

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

May 15, 2012
10 a.m.

North Shore Community College
Frederick E. Berry Building, Cafeteria
One Ferncroft Road
Danvers, MA

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at North Shore Community College (NSCC) in Danvers, Massachusetts.

The following board members were present:

Charles Desmond, Chair
Louis Ricciardi, Vice Chair
David Barron
Jeanne-Marie Boylan
Angel Donahue-Rodriguez
Bernie Fulp
Nancy Hoffman
Keith Peden
Fernando Reimers
Paul Reville, Secretary of Education
Henry Thomas
Paul Toner

The following board members were absent:

Nancy Harrington

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Desmond called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and invited NSCC President Wayne Burton to address the board.

II. WELCOME

President Wayne Burton thanked Secretary Reville, Chair Desmond, Commissioner Freeland and the BHE members for their service. He provided a brief overview of recent events at NSCC, including the construction of the first zero-net-energy facility in the Commonwealth (only the second in the country). It features a green roof which recycles rain water. Not only will the facility provide on-site renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, and save energy, but it will also be used as a teaching tool about sustainability. He thanked Governor Patrick for his support in funding the project. President Burton highlighted the health professions programs, the aviation program, and the fact that Salem State University and NSCC's upward bound grants have been renewed. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Ricciardi, President Burton also discussed the response to and the interest in the small business development centers initiative.

President Burton announced the imminent arrival of special guest and retiring Senate Majority Leader Fred Berry for whom the NSCC building was named.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Desmond thanked President Burton for his remarks and stated that he looked forward to Senator Berry's arrival. Meanwhile, Chair Desmond proceeded with the orders of business and brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2012, BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all board members present.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chair Desmond introduced Fernando Reimers and shared highlights from his biography. Dr. Reimers addressed the Board, stating that in this time of innovation, it is a pleasure to serve on the Board of Higher Education. Chair Desmond commented on the recent "29 Who Shine" event which was held on Thursday, May 10th, at the State House. The event highlighted one student from each of the state's 29 public campuses who has excelled. He also noted that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) was recently awarded a Davis Educational Foundation grant to continue the assessment work of the Advancing a Massachusetts Culture of Assessment (AMCOA) project. At this time, Senator Berry arrived. Chair Desmond suspended his remarks and recognized Senator Berry.

V. SENATOR BERRY'S REMARKS

President Burton introduced Senator Berry noting that Senator Berry served two decades in the Senate and has been a strong advocate for higher education. Senator Berry addressed the group, emphasizing that that we are public servants coming together (such as pieces of a puzzle) to ensure that the goals of public higher education are met. He thanked the group for doing a great job. He also noted that the BHE has shown great leadership. He further stated that he has been confused with the community college reorganization talk, noting that he has been around for several reorganizations of different groups, and that reorganizations usually cost the tax payers more money. He urged the BHE to think about the needs of citizens and children and to make sure that the reorganization ideas will help us achieve our intended goals and really help us put the pieces of the puzzle together. He thanked the BHE for hearing him.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS (CONTINUED)

Chair Desmond thanked Senator Berry for his remarks and his service, noting that Senator Berry has been a great supporter of higher education over the years and has been a leader in the area of special education. Chair Desmond continued his remarks, noting that student health care negotiations have been completed with the Community Colleges remaining with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; the State Universities remaining with Blue Cross/Blue Shield; UMass Dartmouth and UMass Medical remaining with Blue Cross/Blue Shield; UMass Lowell remaining with Harvard Pilgrim; and UMass Boston remaining with Aetna Student Health. UMass Amherst has elected to not participate in the statewide effort as they are now exploring the possible piloting of a self-funded student health plan.

He also noted that, under the heading of Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), the DHE has now completed the procurement process to select "@ Scale" implementation projects for funding. Three of the seven currently funded projects have fully met the required 1:3 public/private funding match. Two more have met a 1:2 match and are working to secure the remaining funding, while two others are also working to secure the full match. He stated

that the response from the private funding community is encouraging, and he referenced the STEM presentation scheduled later in the agenda.

Regarding nursing, the DHE recently submitted a proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a two-year, \$300,000 grant for nursing workforce development. This proposal builds upon, and would help to continue the support of, the DHE's successful collaboration with the nursing community.

Chair Desmond asked the board members to introduce themselves and then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Freeland.

VII. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

List of Documents Submitted by Commissioner Freeland:

PARCC Massachusetts Decision Structure, Version 2, December 2011;
PARCC Massachusetts Timetable for Developing a Shared Definition of College Readiness for Massachusetts, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, December 2011.

Commissioner Freeland welcomed Dr. Reimers and then acknowledged the presidents in attendance: Berkshire Community College Interim President Ellen Kennedy; Massasoit Community College President Charles Wall; Bunker Hill Community College President Mary Fifield; Middlesex Community College President Carole Cowan; Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn; Salem State University President Patricia Meservey; Massachusetts Bay Community College President John O'Donnell; and Mount Wachusett Community College President Daniel Asquino. He also noted that Bill Hart, Executive Officer for the Community College Council of Presidents, was in attendance as was Vincent Pedone, Executive Officer for the State University Council of Presidents.

Mr. Thomas arrived at 10:46 a.m.

Commissioner Freeland mentioned that he attended the Annual Chairman's Dinner at Bridgewater State University the evening prior which celebrated Bridgewater State University President Dana Mohler-Faria's 20 years of service. Mr. Ricciardi thanked those who attended the event. Commissioner Freeland also thanked the Board members who are participating in this season's commencement ceremonies.

He addressed the recent press coverage of Roxbury Community College regarding financial aid and crime reporting issues and he wanted to assure the Board that he has been in touch with President Gomes, that he and President Gomes are working together to ensure that the issues are being appropriately addressed.

Commissioner Freeland reported that all of the collective bargaining agreements have been signed and approved. The search for a permanent president at Berkshire Community College (BCC) is well along and the BCC Board of Trustees will meet in May to make its recommendation to the BHE. The nomination is expected to come before the BHE for approval at the BHE's June meeting.

Commissioner Freeland highlighted for the Board a significant case which is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court and which will have implications for higher education across the country.

In *Fisher v. University of Texas*, the Supreme Court will be reviewing the use of affirmative action preferences in higher education admissions policies. The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO) has indicated an interest in submitting an *amicus brief*, in collaboration with several other states, in support of the use of affirmative action preferences in admissions policies. The AGO has been in touch with DHE staff, as well as representatives from the state university system and the University of Massachusetts, to discuss the same; the *amicus* brief would be due sometime in August.

Commissioner Freeland discussed progress made on the Vision Project agenda. The Davis grant, referenced earlier by Chair Desmond, is good news. It allows us to craft a working model of how learning outcomes assessment can be done without a standardized test. Massachusetts is further along than other states in this process. Commissioner Freeland reported that the DHE has invited 22 other states to a conference in Boulder, Colorado, supported by the Nellie Mae Foundation, to do cross-state comparisons. It is anticipated that representatives from fifteen states will attend and will have an "exploratory discussion." A full briefing of this work will be presented to the BHE in June.

The first Vision Project report is due to be issued in September. Over the past several weeks DHE staff have had discussions with presidents and with campus IR staff regarding the data and methodology. The next phase is to turn this data into an actual report.

On the Vision Project college participation agenda, the goals have been to work with K-12 colleagues to ensure students are ready for college and also to close the college participation gaps on racial, economic, and gender grounds. \$1.4 million federal dollars have been awarded to fund seven regional collaborations with area high schools. *Your Plan for College* received such funding.

Commissioner Freeland also highlighted the *Partnership to Advance College and Career Readiness* (PARCC) work, noting that it is important that the BHE understand this work because it will result in proposals coming to the BHE for a vote in the fall. PARCC is a consortium of 26 states funded by Race to the Top dollars. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Mitchell Chester is the Chair of the National PARCC Board. Commissioner Freeland is the co-chair of the Advisory Committee on College Readiness (ACCR).

The goal of PARCC is to advance use of common core standards and to develop an assessment system that will establish readiness for credit bearing courses without the need for further testing or remediation. The question that ultimately will come to the BHE is, "Are we ready to adopt PARCC standards?" Two handouts related to PARCC were distributed at the beginning of the meeting. One is an illustration of the decision structure, which includes Campus Engagement Teams, Regional Readiness Teams, and Lead Content Teams. The second handout is a timetable for this process. Commissioner Freeland introduced Sue Lane whose position at DHE is supported by the Hewlett Foundation and who will provide staff support for the PARCC project. The first issue to be decided in this project is the establishment of a shared definition of college readiness among participating states and between the higher education and K-12 sectors. Discussions of this topic are currently on-going at the campus level. These discussions will result in a recommendation on a definition of college readiness for Massachusetts for consideration by the BHE at its December 2012 meeting.

Mr. Toner asked several questions regarding the process for establishing admissions standards and whether campuses can ultimately reject PARCC, even if DESE supports PARCC. He also noted that he appreciates this work, and urges presidents to involve the union presidents throughout the process.

Commissioner Freeland responded that it is the statutory responsibility of the BHE to set minimum criteria for admissions standards. Campuses are free to build upon the BHE criteria and set a higher bar. Regarding campuses' ability to reject PARCC, he noted that the discussions outlined in the handouts are happening to prevent conflict once PARCC is voted upon. It is the job of Commissioners Freeland and Chester to bring an agreed upon decision to National PARCC. Commissioner Freeland asked Aundrea Kelley for input on this discussion and she added that PARCC is not intended to be used for admissions purposes, but for placement purposes as an indicator of student readiness.

Dr. Hoffman asked if PARCC would replace the Accuplacer minimum cut score for placement into credit bearing work. The response from Commissioner Freeland was yes. Mr. Ricciardi commented that work on the PARCC initiative is a great effort and noted that this has been a long-standing issue.

Mr. Toner asked if the DHE has had discussions with the presidents and, if so, what the feedback has been. He also agreed that the Board and the state of Massachusetts, rather than an external body, should strive to come up with a means of assessment that does not rely upon a single-score. He added that, by working with Secretary Reville, K-12 was able to do this and make student learning outcomes a part of the evaluation process.

Commissioner Freeland replied that the work on the campuses in this area is proceeding in a responsible, credible, and professional manner. He has not heard anything of a fundamental nature that would move us in a different direction. This is a goal everyone can embrace.

Commissioner Freeland invited Presidents Meservey and Burton to comment on this topic. President Burton replied that Commissioner Freeland was "doing fine," and President Meservey stated that she is waiting for information from campuses and that having this alignment is critical.

Mr. Thomas asked a question regarding how this relates to college completion and career readiness. Commissioner Freeland replied that in the context of the learning outcomes assessment discussion, college readiness should align with college completion. Secretary Reville commented that the two are not mutually exclusive. Mr. Thomas added that college completion work can inform college readiness.

VIII. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

Secretary Reville began his remarks by acknowledging J.D. Chesloff, Chair of the Board of Early Education and Care, who will be presenting on the STEM initiative later in the agenda. He also thanked Commissioner Freeland for his national leadership on issues such as the PARCC initiative.

On behalf of the Governor, Secretary Reville thanked and welcomed the two newest BHE members, David Barron and Fernando Reimers, and welcomed Dr. Reimers to his first BHE meeting.

He commended Commissioner Freeland and Chair Desmond and the staff who made the 29 *Who Shine* event a success. He noted that tomorrow, May 16th, the Senate Budget will be announced. He indicated that they are watching funding for the Performance Incentive Fund and collective bargaining. They are also watching the Gateway Cities agenda and the general cut to information technology in the budget which will have significant implications to information technology across the system.

Secretary Reville also commented on the multiple on-going initiatives on college and career readiness, and noted that the Committee to Integrate College and Career Readiness (ICCR) will release a report soon which will encourage an earlier start in terms of college and career preparation in schools and will define career pathways.

Mr. Fulp made a recommendation that in terms of statewide career readiness, the contract with employers needs to start earlier and integrating career readiness should be done using a formal structure, perhaps via employer advisory groups at schools and at the state level to advise the Commonwealth.

IX. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

A. Community College Presidents' Report - President Wayne Burton, North Shore Community College

List of Documents Submitted by President Burton:

Massachusetts Community Colleges presentation, May 15, 2012;

North Shore Community College presentation, May 15, 2012;

The Bulletin, May 14, 2012.

President Burton delivered comments on behalf of the Community College Council of Presidents. He noted that he would need to depart the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and that he had four items of discussion. The first item he termed a "misdiagnosis of the workforce." President Burton commented that Andrew Sum of the Northeastern University Center for Labor Market Studies found that "national and state evidence on the pool of underutilized labor and the numbers of available job postings/job vacancies clearly reveals that major labor surpluses are the norm not labor market shortages". President Burton's second item pertained to the strength of the current community college system. He called attention to the thousands of degrees that are issued and urged the BHE to build from this strong system. His third item then addressed what he termed a "mismatch in funding." He noted that of the \$235 million spent on workforce development, only 3% went to the community colleges while the community colleges developed 14% of the workforce. The final item that President Burton discussed involved a recent meeting with business leaders, legislators, and community college presidents to discuss ways to work together which the Governor, the Secretary, and the Community College Presidents can then put into action.

B. State University Presidents' Report - President Patricia Meservey, Salem State University

List of Documents Submitted by President Meservey:

Council of Presidents Report to the Board of Higher Education, May 15, 2012.

President Meservey delivered remarks on behalf of the State University Council of Presidents. She first noted that Senator Berry has been a remarkable supporter of higher education and that it will be a loss to not have him in a leadership position. She thanked him for his work. She also

thanked student board member Mr. Rodriguez for his service, noting that he has been a remarkable representative for public higher education.

President Meservey stated that an area of concern for the Council is collective bargaining funding. If the MCCC funding is not included in the final budget this will result in underfunding. The council request particular attention to that issue.

President Meservey noted that reverse transfer, which will be discussed later on today's agenda, is a great example of how community colleges and state universities are coming together to support students seamlessly.

In closing President Meservey highlighted two items, the first being the upcoming commencements. The state universities will graduate 6,561 students with baccalaureate degrees and 2,246 students with master degrees who will enter the Massachusetts workforce. She noted that 85-90% stay in the Commonwealth. The universities are proud of the increase in degree production and the quality of programs offered. The second item addressed civic engagement. The universities are pleased to see this added to the Vision Project and, in concert with the community colleges, have been active in civic engagement for years. Massachusetts, she pointed out, has the third oldest campus compact (17 years) and has a wonderful head start on this initiative.

X. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez delivered remarks on behalf of the Student Advisory Council (SAC). He noted that the SAC meeting on April 26th resulted in the election of University of Massachusetts Lowell student Gianni Falzone as the BHE student member for the upcoming year. The SAC meets again at the end of May to elect segmental advisors to allow the student board member and the two segmental advisors to work together over the summer.

Chair Desmond extended his gratitude to the Student Advisory Council for their efforts. He thanked Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez for his service, noting that the next BHE meeting will be his last meeting. Chair Desmond also reported that Dr. Nancy Harrington, Board of Higher Education member and long-standing public education leader, has indicated that she intends to resign the BHE this year. He noted, however, that she will continue to work on civic engagement efforts.

XI. MOTIONS

A. Academic Affairs

List of Documents Used: *Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Motions 12-31 to 12-37*

Chair Desmond invited Dr. Hoffman to review the activities of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Dr. Hoffman noted that the committee reviewed five programs, four of which are included on a consent agenda. The fifth program, Salter College, was approved by the committee but will be voted upon separately today to accommodate a board member's abstention on that item.

Dr. Hoffman 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 12-36 CONSENT AGENDA

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

- AAC 12-31 University of Massachusetts Boston
Bachelor of Arts in Communication
- AAC 12-32 University of Massachusetts Lowell
Master of Science in Information Technology
- AAC 12-33 MGH Institute of Health Professions
Master of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences
- AAC 12-34 New England College of Business and Finance
Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing; Bachelor of
Science in International Business; Master of Healthcare
Management and Certificate of Graduate Studies in
Human Resource Management

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

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

AAC 12-31 APPLICATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **University of Massachusetts Boston** to award the **Bachelor of Arts in Communication**. Upon graduating the first class for these programs, the University 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 12-32 APPLICATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL TO AWARD THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **University of Massachusetts Lowell** to award the **Master of Science in Information Technology**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, the University 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 12-33 APPLICATION OF MGH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS TO AWARD THE MASTER OF SCIENCE 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 **Master of Science 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

AAC 12-34 APPLICATION OF NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE TO OFFER THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DIGITAL MARKETING, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, MASTER OF HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT AND CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **New England College of Business and Finance** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing; Bachelor of Science in International Business; Master of Healthcare Management and Certificate of Graduate Studies in Human Resource Management.**

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

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

Dr. Hoffman brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded and then approved by all board members present, with the exception of Dr. Reimers who abstained. Dr. Reimers commended the school on its new leadership, but noted that he abstained from the motion because of concerns about student graduation rates and student debt associated with the certificate programs.

AAC 12-35 APPLICATION OF SALTER COLLEGE: A PRIVATE TWO-YEAR COLLEGE, LLC TO AWARD CERTIFICATES IN BUSINESS OFFICE SUPPORT, MEDICAL OFFICE, COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING, CULINARY ARTS, MEDICAL ASSISTANT, MEDICAL BILLING AND CODING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AND MASSAGE THERAPY.

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the application of **Salter College: A Private Two-Year College, LLC to Certificates in Business Office Support, Medical Office, Computerized Accounting, Culinary Arts, Medical Assistant, Medical Billing and Coding, Emergency Medical Technician and Massage Therapy.**

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

Dr. Hoffman brought forth the following motion. The motion was seconded and then approved by all board members present.

AAC 12-37 APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS UNDER THE GUIDELINES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the **following Criminal Justice programs** under the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs*. Each program has been found to meet or exceed all quality standards established by the *Guidelines*.

As required in the Guidelines, each institution shall submit two copies, including one electronic copy, 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: Francesca Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic and P16 Policy

XII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Reverse Transfer

List of Documents Used: "Reverse Transfer", *PowerPoint Presentation, May 15, 2012*.

Commissioner Freeland invited Dr. Francesca Purcell, DHE Associate Commissioner for Academic & P-16 Policy, to present on reverse transfer and to introduce the team of presenters. Dr. Purcell introduced Ann McDonald, Executive Vice President, Mount

Wachusett Community College; Pamela McCafferty, Dean of Enrollment Management, Fitchburg State University; and Tara Fitzgerald-Jenkins, Associate Dean of Enrollment & Student Services/Registrar, Quinsigamond Community College.

Dr. Purcell began by noting the benefits of reverse transfer for students. It provides students with a valuable credential and it is a positive way for the institutions to work with each other. Also, studies show that reverse transfer may help improve baccalaureate completion. Over 50% of community college students transfer prior to earning the associate degree.

Dr. Purcell then went on to outline campus efforts. She noted that the University of Massachusetts Boston and Massasoit Community College were the first in the state to develop a reverse transfer agreement. Mount Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, Fitchburg State University, and Worcester State University have also taken the lead by creating a multi-campus reverse transfer program entitled "Finish First." North Shore Community College and Northern Essex Community College recently established agreements with Salem State University, as well. Nationally, she continued, the number of such agreements is growing. Other states are passing state-level policy and legislation, and there is also a grant opportunity from the Lumina and Kresge Foundations to support reverse transfer efforts.

Dr. Purcell then asked the members of the Finish First team to discuss campus efforts on reverse transfer. Ms. McDonald discussed the arrangement and how it began with an agreement between four presidents. Essentially, the program is a communication plan. It details how to transfer records and how to support students (in choosing courses and identifying how those courses will then apply to their associate degree). Between Fitchburg and Mount Wachusett, five students will complete their associate degrees this year. Ms. McCafferty discussed the benefit that this program offers to both the students and to the four-year institution. By simply sending the transcripts to the community college at the end of the semester, the student is credited with completing work towards their associate degree and the four-year institution is given another way to connect with the transfer students.

Mr. Ricciardi noted that a significant number of students do not complete their associate degrees. He asked if those students count as non-graduates and if this program would help more accurately reflect the true graduation rate for community colleges. Dr. Purcell replied that this is one way to acknowledge the students completing degrees and the community college's role in contributing to that.

Mr. Barron remarked that we will need a mechanism of monitoring this population to measure its effect on four-year degree completion. Dr. Hoffman added that we will need a longitudinal data system to show the students going into the labor market.

Secretary Reville asked if the intention of the Department of Higher Education is to create a system-wide set of policies or if we are encouraging individual agreements between schools? Dr. Purcell replied that a group will convene to get all campuses to use the same process. In the fall, perhaps, they will look at a Board level policy.

Mr. Peden noted that he appreciates the flexibility of the schools that are working together and applauds their efforts to collaborate and to meet students where they are.

Mr. Donahue-Rodriguez asked what the results have been from other states that have done this. Dr. Purcell replied that as a country, we are just beginning to support this. No strong negative results have been noted. In fact, transfer students who earn thirty credits at community colleges and then go on to transfer have graduation rates equal to or higher than native students.

B. Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Initiative

List of Documents Used: “A Foundation for the Future: Massachusetts’ Plan for Excellence in STEM Education”, PowerPoint Presentation, May 15, 2012.

Commissioner Freeland invited David Cedrone, Executive Director of the STEM Council; JD Chesloff, Executive Director of the MA Business Roundtable; Fran McCutcheon; Acting Division Dean, Science and Mathematics, Massasoit Community College; and Gilles Bolduc, Assistant Professor in Biology, Massasoit Community College, to present on Massachusetts’ plan for excellence in STEM education.

Mr. Toner departed the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Mr. Cedrone provided a progress report regarding the implementation of the Commonwealth’s STEM Plan. He reviewed the five goals of the STEM plan and noted that the STEM council added a 6th goal to focus on STEM workforce development which is related to post-secondary graduation rates. He noted that one of the challenges facing the Massachusetts STEM initiative includes post-secondary STEM graduation rates, as Massachusetts lags the country in student interest in postsecondary STEM.

Mr. Cedrone also reviewed the “@Scale Initiative,” stating that Phase 1 of the initiative addresses how we align resources and invest in projects. The “@Scale Initiative” provides data-driven selection criteria for projects, and leveraging resources is central to this theme; one public dollar to three private dollars is the goal in funding. Another goal of the “@Scale Initiative” is to create a framework to identify and establish best practices and apply them to a larger framework. In this regard, they are looking for opportunities to address the middle school math and science gap. The focus of subsequent phases of the initiative will be on elementary and Pre-K.

Mr. Cedrone also discussed the Regional STEM networks and the public awareness “WOW Campaign”. He reported that the STEM Summit on October 18th will include a student and parent information track, and *Your Plan for College* will also include a STEM element.

JD Chesloff thanked the board for inviting him to participate in the meeting today. He noted that the Massachusetts Business Roundtable is comprised of 70 Chief Executive Officers. He added that its mission is to invest in the state’s economic advantages (such as its STEM talent) and to refocus its disadvantages. He noted that STEM occupations will grow 17% in 10 years as compared to other fields which are estimated to grow 9%. In STEM, there is 1 person for every 1.9 jobs. In Massachusetts, he noted, students score well in STEM but pursue STEM careers at lower rates than those in other states.

Mr. Thomas discussed the importance of the professional development of teachers, and also the importance of reaching children early to capture and maintain students’ innate

interest in STEM. Secretary Reville asked what is influencing students to move away from these STEM fields and indicated that he would like to see that topic further explored.

Commissioner Freeland thanked Mr. Chesloff and noted that he has been a great partner and that we need partnerships with K-12, the business community and legislators to ensure program sustainability.

Fran McCutcheon presented the Massasoit Science Transfer Initiative. The goal of which is to encourage more students to major in science and to retain and graduate those students. She remarked that literature showed that students with a mentor and opportunities for undergraduate research were more likely to stay in the program. Massasoit's Liberal Arts Transfer Science (LATS) supports students who transfer to four-year institutions and major in STEM fields.

Dr. Hoffman departed the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Dr. Bolduc then discussed the research program, its collaborative work between Massasoit Community College and Stonehill College, and its funding through grants. He also noted that the program will continue to scale up the number of students involved and that through a new, lab-oriented biotech certificate program being offered in the fall, students will essentially leave with a "checklist" which indicates that they can enter the workforce career-ready.

Fernando Reimers commended the presenters on the strategic approach and asked what the STEM group is doing to increase opportunities for minority students. He also inquired about the appetite for STEM funding in the business community. Mr. Cedrone highlighted the fact that public funding is scarce, but they are leveraging existing state resources and forging public/private partnerships by requiring public/private funding matches. Acting Dean McCutcheon spoke to the minority component of the program emphasizing that they reach out to all students. Chair Desmond noted that a lot of minority students are expressing interest in STEM programs and he encouraged continued and sustained outreach efforts in this regard.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests from the public to participate.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

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