

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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March 6, 2012  
10:00 a.m.

Westfield State University  
Woodward Center, Field House  
577 Western Avenue  
Westfield, MA

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts.

The following board members were present:

Charles Desmond, Chair  
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair  
David Barron  
Angel Donahue-Rodriguez  
Nancy Hoffman  
Paul Reville, Secretary of Education  
Henry Thomas  
Paul Toner

The following board members were absent:

Jeanne-Marie Boylan  
Bernie Fulp  
Nancy Harrington (participated via telephone)  
Keith Peden (participated via telephone)

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Desmond called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. and invited Westfield State University President Evan Dobbelle to address the board.

#### **II. WELCOME**

President Dobbelle welcomed the Board of Higher Education to the campus and provided updates on the following items: Westfield State University's strong enrollment numbers and reserve funds, hopes for fair and timely compensation of employees, safe dormitories, and winning the Smith Cup for the past 3 years. He also noted that, later in the meeting, he would deliver remarks on behalf of State University Council of Presidents Chair Patricia Meservey.

#### **III. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Desmond thanked President Dobbelle for his leadership and welcomed State Representative Sean Curran to the meeting. He noted, for all in attendance, that Board Members Dr. Nancy Harrington and Mr. Keith Peden were joining the meeting by phone. Chair Desmond also welcomed new BHE member Mr. David Barron and invited him to address the

group. Mr. Barron commented that he was honored to serve on the Board. Chair Desmond invited the other board members to introduce themselves and also announced Dr. Fernando Reimers' appointment to the Board.

Chair Desmond continued his remarks, highlighting the following recent activities and upcoming events: an April 4<sup>th</sup> "Discussion Among Colleagues" regarding the best practices and outcomes of Early College Programming at City University of New York (CUNY) which was held at MassBay Community College; ongoing work with Forge Academia and campuses to create positive messaging for public higher education; the DHE's collaboration with the Mass Business Alliance for Education and colleagues from ESE and EEC on a communications plan known as "Future Ready"; Public Higher Education Advocacy Day to be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>; and the May 31<sup>st</sup> Christian A. Herter Memorial Scholarship Program event at the State House. Chair Desmond also acknowledged State Representative Donald Humason who was in attendance.

#### **IV. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

Commissioner Freeland congratulated President Dobelle on Westfield State University's graduation rates. He acknowledged the presidents in attendance and welcomed Associate Vice President John Cunningham of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Jake Oliveira of the State University Council of Presidents Executive Office. He offered congratulations to the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) award recipients from Massachusetts who included Governor Deval Patrick, Bristol Community College Trustee Donald Smyth, and the individuals involved in the Bunker Hill Community College Learning Communities program.

Commissioner Freeland then offered a review of the meeting's agenda and continued his remarks. Among the topics he highlighted was the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) initiative. Massachusetts is one of seven states that have been invited to take a leadership role on PARCC and through a consortium of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), State Higher Education Officers (SHEEO), and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Massachusetts appears to be further along in preparing for PARCC than most of the other states.

Jeanne-Marie Boylan will chair the Task Force on Developmental Mathematics. In the area of student learning, Massachusetts has been accepted as a Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) state by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Fitchburg State University, working with Mount Wachusett Community College, and Middlesex Community College, working with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, will also participate in the AAC&U's Quality Collaboratives Initiative to test the work of the Degree Qualifications Profiles in the context of transfer.

Regarding collective bargaining, agreements have been reached with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSME) and the Association of Professional Administrators (APA). The Department of Higher Education (DHE) is still working on agreements with the Massachusetts State College Association (MSCA) and the Massachusetts Community College Council (MCCC). Commissioner Freeland expressed his appreciation for Governor Patrick's inclusion of \$23 million in his FY13 budget proposal to cover collective bargaining costs in the FY13 budget.

The DHE recently hired Dr. Winnie Hagan to serve as an Early Education and Out-of-School-Time College Completion Specialist and work in the area of student transfer.

Regarding Public Higher Education Advocacy Day, Commissioner Freeland explained that, for the first time ever, students, faculty and staff from all public higher education segments will gather together at the State House with a unified message that public higher education needs better support. BHE student member Angel Donahue-Rodriguez will emcee this event.

At the conclusion of Commissioner Freeland's remarks, Vice-chair Ricciardi mentioned that the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and its School of Law put out an article in the alumni magazine noting that 78% of the first graduating class passed the bar on the first try. He offered congratulations to Chancellor Jean MacCormack for this success.

Henry Thomas joined the meeting during Commissioner Freeland's remarks.

## **V. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS**

### **A. State University Presidents' Report - President Evan Dobbelle, Westfield State University**

List of Documents Submitted by President Dobbelle:

*March 6, 2012, Board of Higher Education Presentation*

President Dobbelle offered remarks on behalf of State University Council of Presidents Chair Patricia Meservey. He first welcomed David Barron to the Board and then discussed Public Higher Education Advocacy Day, noting that there would be a large contingent in attendance from Westfield State. He voiced support for the addition of a Vision Project metric on civic engagement and raised concerns about the potential methodology for some of the other metrics. He also expressed a broader concern about excessive emphasis on vocational training in policy discussions in the context of baccalaureate education.

Vice-chair Ricciardi noted the concern with the Vision Project metrics and asked President Dobbelle if these concerns have been discussed with the Department of Higher Education. Commissioner Freeland stated that this has been an evolutionary process and that the Board first approved accountability metrics in broader terms and then staff began the work of developing the specific methodology that will be used to report on the metrics. He noted that the methodology for the Vision Project metrics was still under development but would be released to the presidents in April for a complete vetting. President Dobbelle also remarked that Commissioner Freeland would be presenting on the Vision Project at a campus forum at Westfield State University that afternoon.

Chair Desmond thanked everyone for their comments and stated, for the record, that the creation of public colleges and universities was for the liberation of people and based upon the idea that all people have a great capacity to contribute to public life. The Board of Higher Education isn't intending to steer the people anywhere other than to the liberation of people and minds.

### **B. Community College Presidents' Report - President Daniel Asquino, Mount Wachusett Community College**

List of Documents Submitted by President Asquino:

*None submitted*

President Daniel Asquino, on behalf of President Wayne Burton, Chair of the Executive Committee of Community College Presidents, delivered remarks to the Board. He encouraged BHE members to join the community colleges as commencement season approaches. He

noted the busy summer of planning that the colleges will have once the budget comes out. He also noted that, in terms of the ratio of unemployed individuals to available positions, Massachusetts has the 3<sup>rd</sup> best supply-to-demand ratio in the nation and that is evidence of the good work being done by community colleges with no funds for workforce development.

He congratulated Commissioner Freeland and the Board for their work in the areas of student learning outcomes assessment and the PARCC initiative, and he said the Council of Presidents supports the addition of a Vision Project metric on civic engagement.

President Asquino brought up the new financial aid pilot program and cautioned against using any current need-based aid for this. He proposed using foundation dollars, Performance Incentive Funds, or lottery funds. He argued for a goal to have no student graduate their first two years of college with any debt.

President Asquino noted with concern the way community colleges have been portrayed in the press and stressed that the BHE and local boards of trustees have an appropriate balance of power.

## **VI. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Angel Donahue-Rodriguez, this year's student board member and a student at Salem State University, shared the following information with the Board: Three hundred students were signed up to attend Public Higher Education Advocacy Day at the State House; and next month the search will begin for the next BHE student member, who will be from one of the University of Massachusetts campuses.

Secretary Reville joined the meeting during Mr. Rodriguez's remarks and deferred his remarks until later in the meeting.

## **VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Chair Desmond brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2012, Special Meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all board members present. He then brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the January 31, 2012, Breakfast Meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all board members present. He then brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the January 31, 2012, Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all board members present.

## **VIII. MOTIONS**

### **A. Academic Affairs**

List of Documents Used: *Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Motions 12-23 to 12-30*

Chair Desmond invited Vice-chair Ricciardi to review the activities of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Vice-chair Ricciardi noted that the committee reviewed seven programs, all of which are included on a Consent Agenda today.

Regarding the Sposato Graduate School of Education program, Mr. Barron stated that his employer may have a financial interest with the Match program, but that he personally does not have any interest or involvement in the matter, and as such he believes there is no conflict. Mr. Toner stated that he appreciates the good work of the

staff who developed the program and expressed some concerns regarding the title of the degree. He further expressed an interest in seeing representation from teacher preparatory programs from the public college sector to facilitate the sharing of the school's innovative work. Secretary Reville stated that he found the proposal refreshing as it introduced an element of innovation and addresses the needs of consumers. He stated that it is exactly the kind of experimentation in which we should be engaged with regard to teacher training, and he liked how the program fits with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's current work on teacher evaluation. He concluded by expressing his support of the proposal in its current form.

Vice-chair Ricciardi brought forth the following motions on a consent agenda. The consent agenda motion was seconded and then approved unanimously by all board members present.

**AAC 12-30 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- AAC 12-23 Bard College  
Master of Music; the honorary Doctor of Civil Law; the honorary Doctor of Fine Arts; the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; the honorary Doctor of Letters
- AAC 12-24 Bay Path College  
Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
- AAC 12-25 Boston Conservatory  
Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theater
- AAC 12-26 Endicott College  
Master of Science in Homeland Security Studies
- AAC 12-27 MGH Institute of Health Professions  
Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Sciences
- AAC 12-28 Charles Sposato Graduate School of Education, Inc.  
Master of Effective Teaching
- AAC 12-29 Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Master of Science in Facility Management

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

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

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**AAC 12-23 APPLICATION OF BARD COLLEGE TO AWARD THE MASTER OF MUSIC; THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF CIVIL LAW; THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS;**

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**THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS; AND  
THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS.**

- MOVED: The Board hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **Bard College** to award the **Master of Music; the honorary Doctor of Civil Law; the honorary Doctor of Fine Arts; the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters; the honorary Doctor of Letters.**
- Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.
- Contact: Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

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**AAC 12-24 APPLICATION OF BAY PATH COLLEGE TO AWARD THE  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
STUDIES**

- MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **Bay Path College** to award the **Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies**
- Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.
- Contact: Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 Policy and Veterans Policy.

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**AAC 12-25 APPLICATION OF BOSTON CONSERVATORY TO  
AWARD THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN MUSICAL  
THEATER**

- MOVED: The Board hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of the **Boston Conservatory** to offer the **Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theater**
- Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.
- Contact: Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

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**AAC 12-26 APPLICATION OF ENDICOTT COLLEGE TO OFFER THE  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOMELAND SECURITY  
STUDIES**

- MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **Endicott College** to award the **Master of Science in Homeland Security Studies**
- Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

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**AAC 12-27 APPLICATION OF MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS TO AWARD THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN REHABILITATION SCIENCES**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of the **MGH Institute of Health Professions** to award the **Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Sciences**

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

Contact: Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and Veterans Policy

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**AAC 12-28 APPLICATION OF CHARLES SPOSATO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, INC. TO AWARD THE MASTER OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING**

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the Certificates of Organization of the **Charles Sposato Graduate School of Education, Inc.** to offer the **Master of Effective Teaching.**

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

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

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**AAC 12-29 APPLICATION OF WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TO AWARD THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **Wentworth Institute of Technology** to offer the **Master of Science in Facility Management.**

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

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

Mr. Rodriguez excused himself from the meeting at this time noting that he had to return to campus to take an exam.

**B. Board of Higher Education**

List of Documents Used: *Board of Higher Education (BHE) Motions 12-05 and 12-06*

Chair Desmond then invited Jonathan Keller to present on the proposed revisions to the Vision Project metrics. Dr. Keller provided a history of the process of the metric design and the DHE's on-going collaboration with campuses and with state and national experts.

After some discussion among board members, Chair Desmond brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded and approved by six of the seven board members who were present. The seventh board member, Vice-chair Ricciardi, abstained. As a result, the motion did not carry. Subsequently, Vice-chair Ricciardi addressed the Board and noted that in abstaining, he intended only to abstain and not to block the motion from passing. He requested the opportunity to change his vote to "aye" so that the motion could carry. Chair Desmond asked the Board if there were any objections to this request. Hearing no objections, Chair Desmond declared that the motion was so moved and passed, and asked that the minutes reflect the same.

**BHE 12-05 REVISIONS TO VISION PROJECT METRICS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education approves three revisions to the Vision Project accountability metrics, as described in the attached document. These changes would be incorporated in the first Vision Project annual report, which will be published at the end of 2012.

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

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

Commissioner Freeland introduced the second part of Dr. Keller's presentation which addressed the following motion regarding civic engagement. Commissioner Freeland remarked that civic engagement would be the 6<sup>th</sup> educational outcome of the Vision Project, balancing the Vision Project's emphasis on the level of education of both the Commonwealth's citizenry and its workforce. The first Vision Project Annual Report, to be released in September 2012, will not include this metric. After discussion among board members, the board decided to change the wording of the motion to include the phrase, "in a Liberal Arts Context" as it is noted, underlined, in the motion below. Chair Desmond brought forth the following motion as amended. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by all board members present.

**BHE 12-06 VISION PROJECT KEY OUTCOME ON CIVIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN A LIBERAL ARTS CONTEXT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education charges the Department of Higher Education to develop a plan for incorporating a key outcome on civic education and engagement in a liberal arts context in future Vision Project reports.

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

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

## **IX. PRESENTATIONS**

Chair Desmond invited the following presidents to the table to provide **Campus Updates on the Vision Project Performance Incentive Fund (PIF) Grants**: Ellen Kennedy, Interim President of Berkshire Community College; Ira Rubenzahl, President of Springfield Technical Community College; Robert Pura, President of Greenfield Community College; and William Messner, President of Holyoke Community College.

### **Performance Incentive Fund Presentation – Berkshire Community College, Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College, and Springfield Technical Community College**

List of Documents Used: *“Campus Presentation on Vision Project Performance Incentive Fund Grants”, PowerPoint Presentation, March 6, 2012.*

Interim President Ellen Kennedy began by describing Berkshire Community College’s PIF grant. She stated that Berkshire Community College is focusing its grant on improving student learning and successful college completion. Among those projects are the Student Success Course, the A.S.K. Program, the GetREAL Advising Center, and the Mastery Math Program. She also stated that Berkshire Community College has hired Margaret Stevenson as their new Director of Assessment.

Before turning the microphone to the other presidents, she also described the collaborative work in which the four colleges are engaged under the umbrella of their PIF grants. She described a group they formed called the “Western Mass Vision Project Exchange Group,” which recently launched a blog that includes Vision Project news and which also provides a vehicle for the colleges to collaborate around foundational issues and to share in professional development opportunities.

President Pura then commented on three initiatives underway at Greenfield Community College. The initiatives include program review and alignment with general education essential learning outcomes; deepening faculty capacity to support students with learning disabilities; and implementing division-based academic support through study studios. All three initiatives are supported by the newly created Director of Assessment position, and a Learning Specialist has been hired to work on the second initiative.

President Messner discussed Holyoke Community College’s efforts in the areas of student completion rates and eliminating disparities among student groups. He detailed steps taken to improve student success in math and English developmental education by accelerating the sequences of courses in these areas. He also noted that PIF funds were used to partner with SEM Works Consultants, a firm specializing in improving the success of students of color.

President Rubenzahl delivered remarks discussing the activities of Springfield Technical Community College. He noted that this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year of STCC’s participation in Achieving the Dream. He also described the employment of intrusive advising at the college and the “Advisor To Go” Program. He also discussed the Datatel system and professional faculty development opportunities.

Commissioner Freeland noted that all of these projects illustrate the ability of PIF to develop programs that can be scaled if proven successful.

Mr. Toner inquired about math issues and whether the colleges were having more direct conversations with superintendents and teachers from urban areas. Interim President Kennedy replied that Berkshire Community College tests all 11<sup>th</sup> graders with Accuplacer and recognizes the need offer more rigorous math education in K-12. Now BCC faculty works with schools on their senior year class in preparation for college. President Messner stated that Holyoke Community College shares information with high schools. President Rubenzahl discussed the national picture.

Chair Desmond then invited Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance to the presentation table to join Dr. Hoffman in presenting on the Financial Aid Pilot Program.

Vice-chair Ricciardi excused himself from the meeting at this time.

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

Secretary Reville welcomed David Barron to the Board. He noted that newly appointed Board Member Dr. Fernando Reimers would join the next Board Meeting. Secretary Reville then commented on the Budget, highlighting the set-aside for collective bargaining (which was an increase) and the inclusion of the Performance Incentive Fund which is a substantial signal from the Administration on the significance of this work. He also commented on the efforts being made by the working group assembled to put the community colleges at the center of the state's efforts to meet workforce needs.

He also commended colleagues at the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) for winning the Early Learning Challenge Grant and recognized Dr. Cheryl Stanley who is a member of the EEC board and a faculty member at Westfield State University.

#### **XI. PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)**

##### **Financial Aid Pilot Program**

List of Documents Used: *"Financial Aid Pilot Program Presentation", PowerPoint Presentation, March 6, 2012; "Executive Summary: Statewide Aid Policies to Improve College Access and Success", Jodut Hashmi, Jobs for the Future, February 1012; "Financial Aid, Access & Equity, and State Policy: An Interview with Richard Freeland, Commissioner of Higher Education for Massachusetts", February 2012.*

Dr. Hoffman described the process that led to the development of the Financial Aid Pilot Program, which was prompted by a recommendation from the Vision Project Working Group on Graduation and Student Success Rates. A Financial Aid Policy Advisory Group was formed and charged to design the framework and guidelines for a financial aid pilot program designed to increase completion rates for degrees and certificates. The proposed program will target low-income students at public higher education institutions and reflect solid research on factors affecting student success. If successful the program can be scaled.

The Financial Aid Policy Advisory Group is in the final stages of developing such a program to run from fall 2012 to spring 2016. It will target low-income, first-time students

and will offer a maximum \$2000 grant per year for four years. It will require that students earn 9 to 15 credits per semester with a minimum GPA of 2.0, maintain continuous enrollment up to four years, sign an annual contract of understanding and utilize campus support services. The grants would not supplant any of the other need-based aid for which a student is eligible but would be awarded as an added incentive for credit completion. Still under consideration by the group is the exact disbursement model, but it is expected that the group will choose a tiered model in which students who complete 15 credits per semester receive the largest possible grant, and those who complete 12 or 9 will receive successively smaller ones. Dr. Hoffman also noted that the program will be evaluated by Dr. Bridget Terry-Long of the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Hoffman and Dr. McCurdy then fielded questions from board members which included a question on the specifics of the evaluation methodology. Dr. McCurdy shared that the methodology is yet to be developed by Dr. Long but will be shared with the Board at a later date.

**XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests from the public to participate.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard M. Freeland, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of the Department and  
Secretary to the Board