

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING**  
**May 4, 2010**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held in the Kittredge Center at Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, 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 Harrington  
Dr. Nancy Hoffman  
Michael Mizzoni  
Paul Reville  
Louis Ricciardi  
Henry Thomas, III

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**WELCOME**

Dr. William Messner, President of Holyoke Community College, welcomed the Board to the Kittredge Center at Holyoke Community College. The four-year old facility offers traditional business programs and workforce development programs and services.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Dr. Charles Desmond, Chairman of the Board, offered the following comments:

- The "Proud to Go Public!" Student Leadership Conference was held on April 16 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, where approximately 130 students from all three segments of public higher education had the opportunity to discuss their ideas and concerns with Secretary Reville, Chairman Desmond, Commissioner Freeland, and the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, Senator Benjamin Downing and Representative David Torrisi, and to participate in breakout sessions on different types of advocacy. Student Board member Michael Mizzoni was instrumental in the development of the Conference. Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Sarah Mealey, and Stacy Bougie were thanked for their efforts in making the event a success.
- Building upon the theme of the Student Leadership Conference, the DHE has created a "Proud to Go Public!" Facebook page. While the page is student-focused, all supporters of Massachusetts public higher education are welcome to join.
- On April 23, 670 people attended the sixteenth annual statewide Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- On June 16, the DHE, Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office, and Achieving the Dream will co-sponsor a conference focusing on evidence-based innovations to improve developmental education outcomes.
- Student Board member Michael Mizzoni will be a senior at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the fall, and he will attend his last meeting as a Board member on June 15. This year Mike has participated on both the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy and the Assessment and Accountability Committees.
- Deputy Commissioner David McCauley will be leaving the Department of Higher Education at the end of May. McCauley then appeared before the Board where Chairman Desmond read a resolution that recounted Mr. McCauley's many accomplishments over the past seventeen years as a state employee and ten years as a Department of Higher Education senior staff member. Mr. McCauley recalled his very positive, life-changing experience as a Salem State College student, where faculty took an interest in developing his future, and commented on the strong value of public higher education. He told the Board

that it has been a privilege to work with outstanding colleagues at the Department of Higher Education. Hereafter, he will pursue many interests during his retirement.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

Dr. Richard Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education, thanked President Messner and his staff for hosting today's Board meeting. He recognized the many public college presidents in the audience.

Commissioner Freeland congratulated Chairman Desmond as the recipient of the Claiborne Pell Award, given by the New England Opportunity Association. This award is presented to those "whose pioneering leadership and vision have made an indelible mark on the struggle for equal educational opportunity."

The Commissioner updated the Board on the House of Representatives version of the FY11 budget and told Board members that he looks forward to working with the Senate on their budget, which is set to be released in a few weeks.

The Department of Higher Education worked with every public higher education institution's president and/or chancellor to craft a letter that was sent to every member of the Legislature in support of the Governor's proposed budget for higher education. Commissioner Freeland said that he was pleased that the entire public higher education community acted together to persuade the Legislature to see the importance of public higher education in Massachusetts.

Commissioner Freeland announced that DHE staff members have begun to participate in the five- and ten-year New England Association of Schools and College (NEASC) visits on public higher education campuses. This will allow the Department and Board to gain a better understanding of the overall condition of the campuses.

Currently, the public four-year institutions require three years of high school math for matriculating students, but too often, students are placed into remedial math when they arrive in college. Commissioner Freeland asked the question, "Should a fourth year of higher-level math be added as an entrance requirement for our public four-year institutions?" He said high school principals and superintendents are being polled in an attempt to make this determination and that he hopes the Board can discuss this at a future meeting.

### **SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS**

Secretary Paul Reville told the Board that he is currently making his second round of visits to the public higher education campuses. He recently visited Berkshire Community College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Bristol Community College.

On the budget, Secretary Reville reported that he is doing all that is possible to advance the budget. He emphasized the importance of holding the line on expenses. He told the Board that he is also working with the federal government on securing additional funding.

The Secretary reported on his attendance at the recent Student Leadership Conference, where he described the powerful role of students as change agents of educational policy.

Deputy Commissioner Aundrea Kelley was complimented on her work on the Readiness Center Initiative. Though the Centers receive limited funding, extraordinary outcomes continue to reflect the work of its supporters and collaborators.

Secretary Reville voiced his disappointment that Massachusetts was not one of the two states chosen for Race to the Top funding in the first round. He explained that, though Massachusetts has been the nation's leader in math and English on national tests, this competition is about judging performance strategy. The Secretary is confident that Massachusetts will be a strong competitor in the second round.

### **REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS**

Dr. John Sbrega, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents, congratulated Mr. McCauley on his upcoming retirement and Chairman Desmond on his receipt of the Claiborne Pell Award.

President Sbrega commented on:

- his attendance at the Teaching and Learning Conference at Bunker Hill Community College on April 9, the Commonwealth Honors Conference at the University of Massachusetts Amherst on April 25, and the Student Leadership Conference at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston on April 16. He also attended the Community College Leadership Academy Conference, which was held on April 15; this successful program will be expanding to five other states.
- the Community College Developmental Conference that will be held on June 16, 2010, at Massasoit Community College. This Conference is being held as a result of the need revealed in the results of last year's audit of developmental programs.
- the continued support of The Vision Project by community college presidents.
- his upcoming meeting with Speaker Robert DeLeo regarding workforce development. The community colleges have an important part to play in preparing the Commonwealth's workforce. Community college presidents are eager to hear the views of the Speaker on this issue.
- his recent trip to Russia with Dean Kathy Rentsch to share our community colleges' best practices and to discuss the possibility of future student/faculty exchanges. He will prepare a full report about his experience on his trip.

Dr. Patricia Meservey, President of Salem State College, spoke for Admiral Richard Gurnon, Chairman of the State College Council of Presidents. She congratulated Mr. McCauley on his upcoming retirement and told the Board that the state colleges are proud of Mr. McCauley's accomplishments. President Meservey remarked that he is a good example of the success that a Salem State College graduate can achieve. Further comments included:

- congratulations to Chairman Desmond for receiving the Pell Award.
- the state colleges' desire to modify the House budget in a collaborative way. There is concern among the state colleges over this year's budget difficulties and how the campuses have lost significant ground over the past six years.
- mention of the state colleges' support of The Vision Project and their interest in the proposed metrics.
- the state colleges' view that the Commonwealth moved forward in a positive manner with the Board's decision to approve the Juris Doctor degree at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.
- mention of a recent *Boston Globe* editorial that supported the state colleges in their efforts to attain university status. President Meservey thanked Secretary Reville and Commissioner Freeland for their support of this bill, which is now with the House Committee on Ways and Means.

#### **REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Michael Mizzoni, student Board member, reported on the Student Leadership Conference, which he described as a great opportunity for students from across the state to meet with state policy makers. They also learned about positive changes in student health insurance offerings and upcoming admissions at the new University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School of Law.

The Student Advisory Council is presently interviewing candidates for the position of next year's student Board member, who will be chosen from the community college sector.

Chairman Desmond recognized Mr. Mizzoni as a great role model for future student Board members.

#### **MOTIONS**

Chairman Desmond brought forth the following motion for a formal vote. Most Board members offered their support of the motion. Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Beach, who said that she liked The Vision Project overall, voiced concern about the goal to improve college-going rates of high school graduates, which is a K-12 metric over which the BHE has little to no control. She added that many K-12 superintendents and principals are not familiar with The Vision Project.

Commissioner Freeland responded that the DHE has been working closely with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and will be reaching out to K-12 superintendents and principals. He asserted that the metrics are a joint responsibility of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Higher Education. He said that greater interaction between the two agencies is needed, particularly to attain better alignment. Further, Secretary Reville affirmed that the Vision Project is a system-wide project.

The motion was seconded and approved, by a vote of 11-0-1, with Dr. Beach abstaining.

#### **BHE 10-06 VISION PROJECT: A PUBLIC AGENDA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves and adopts the Vision Project as described in the attached document, including specifically the following elements:

- the statement of “the vision”;
- the statement of “key outcomes”;
- the proposed metrics; and
- the issuance of an annual report with comparisons between Massachusetts and other states.

The Board directs the Department of Higher Education to place a high priority on working with the community and state colleges and the University to achieve the goals of the Vision Project and urges the campuses to work collaboratively with the Department in this effort. In furtherance of this collaboration, it may be appropriate in particular instances as the campus level for administrators to work with campus governance bodies, and the Board recognizes and respects the importance of such discussions. The Board directs the Commissioner to provide an annual report of progress in implementing the Vision Project that can include recommended changes in any element of this policy.

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

**Contact:** Dr. Richard M. Freeland, Commissioner

Chairman Desmond brought forth the following motion. He introduced Dr. Francesca Purcell, who in turn introduced Dr. Priscilla Clarkson, Dean of Commonwealth College. Dean Clarkson told the Board that the College was started by the BHE to provide talented students the opportunity to attend a freestanding public honors college. Classes are limited to no more than 25 students. Students must take at least one honors course per semester and must participate in independent study and research fellowships. Seniors must complete a capstone project to graduate.

The name change is requested to more accurately reflect the mission of the College and to help recruit high-achieving students.

Three Commonwealth College students told the Board that the name change will enable the college to become more identifiable as a prestigious honors college to graduate school admissions officers. More than 84 percent of Commonwealth College’s students continue their education in a graduate program, and 60 percent of Commonwealth College graduates remain in Massachusetts after graduation.

#### **BHE 10-07 COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE NAME CHANGE**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves the request of the University of Massachusetts Amherst to change the name of Commonwealth College to Commonwealth Honors College.

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

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

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dr. Nancy Harrington, Chair of the Assessment and Accountability Committee, brought forth the following consent agenda motion of new degree programs. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**AAC 10-21 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- AAC 10-12 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science
- AAC 10-13 Westfield State College  
Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic and Gender Studies
- AAC 10-14 Westfield State College  
Bachelor of Science in Spanish
- AAC 10-15 Westfield State College  
Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training
- AAC 10-16 Bay State College, Inc.  
Associate in Science in Nursing
- AAC 10-17 Bay State College, Inc.  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- AAC 10-18 Boston Architectural College  
Master of Design Studies
- AAC 10-19 Dean College  
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Studies and  
Bachelor of Science in Business
- AAC 10-20 Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Master of Science in Construction Management

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

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

**AAC 10-12 APPLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of the University of Massachusetts Amherst to award the Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, the University of Massachusetts Amherst 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:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-13 WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ETHNIC AND GENDER STUDIES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of Westfield State College to award the Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic and Gender Studies.

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:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-14 WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SPANISH**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of Westfield State College to award the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish.

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 areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

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

**AAC 10-15 WESTFIELD STATE COLLEGE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING**

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

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:** Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

**AAC 10-16 BAY STATE COLLEGE, INC.  
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE IN NURSING**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Bay State College, Inc., to award the Associate in Science in Nursing

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

**AAC 10-17 BAY STATE COLLEGE, INC.  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**MOVED** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Bay State College, Inc., to award the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

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

**AAC 10-18 BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE  
MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Boston Architectural College to award the Master of Design Studies

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

**AAC 10-19 DEAN COLLEGE  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEATRE, BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND  
STUDIES AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Dean College to award the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Studies and Bachelor of Science in Business

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

**AAC-10-20 WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of Wentworth Institute of Technology to award the Master of Science in Construction Management.

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

**PRESENTATION  
Regional Readiness Center Initiative**

Chairman Desmond invited Aundrea Kelley, Deputy Commissioner for P-16 Policy and Collaborative Initiatives, Department of Higher Education; Dr. Saeyun Lee, Policy Analyst at the Executive Office of Education; Dr. Patricia Meservey, President of Salem State College; and Dr. Mary Grant, President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, to the table.

Ms. Kelley told the Board that the Readiness Centers have been a centerpiece of Governor Deval Patrick's agenda. She praised the leadership of Secretary Paul Reville and Dr. Saeyun Lee; the public higher education presidents, deans and faculty; and the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Early Education and Care, who helped to mobilize stakeholders within regions to establish the Readiness Centers with limited resources. Their priorities include ensuring implementation of a rigorous and aligned 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum from early through post-secondary education and conducting work across sectors and levels of the educational system to address state priorities, enhance student access and success, leverage resources and build statewide capacity for improvement.

Dr. Lee provided in-depth information about the multipurpose, collaborative regional centers, managed and operated by K-12 institutions, early education and out-of-school-time programs, educational collaboratives, non-profit organizations and business and community partners. These Centers have been developed to provide high-quality professional development and instructional services to educators from early education through

higher education. Stakeholders continue to meet to collaboratively address key education priorities, leverage existing resources and build statewide capacity.

Six regional Readiness Centers were established in fall 2009 and include the Berkshire Readiness Center, the Central Massachusetts Readiness Center, the Northeast Regional Readiness Center, the Greater Boston Readiness Center, the Pioneer Valley Readiness Center, and the Southeastern Massachusetts Readiness Center, all of which are operated and managed by the public state colleges, most of the public community colleges; Universities of Massachusetts Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell; and early education, K-12 institutions and networks; and business and community partners.

Dr. Meservey told the Board that, on the North Shore, the collaboration with school districts has brought tremendous value to the community. Presently, the Readiness Center initiative has 32 members involved in developing coordinated plans. The Career College Readiness Center is engaged in STEM initiatives, assessment and research. The Board was also told that the State College Council of Presidents will soon be launching a website to further the initiative's objectives.

Dr. Grant focused her remarks on the Berkshire Readiness Center—comprising the higher education institutions of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Berkshire Community College, Williams College, and Bard College at Simon's Rock—have been working on the core priorities of ensuring access and aspirations, alignment, professional development (new teacher and induction support, follow up, intervention planning and best practice sharing).

Secretary Reville thanked the panelists for their comprehensive work.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public comment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.