.

Secretary Reville stated that the Readiness Project targets college readiness, and he thanked Mr. Dais for his work toward preparing students for postsecondary education.

## APPROACHES TO INCREASING FAFSA COMPLETION RATES

Secretary Reville told the Board that because of the deep financial crisis, it is imperative that students and college administrators be aggressive in capturing every dollar available to help students pay to attend college. It is important, then, that all students complete a FAFSA form to attain maximum funding to cover college costs. Though guidelines have yet to be completed, much good work has been accomplished by J.D. LaRock, Policy Director of the Executive Office of Education; Department of Higher Education staff, and campus representatives in developing guidelines for the successful completion of the FAFSA. There was general discussion about ways to encourage students to submit FAFSA forms.

- Ms. Boylan said that the Board looks forward to receiving the motion to vote on FAFSA guidelines at its February meeting. In the meantime, the campus officials are eager to integrate any changes into their admissions process.
- Chairman Clark questioned how many students actually know about the FAFSA Opt-Out provision. In a discussion with the Admissions Director at Westfield State College, he was told that completion of a FAFSA form should not be a requirement, as some students know that they do not qualify for funding, that they do not wish to expose their parents' income, and that the completion of the FAFSA form may delay adversely the receipt of applications at colleges.
- Student Board member, Kate Quigley, remarked that students need to be educated regarding funding options. She said that few students know about funding that may be left unused by the non-completion of the FAFSA form. Ms. Quigley suggested that high school guidance counselors should be aware of FAFSA requirements so that they can inform college-seeking students. One option is for college campuses to inform students by including an information packet with their college applications.
- Dr. Beach suggested that a You-Tube advertisement might help to inform students. Information packets could also be presented to high school students and their parents at "college financial aid" nights that are offered at high schools. Mr. Thomas stated that a strong public awareness campaign is needed.
- Chairman Clark remarked that providing FAFSA information presents another opportunity for the Web Portal to provide important information to students.
- Commissioner Kelley stated that this is an opportunity for the three segments of public higher education to share approaches, as there are different options available. She said she thought the financial downturn may be a contributing factor in an increase in FAFSA form submissions.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Citing economic pressures and the necessity to spend more time with his professional work, Chairman Clark announced his resignation, effective with the Board's impending appointment of Dr. Richard Freeland on December 5, 2008. He said that during his tenure, he tried to demonstrate respect for the system of higher education and every constituent group and strived to increase advocacy, good communications, and a unified system; he expressed hope that these measures will continue. Of his work with the Board, he said that he is most proud of his progress on the Capital Bond Bill. Chairman Clark also said that he was grateful that the Friends of Public Higher Education Dinner was held and that Senator Edward Kennedy was its honoree.

Chairman Clark thanked Governor Patrick for the honor of serving him as Chairman; President Dana Mohler-Faria, who has been supportive and a good friend; Secretary Paul Reville, with whom it has been an honor to work; former Commissioner Patricia Plummer, Commissioner Aundra Kelley, and the Department of Higher Education staff. He thanked Presidents Robert Antonucci of Fitchburg State College and Charles Wall of Massasoit Community College; Jan Motta; Ken Lemanski; and union representatives, C. J. O'Donnell, Rick McDermott, Arthur Pippo, and Joseph LeBlanc.

Secretary Reville told Chairman Clark that it is with a sense of loss to learn of his departure from the Board of Higher Education. Further, he commented that Chairman Clark was a model for his advancement of advocacy of and collaboration within the public higher education system. He added that the Chairman's spirit has always been exemplary. He told Chairman Clark that the Governor and he will deeply miss his passion, spirit and work.

Commissioner Kelley praised Chairman Clark for his leadership and passion for the Commonwealth's students and faculty, and DHE staff. Despite his personal responsibilities, she said that he always found time to care for higher education issues and all of those involved with its mission. She said that she hoped that his connection with public higher education would continue.

Chairman Clark thanked all for the many kind comments.

**OPEN FORUM**

Dr. C. J. O'Donnell, President of the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA), told the Board that the faculty represented by the MSCA still does not have a contract.

He thanked Chairman Clark for his fifteen months of service and told him that he had been outstanding in his work with the MSCA and a great help to him and former President Patricia Markunas. Dr. O'Donnell told Chairman Clark that Dr. Markunas and he are sorry to see him leave his position. He also thanked the Chairman and the Board for their willingness to work with the MSCA.

Great difficulties still remain with the financial offer from the state's administrative office. Collective bargaining began on January 4, 2008, and an offer was received by the MSCA on September 29. Four days later the offer was put on hold, due to the 9C cuts. Negotiations are next scheduled for December 2 and 3, 2008. Dr. O'Donnell told the Board that, though the MSCA understands the difficulties with the economy, the contract must be settled by January 9, 2009, or the faculty will lose retroactivity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.