

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING
June 4, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design at 621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman
Peter Alcock, Vice Chairman
Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach
Dr. Mario Borunda
Jeanne-Marie Boylan

James Coyle
C. Bernard Fulp
Dr. Nancy Harrington
Paul Reville

Absent: Dr. Nancy Hoffman and Henry Thomas, III

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairman Desmond recommended a motion for the Board to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2009, Board meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Chairman Desmond welcomed everyone in attendance and remarked on the beautiful artwork that is showcased throughout the building.

Chairman Desmond thanked President Katherine Sloan for hosting the meeting and invited her to address the Board and all others in attendance to share with them news about Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt).

WELCOME REMARKS

Dr. Katherine Sloan, President of Massachusetts College of Art and Design, welcomed the Board to MassArt. She introduced a short video highlighting the work of the students.

President Sloan remarked that, while the College community is very concerned over the immediate economic situation, MassArt is also excited about the long-term plans that are already underway, including the current renovation of one building and the future renovation of three others, including a residence hall and a design center.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Desmond expressed that this was a bittersweet moment for him with the Peter Alcock's departure from the Board.

Chairman Desmond introduced and read a resolution on behalf of the Board and presented Board member G.L. Peter Alcock with a plaque honoring his completion of tenure and service on the Board of Higher Education. Other Board members also expressed their gratitude and appreciation for Peter Alcock's many years of dedicated service.

Chairman Desmond continued his remarks, stating that over the past several weeks he has attended a number of commencements throughout the Commonwealth and that each was a pleasure to attend. Additionally, the Chairman feels encouraged after talking to the students, graduates and undergraduates, and feels that the students understand the challenges that they are facing but that they are prepared to do so.

Chairman Desmond announced that on Tuesday, June 2, he and the Commissioner attended the first meeting of the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education (CAGUE). This group is a cross-section of leaders, powerful thinkers, public officials and others, all of whom are joining in a deep conversation about the learning outcomes that the students who are graduating from the public institutions of higher education

need to master in order to be effective citizens and effective leaders moving forward into the 21st century. He remarked that this is a wonderful group that is being chaired by Board member Nancy Hoffman. He stated that the Board would be kept informed about the group's conversations.

Chairman Desmond announced that two candidates, Michael Mizzoni and Elizabeth Hendrick, have been nominated for selection by Governor Patrick to serve as next year's Student Board member. Both candidates are University of Massachusetts students as required by the annual segmental rotation in statute.

COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Commissioner Richard Freeland, echoed Chairman Desmond's remarks regarding the excitement of the commencement season, stating that it is such a wonderful treat to participate in these yearly events and to be reminded what the enterprise is all about.

Commissioner Freeland then provided the Board with an update on the FY10 budget, noting its recent progression through the House and Senate. Given sharp changes in the state's revenue projections, he said the two versions are quite different and will now go to a Conference Committee to work out the differences before the budget is sent to the Governor for final approval.

In response to the state fiscal situation, the Commissioner reported that he has convened a Task Force on Collaboration and Efficiency, which met for the second time earlier this week. Board Member Bernard Fulp is representing the Board on this Task Force. Under the leadership of President Dana Mohler-Faria of Bridgewater State College, this group is charged with taking a hard look at spending within the system of public higher education and to identify areas where spending can be more efficient. The Task Force will continue a very aggressive schedule of meetings throughout the summer and plans to present some findings this fall.

Commissioner Freeland informed the Board that the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA), representing state college faculty and librarians, and the Association of Professional Administrators (APA), representing state college mid-level administrators, have ratified recently negotiated collective bargaining agreements. Board staff is busy drafting the remaining two agreements and preparing the costing information necessary for submittal to the Governor.

The Commissioner reported that the present economic situation has placed great stress upon employment relationships at all public higher education institutions, which have resulted in the layoff of personnel, most recently at Salem State College. While there are indications that there may be other layoffs at other institutions, each institution is responding in its own manner based upon its own individual situation and the assessment of what is necessary to perform its mission and protect its core services.

The Commissioner provided an update on FAFSA. Earlier this year, the Board passed a motion on the FAFSA completion provision that requires institutions to include specific language on their admission applications in order to encourage students to complete the FAFSA. All institutions, with the exception of one, have commenced the implementation process to have the FAFSA provision language implemented by June 2009.

At the April Board meeting, the Commissioner mentioned that MassArt was expected to bring forth its five-year plan for renewal at today's Board meeting. Today, he said that MassArt plans to add to the draft FY2010-2014 plan, outlined at the April Board meeting, a few elements that will help the many stakeholders to better understand the college's present status, where it wants to go during the next five years, and how it plans to get there. MassArt will provide its finalized Partnership Initiative Five-Year Strategic Plan to the Board in the fall. The current Partnership agreement will remain in place until then.

Commissioner Freeland concluded his remarks by stating that on June 15, 2009, the presidents of all of the community and state colleges and the chancellors of the University of Massachusetts campuses will be gathering at Quinsigamond Community College in order to consider our position as a system of public higher education at the end of the year. This is part of an effort by the Commissioner and University of Massachusetts President Jack Wilson to create as much unity among our campuses as possible and to

determine the most important current challenges we face and how the public system of higher education can meet them together most effectively.

REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Secretary Reville reported that over the past ten months he has visited all 29 campuses of the public higher education system and that it has been terrific experience for him.

The Secretary mentioned the FY10 budget and said he is hopeful about where the final numbers will be for education. He also stated that while there are ARRA funds currently available, because of current circumstances in the current Fiscal Year, monies that were reserved for FY11 were urgently needed at the end of FY09 to cover a deficit in the current fiscal year.

Secretary Reville then commented on the Administration's request for a waiver with respect to maintenance of effort in the ARRA application that was just recently approved. In the application any state has to represent that its maintenance of effort (current level of funding) in elementary, secondary and higher education is at least at the 2006 level; if not, there are provisions to apply for a waiver.

Secretary Reville reported on the agenda of the Executive Office of Education, noting new legislation that may be filed and an unprecedented level of cooperation among all three departments. Secretary Reville also commented on the recent Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) results and the preparation of elementary educators with respect to mathematics, noting that his office, along with the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, will be dealing with this in the coming months.

Secretary Reville commended Commissioner Freeland for his leadership in working with the other Commissioners on programs like the Readiness Centers, the Task Force on College Readiness and the work on cost efficiencies and undergraduate education. He stated that this is an exceptional moment in time with a rare opportunity to move forward.

REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

Dr. John Sbrega, President of Bristol Community College, gave the report of the community colleges in the absence of Dr. Charles Wall, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents.

President Sbrega stated that this is the season to celebrate the institutions' highest priority: student success. There have been a number of commencement exercises, "pinnings" and award ceremonies on the campuses, and it really is an exciting time. He thanked the Board of Higher Education for its continued support to the community colleges.

President Sbrega also pointed out that enrollments in the Dual Enrollment program across the Commonwealth have been soaring. He commented on the Capital Bond Bill as essential for the campuses to fulfill their noble mission of student access, noting that because the community colleges are in the midst of record enrollments, facilities to accommodate these needs are necessary. President Sbrega commented on sustainability and green efforts and that all of the presidents have signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment.

Dr. Robert Antonucci, President of Fitchburg State College and Chairman of the Council of Presidents, thanked the Board for their continued support. He noted that all of the state colleges graduated 6,500 new graduates joining 230,000 alumnae. He expressed appreciation for the stimulus funding that has been issued to the campuses.

President Antonucci also indicated that the state colleges support the MTEL and thanked Commissioner Freeland for his remarks to *The Boston Globe*. He expressed his thanks to Peter Alcock for his service to the Board of Higher Education. He also thanked the Board and said the state colleges are committed to moving ahead and are energized for the next year.

MOTIONS

Dr. Nancy Harrington, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, introduced the following motion to approve by consent agenda the AAC Motions 09-15 through 09-20.

Peter Alcock recommended approval of this motion, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

AAC 09-21 APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MOTIONS 09-15 THROUGH 09-20 ON A CONSENT AGENDA

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

- AAC 09-15 Framingham State College
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
- AAC 09-16 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training
- AAC 09-17 Quinsigamond Community College
Associate in Science in Computer Science
- AAC 09-18 Westfield State College
Master of Social Work
- AAC 09-19 Worcester State College
Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Visual and Performing Arts
- AAC 09-20 Bethel University
Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies

Authority: Article II, Section 6, By-Laws
Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

AAC 09-15 FRAMINGHAM STATE COLLEGE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Framingham State College** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Framingham State College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

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

AAC 09-16 MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated

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

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

AAC 09-17 QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE: ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of **Quinsigamond Community College** to award the **Associate in Science in Computer Science**.

One year after graduating the program's first class, the College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty, resources and program effectiveness.

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

AAC 09-18 WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE: MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Westfield State College** to award the **Master of Social Work**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Westfield State College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

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

AAC 09-19 WORCESTER STATE COLLEGE: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Worcester State College** to award the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Visual and Performing Arts.

One year after graduating the program's first class, the College shall submit to the Board a status report addressing the College's 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 Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

AAC 09-20 BETHEL UNIVERSITY: MASTER OF DIVINITY, THE MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, AND THE CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Foreign Corporation Certification of Bethel University to award the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and the Certificate of Theological Studies.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.
Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

Dr. Nancy Harrington, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, introduced the following motion to approve by consent agenda the AAC motions 09-22 through 09-23.

Peter Alcock recommended approval of the following motion, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

AAC 09-24 CONSENT AGENDA

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

AAC 09-22 Berkshire Community College
Approval of Associate in Science in Criminal Justice under the Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs

AAC 09-23 Salem State College
Approval of Master of Science in Criminal Justice under the Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

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

AAC 09-22 BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE: APPROVAL OF ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNDER THE *GUIDELINES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS*

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

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

Authority: Chapter 41, Section 108L (as amended)

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

AAC 09-23 SALEM STATE COLLEGE: APPROVAL OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNDER THE *GUIDELINES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS*

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the **Master of Science in Criminal Justice** at **Salem State College** under the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs*. The program has been found to meet or exceed all quality standards established by the *Guidelines*.

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

Authority: Chapter 41, Section 108L (as amended)

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

Dr. Nancy Harrington, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, introduced the following motion to approve by consent agenda the AAC motions 09-25 through 09-31.

Mr. Peter Alcock recommended approval of this motion, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

AAC 09-32 CONSENT AGENDA

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

- AAC 09-25 Renewal of Bunker Hill Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 09-26 Renewal of Cape Cod Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 09-27 Renewal of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 09-28 Renewal of North Shore Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 09-29 Renewal of Northern Essex Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 09-30 Renewal of University of Massachusetts Lowell Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 09-31 Renewal of Westfield State College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws
Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

AAC 09-25 RENEWAL OF BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Bunker Hill Community College** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006
Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

AAC 09-26 RENEWAL OF CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Cape Cod Community College** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006
Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

AAC 09-27 RENEWAL OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

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

AAC 09-28 RENEWAL OF NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **North Shore Community College** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

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

AAC 09-29 RENEWAL OF NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Northern Essex Community College** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

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

AAC 09-30 RENEWAL OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **University of Massachusetts Lowell** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

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

AAC 09-31 RENEWAL OF WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Westfield State College** in the Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines, as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006

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

Dr. Nancy Harrington introduced the following motion and called on Aundrea Kelley, Deputy Commissioner for P-16 Policy and Collaborative Initiatives. She also asked Peter Alcock to take the Board through the history of the Business Program Review as he has been very involved in its development.

Mr. Alcock stated that, until two years ago, the BHE had not undertaken a comprehensive review of state college business programs. Mr. Alcock stated that a significant number of graduates from the state colleges are business majors, and thus this is an important issue. The Board looked for a new model to assess academic programs. The state colleges' Council of Presidents (COP) committed to the development and funding of a new model. The COP retained a well-respected reviewer of business programs, Dr. Richard Brandenburg, who formerly headed the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and he reviewed all of the programs and sent them to all of the colleges. The colleges, in turn, responded to his recommendations.

Dr. Beach recommended approval of this motion, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

AAC 09-33 REVIEW OF STATE COLLEGE BUSINESS PROGRAMS

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education calls upon each campus that participated in the 2007-08 Review of State College Business Programs to submit to the Commissioner by January 30, 2010, a multi-year strategic plan for improvement of its business program(s).

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)

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

Jeanne-Marie Boylan, Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee, introduced the following motions. She described both as technical amendments. Ms. Boylan stated the first motion regarding the guidelines for the *MassTransfer* Tuition Waiver Program is indeed a necessary step in transferring from the Joint Admission Tuition Advantage Program to the new *MassTransfer* Tuition Waiver Program. This item is technical in nature and brings the program into conformance with the new *MassTransfer* Program.

Mr. Peter Alcock recommended approval of this motion, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

FAAP 09-28 MASSTRANSFER TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM GUIDELINES

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby revokes the Joint Admission Tuition Advantage Program Guidelines and adopts, in place thereof, the attached *MassTransfer* Tuition Waiver Program Guidelines.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9 (i) and 19

Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

Ms. Boylan stated that the following motion regards the Optional Retirement Program (ORP). She informed the Board that the ORP was established in 1995 as a portable alternative to the State Employees' Retirement System. She described this motion as amending the plan in order to conform with two Federal laws, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and the Heroes Earning Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008. Ms. Boylan stated the motion also amends the ORP to comply with the revenue ruling of the IRS to ensure that deemed compensation under the Commonwealth's flex spending accounts is included in regular salary.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

FAAP 09-29 AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes and approves Amendment Number Two to the Massachusetts Optional Retirement Program.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9 (i) and 19

Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

Chairman Desmond thanked Ms. Boylan and followed up on the motion, stating that he has had conversations with Board members about the ORP and the need for more opportunities for all members of the Board to be briefed and informed on the provisions and actions of the ORP.

Chairman Desmond introduced the following motion and described it as a customary action taken at the final meeting of the academic year so that the Commissioner may act on behalf of the Board, in consultation with the Chairman, should the need arise.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

BHE 09-05 DELEGATION OF SUMMER AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSIONER

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education delegates to the Commissioner until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, in consultation with and upon the advice of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board, its authority to take such action as is deemed necessary or desirable.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 6
Contact: Peter H. Tsaffaras, Acting General Counsel

Mr. Alcock commented that, from a communication point of view, it has been requested in the past that whatever actions are taken that would be of interest to the full Board be reported at the next available Board meeting.

Chairman Desmond agreed.

PRESENTATION: DEGREES CONFERRED

Dr. Jonathan Keller, Associate Commissioner for Research, Planning, and Information Systems, stated that around this time each year, the Department offers a report on the many degrees and certificates that are conferred at the public higher education institutions. The main intent of this report is to demonstrate the many ways the institutions address the Commonwealth's need for an educated and skilled workforce. The full report is provided in the Board packet and will also be available on the Department of Higher Education website, along with the PowerPoint presentation.

Associate Commissioner Keller stated that the report contains information on the degrees conferred at Massachusetts public colleges and universities. The report also offers six-year trend analysis, which shows changes over time and whether the institutions have expanded their role in meeting the Commonwealth's need for skilled and educated workers.

Associate Commissioner Keller highlighted some of the interesting results of the 2007-2008 academic year. After reviewing the data offered in the report, Associate Commissioner Keller opened the floor to questions and discussion.

Board members engaged in conversation about the report and presentation in the areas of minority populations, connectedness to workforce development, STEM fields, educator preparation, and K-12 alignment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Desmond said that he is hoping that over the summer he can call on each member of the Board to offer some thought to the idea of a possible Board Retreat at which they will take a look at future challenges and how the Board can take advantage of the enormous talent that it has among its members. He suggested there are other ways, which do not present themselves at Board meetings, that the Board could organize itself and use its talent in support of the institutions and each other.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Richard McDermott, President, Association of Professional Administrators (APA), addressed the Board of Higher Education on the issue of recent layoffs.

Ms. Pamela Julian, Alumni, Massachusetts Bay Community College, addressed the Board regarding the On-Campus Voter Registration Bill.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.