

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING
December 8, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held in Rooms 2 and 3 on the 21st Floor of the John McCormack Building at One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts. The following members were present:

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman
Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach
Dr. Mario Borunda
Jeanne-Marie Boylan
James Coyle
C. Bernard Fulp

Dr. Nancy Hoffman
Michael Mizzoni
Paul Reville
Louis Ricciardi
Henry Thomas, III

Absent: Dr. Nancy Harrington

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. .

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairman Desmond recommended a motion for the Board to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Desmond welcomed Board members, staff and the audience to the meeting. He offered four brief comments on:

1. Efforts to improve mathematics preparation of elementary educators, reporting that the Department had commissioned a working group composed of mathematics and math education professors from public and private higher education institutions to evaluate and make recommendations for diagnostic instruments for pre-service elementary teacher preparation programs.
2. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Juris Doctor proposal, reminding everyone that the proposal was not yet before the Board or the Department staff, as the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees had not yet voted on it.
3. The *MassTransfer* policy, explaining that a statewide *MassTransfer* meeting was scheduled for December 15 at Salem State College to continue work on implementation.
4. Massachusetts' participation in Achieving the Dream, stating that members of the state policy team would begin meeting with representatives from the four Achieving the Dream colleges—Bunker Hill, Northern Essex, Roxbury, and Springfield Technical Community Colleges—to identify and promote statewide the best student success practices and policies.

Chairman Desmond then read a resolution on the retirement of Ms. Janice C. Motta, former Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges, after 35 years of service to the Commonwealth. Chairman Desmond recognized her many accomplishments and her leadership and commitment to public higher education in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Motta expressed thanks and told the Board that her accomplishments were achieved as a result of collaborative efforts. Ms. Motta stated that she would continue to work with Massachusetts community colleges on a part-time basis.

COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Dr. Richard Freeland, Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education, thanked Department staff for their organization of the meeting. He recognized the community and state college presidents in the audience. His remarks continued:

1. He reported that good progress was being made with the Vision Project, as suggestions—especially pertaining to metrics—made by campus presidents were being incorporated into the plan. He thanked the campus presidents and others for their recommendations and said he expected the Board to be able to take formal action on the Vision Project recommendations in spring 2010.
2. He reported that the Department was engaged in conversations with the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, and the state's new Health Connector Authority to look at new approaches to fulfilling the requirement that colleges offer health coverage to students.
3. He stated that development of the Massachusetts College and Career Web Portal, a partnership between the Departments of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority, was progressing and that a presentation on the Portal would be made at an upcoming Board meeting.
4. The Commissioner reported on his recent campus visits to MassBay, Mount Wachusett, and Northern Essex Community Colleges. He said visiting the campuses makes him much more appreciative of the work that he does in support of the students.

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

Secretary Paul Reville, Secretary of Education, addressed the Board:

1. He remarked that he was pleased with ARRA fund distribution but there would be considerably less ARRA funding available in FY2011. He reported that state revenues and tax receipts were higher in November, an encouraging sign of economic improvement.
2. He stated that Governor Patrick was continuing to press for further 9C budget cuts.
3. The Secretary reported a favorable response from state unions for concessions to avert layoffs for which the Patrick Administration is grateful. Further, he stated that the Administration would do whatever it could to avoid campus layoffs to allow campuses to fulfill their mission.
4. The Secretary informed the Board on K-12 legislation on the Education Reform Act of 2009, which will encourage:
 - a. New Innovation Schools to empower districts and educators to innovate and promote best practices,
 - b. Charter school recruitment and retention,
 - c. Charter school accountability and transparency, and
 - d. The strengthening of charter school funding.
5. He reported on Massachusetts' application to the Race to the Top Fund, a federal program that offers states the opportunity to compete for \$4.35 billion in grants to support education reform and innovation in classrooms. It is hoped that Massachusetts will be chosen as a grant recipient to receive \$150-250 million over a four-year period to drive reform. Massachusetts' grant application will seek funding for effective teaching through teacher preparation and teaching development, jointly supported by the Departments of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Education.
6. The Secretary announced the launch on November 13, 2009, of six regional Readiness Centers in Massachusetts, which focus on the quality of PreK-12 teaching. Each Center is funded by local education monies and is supported by a regional consortium that includes public higher education institutions. The Centers and their public college/University supporters are the **Berkshire Readiness Center** (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Berkshire Community College), **Central Massachusetts Readiness Center** (Fitchburg State College and Worcester State College), **Greater Boston Readiness Center** (Framingham State College, University of Massachusetts Boston, and

MassBay Community College), **Northeast Regional Readiness Center** (Salem State College; University of Massachusetts Lowell; North Shore, Middlesex, and Northern Essex Community Colleges), **Pioneer Valley Readiness Center** (Westfield State College and University of Massachusetts Amherst), and the **Southeastern Massachusetts Readiness Center** (Bridgewater State College; University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; Bristol, Cape Cod and Massasoit Community Colleges; and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy).

7. The Secretary told the Board that he had recently delivered the keynote address at a New England Association of Schools and Colleges meeting, where he met with a variety of leaders and colleagues, who conveyed him their praise of the Massachusetts educational system.

REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

Admiral Richard Gurnon, Chairman of the State College Council of Presidents, spoke about Massachusetts Maritime Academy (Mass Maritime) and Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) in their role as special mission colleges.

Admiral Gurnon also reported that:

- The state colleges are pleased with the recommendations of the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education (CAGUE).
- The student population at all of the state colleges is overflowing. There has been a 10 percent increase of transfer students at the state colleges, and many students are surprised in a positive way about the services offered at the state college campuses.
- He hoped that the Board of Higher Education would do its best to modify student health insurance to make it more portable.
- The state colleges are thankful that the Massachusetts State College Building Authority was able to negotiate an upgrade on its Moody's and Standard and Poor's bond ratings. Because of the higher ratings, each state college student will achieve a \$138 savings for on-campus housing.

Dr. Jack Sbrega, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents, thanked the Board for its recognition of Jan Motta and her fourteen years of leadership as Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges. Chairman Sbrega also remarked that:

- The four community colleges involved in Achieving the Dream (Bunker Hill, Northern Essex, Roxbury, and Springfield Technical) were pleased with their work.
- All of the community colleges were supporting the UMass Dartmouth Juris Doctor application that was expected to be submitted to the Board of Higher Education.
- The community colleges were requesting support for the Federal Work Study Program. Students involved in the program have achieved higher grade point averages and greater college success.
- The community colleges were serving students very well under trying conditions. The community colleges welcome the Vision Project's focus on accountability, as well, for the purpose of informing the public about their great work in educating students.
- The community colleges were pleased with the Commissioner's visits to their campuses and thanked the Commissioner for taking time from his busy schedule to do so.
- Mount Wachusett Community College was poised to become what is believed to be the first college in New England to offer an Associate in Science in Energy Management with approval by the Board at this meeting. On behalf of the community colleges, he endorsed the passage of the motion.

Both presidents voiced concern about underprepared students and the importance of keeping pace with the necessary services to support these students. The conversation continued with a discussion between Gurnon, Sbrega, and the Board about the value of Accuplacer and MCAS as high school testing tools. The high cost of remedial education was also discussed.

MOTIONS

In Dr. Nancy Harrington's absence, Dr. Mario Borunda brought forth the following consent motion, which was fully reviewed at the Assessment and Accountability Committee meeting on December 1, 2009. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

AAC 10-08 APPROVAL OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE MOTIONS 10-05 THROUGH 10-07 ON A CONSENT AGENDA

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

AAC 10-05 Mount Wachusett Community College
Associate in Science in Energy Management

AAC 10-06 Gibbs College of Boston, Inc.
Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assisting
Associate in Applied Science in Health Information Management

AAC 10-07 Western New England College
Doctor of Pharmacy

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

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

AAC 10-05 Mount Wachusett Community College Associate in Science in Energy Management

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of Mount Wachusett Community College to award the Associate in Science in Energy Management.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Mount Wachusett Community 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 10-06 Gibbs College of Boston, Inc. Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assisting Associate in Applied Science in Health Information Management

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the application of Gibbs College of Boston, Inc., a Private Two-Year College, to award the Associate in Applied Science in Medical Assisting and the Associate in Applied Science in Health Information Management.

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

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

**AAC 10-07 Western New England College
Doctor of Pharmacy**

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the application of Western New England College to award the Doctor of Pharmacy.

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

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Boylan, Chair of the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee, presented the following consent agenda, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

**FAAP 10-11 APPROVAL OF FISCAL AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MOTIONS 10-09 THROUGH 10-10 ON A CONSENT AGENDA**

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

FAAP 10-09 Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Waiver Guidelines

FAAP 10-10 Valedictorian Program Tuition Waiver Guidelines

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

**FAAP 10-09 AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR THE STANLEY Z. KOPLIK
CERTIFICATE OF MASTERY TUITION WAIVER GUIDELINES**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached amended Guidelines for the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Tuition Waiver Program.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9 (i) and 19
Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance

**FAAP 10-10 AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR VALEDICTORIAN PROGRAM TUITION
WAIVER**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached amended guidelines for the Valedictorian Tuition Waiver 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 introduced the following motion and stated that the Partnership Renewal Plan for the Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) had been discussed at length at the joint Assessment and Accountability Committee (AAC) and Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy (FAAP) Committee meeting on December 1, 2009. He told the Board that the first Plan, adopted in 2004, was the first of its kind, and Massachusetts Maritime Academy followed with a similar plan. The Renewal Plan would continue to allow

MassArt more flexibility and autonomy in its operation. The Renewal Plan was approved by MassArt trustees, and comments from Board of Higher Education members at the joint AAC and FAAP Committee meeting were positive. If approved at this meeting, the Board would submit the Plan to the Secretary of Education for final approval.

Dr. Katherine Sloan, President of MassArt, detailed the key points of the proposal, including the Plan's requirements (budget, student charges, enrollment, access affirmative action programs, admission standards and performance agreement).

Chairman Desmond and Commissioner Freeland commended President Sloan on the quality of the proposal. Board members made favorable comments about the Plan, President Sloan, the positive outcome of the College's recruitment of faculty and enrollment of students of color, its partnership with the community, its informed and involved board of trustees, and its overall success as a college.

Commissioner Freeland commented that the motion provided that any subsequent material changes to the Plan must be submitted to the Board of Higher Education for approval and to the Secretary of Education for final approval. He also mentioned that the Board would consider separately, at an upcoming meeting, MassArt's proposed changes in its peer group.

The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0, with Secretary Reville abstaining.

BHE 10-01 APPROVAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL PLAN

MOVED: Except as delineated specifically below, the Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Attached Massachusetts College of Art and Design Five-Year Renewal Plan for a Partnership with the Commonwealth

Pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws, any material change to the five-year Plan, as approved by the Board of Higher Education, including any change to the projection for Total student charges, shall require approval of that change by the Board of Higher Education.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9 and 22
Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Deputy Commissioner, P-16 Policy and Collaborative Initiatives

Chairman Desmond brought forth the following motion. He introduced Dr. Nancy Hoffman, Board member and Chair of the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Final Report of the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education, which was charged with recommending ways to more fully integrate 21st century skills in college student learning. The Committee was composed of 14 key state leaders from business, government, and nonprofit sectors. Context for recommendations included:

- Majority of jobs in high-growth sectors require college degrees.
- In Massachusetts, especially, there is a need for people who can "think for a living."
- Public college students (representing 68% of Massachusetts residents who attend college in Massachusetts) and private college students need to be educated to the highest levels.
- There is a hope to start a state-wide dialogue on outcomes needed.

Outcome categories included college-level fundamentals; integrative thinking; and civic, organizational and career competencies.

Dr. Hoffman then reviewed the recommendations of the Advisory Group, which led to a discussion among Board members.

Secretary Reville thanked Dr. Hoffman and members of the Advisory Group for the report, noting that it was created at an appropriate time. Commissioner Freeland added that the Report would be shared with public campus presidents and that Dr. Patricia Crosson would be leading a working group in spring 2010 on shaping student learning outcomes and assessments, which could become the basis of a statewide assessment program.

Dr. Hoffman thanked the members of the Advisory Group and Dr. Francesca Purcell of the Department of Higher Education for their fine work on the Report.

The following motion was seconded and approved unanimously:

BHE 10-02 ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSONER'S ADVISORY GROUP ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby accepts the Final Report from the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 6 and 9(c)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional Board business.

OPEN FORUM

There were no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.