

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

April 28, 2015
11:15 a.m.

Fitchburg State University
Guglielmi Mazzaferro Center, Presidents' Hall
291 Highland Avenue
Fitchburg, MA

Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held at Fitchburg State University.

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair
Maura Banta
Nathan Gregoire, Voting Student Member
Sheila Harrity
Tom Hopcroft
Donald Irving
Dani Monroe
Tom Moreau, Designee for Secretary of Education
Fernando Reimers
Henry Thomas
Paul Toner
Edson Chipalo, Non-Voting Student Member, Berkshire Community College

The follow Board members were absent:
Stacey DeBoise Luster
Nancy Hoffman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 11:20 p.m.

II. WELCOME

Dr. Robert V. Antonucci, President, Fitchburg State University

President Robert Antonucci welcomed the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to campus and thanked them for visiting Fitchburg State University (FSU). He began by congratulating Chris Gabrieli on his recent appointment as BHE Chair, Commissioner Freeland on his upcoming retirement, and Nathan Gregoire who will be graduating next year and was nominated as "Student of the Campus." He also welcomed Don Irving and Sheila Harrity as the two new members of the BHE. President Antonucci continued by speaking about the two principles of FSU: student access and student achievement. He then highlighted FSU's many advancements towards these key principles, including initiatives such as the "\$30,000 Degree" partnerships between state universities and community

colleges. He also referred to partnerships with other universities (such as the partnership with UMass Dartmouth which would allow students to finish a law program in seven years, saving one year of tuition) and the new program in Criminal Justice, which allows students to stay at FSU for an extra year to obtain a master's degree.

President Antonucci added that the institution continues to work on increasing diversity among the student population, as well as among faculty and staff. At Board member Dani Monroe's request, President Antonucci elaborated on this, stating that FSU reaches out to student populations from diverse areas and neighboring minority communities. FSU strives to be a community that is open to everyone.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2014, Special BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved with two abstentions: Chair Gabrieli and Board Member Harrity.

Chair Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2015, Special BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved with three abstentions: Chair Gabrieli and Board Members Harrity and Gregoire.

IV. REMARKS & REPORTS

A. Chairman's Remarks

Chair Gabrieli began his remarks by providing an anecdote from his personal background that led to his career path in education, noting that his experience is primarily based in K-12 education, but now moves into higher education. He looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the current and future work of the BHE.

Chair Gabrieli noted that Tom Moreau is the designee for Secretary Peyser on the BHE. He also welcomed new Board member Dr. Sheila Harrity and provided a brief summary of her achievements in her current role. Chair Gabrieli welcomed any comments that the Dr. Harrity may want to add. Dr. Harrity stated she is thrilled to be a part of the BHE during this critical time.

Chair Gabrieli recognized former Board member Keith Peden and read a resolution commending his tenure with the BHE. He thanked Mr. Peden for his service and his dedication to Massachusetts public higher education. Mr. Peden thanked his colleagues and said that the work of the BHE and the commitment of leadership should continue to focus on education as the key to moving students forward.

Chair Gabrieli recognized former President Carol Cowan and read a resolution commemorating her career at Middlesex Community College—which spanned four decades and included 25 years as the college's third president. He thanked President Cowan for her service and dedication to Massachusetts public higher education. President Cowan thanked everyone for the recognition.

B. Commissioner's Remarks

Commissioner Freeland began by thanking President Antonucci and the FSU staff for hosting this meeting of the BHE as well as this morning's joint meeting between the BHE and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). He recognized that President Antonucci would be retiring soon, and congratulated and thanked him for his service. He continued by welcoming Dr. Sheila Harrity to the BHE and thanking Keith Peden and Carol Cowan for their contributions to higher education. He also thanked Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy for attending today's meeting and recognized Bill Hart and Vincent Pedone, Executive Officers for the Community College Council of Presidents and State University Council of Presidents, respectively, who were also in attendance.

Commissioner Freeland continued with a budget update, stating that the House Ways and Means (HWM) budget was released last week. He noted that proposed budget includes a roughly 3% increase for the campuses, funding for the performance incentive fund, as well as a funding increase for dual enrollment. He further noted that the budget is still in debate, and that increasing the scholarship line item has been proposed. In addition, the STEM starter academy line item was restored. He added that the largest issue for the campuses (perhaps more so for the state universities rather than the community colleges) appears to be funding collective bargaining commitments. Commissioner Freeland shared that he continues his rounds of campus visits, which affords him a great opportunity to acknowledge both areas of progress and areas that require more focus within each individual institution. He provided a brief update on the Vision Project Degrees of Urgency report, stating that the current goal is to continue to carry the message and receive legislative support.

C. Secretary of Education's Remarks

Chair Gabrieli announced that Secretary Peyser is attending the BESE meeting which is currently being held in another FSU building, and he welcomed Tom Moreau as the Secretary's designee. Chair Gabrieli provided a summary of Mr. Moreau's achievements in education and welcomed any comments. Mr. Moreau thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting.

D. Reports from Presidents

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to President Gail Carberry and President Robert Antonucci.

Community College Presidents' Report – Quinsigamond Community College President Gail Carberry

List of Documents Submitted by President Carberry

None

President Carberry referred to the data presented in the prior Joint BHE and BESE meeting, noting that 25% of high school students do not move forward towards a public higher education path. She stated no student should be left behind and all should be given the opportunity to participate in the workforce community. Our economy needs more people to contribute to the workforce. Supportive initiatives, such as working with Gateway programs, are essential for students in obtaining this opportunity to go on to college. President Carberry provided background on this student population, referencing their student citizen

status, their financial needs, and the dead-end situation in which many find themselves. She also noted that some of these students are also single parents, who require support that higher education does not traditionally provide. President Carberry mentioned how Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) provides personal funding towards Worcester transportation to help address one of the many issues hindering these students.

**State University Presidents' Report – Fitchburg State University
President Robert Antonucci**

List of Documents Submitted by President Antonucci

None

President Antonucci was pleased to report on FSU's upcoming commencement. He noted that this is not just a time of celebration for the students, but a chance for faculty members as well to recognize the work accomplished.

President Antonucci also referred to a unique challenge currently facing the state universities, noting that, with the exception of two institutions, all institutions have either a new or interim president, or are currently in the midst of a presidential search process. The Board faces a challenge now, to provide these new presidents with the support they need. In addition, we will have a new commissioner this year as well. President Antonucci noted that we have never seen this amount of turnover and change take place in the system all at once, and he cautioned that, while this can be seen as an opportunity, the years ahead will be challenging.

E. Report from Student Advisory Council

Board member Nathan Gregoire was pleased to report on a successful Student Leadership Advisory Conference. He stated that the event itself went well, students had a great experience, and many FSU students reported that the event had a monumental effect on them. Mr. Gregoire stated that the last meeting for the Advisory council will take place this coming Thursday, April 30th and , at that meeting, the Council will vote on a new chair, a new secretary, and a new student member to continue the contributions that students can make to the BHE.

V. MOTIONS

List of Documents Used:

AAC Motion 15-30

BHE Motion 15-06

A. Academic Affairs

Chair Gabrieli stated that Committee Chair Nancy Hoffman was unable to be at the meeting today.

The following motion was brought forth, seconded, and unanimously approved as follows:

AAC 15-30 APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS UNDER THE GUIDELINES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW

ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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

As 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: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner for Academic and Education Policy

B. Board of Higher Education

Commissioner Freeland provided a quick overview of BHE motion 15-06, which would create an Ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, and stated that this motion would confirm the work done to date and give permission to move the work forward to the next level. Strategic Planning Committee Chair Fernando Reimers continued the discussion providing an update on the work of the Committee. He noted that committee members also include Stacey Deboise Luster and Paul Toner, and that the committee is staffed by Associate Commissioner Anne Perkins.

Strategic Planning Committee Chair Reimers elaborated on the strategic direction for the institutions and the proposed guidelines. The Committee has developed a three-step process, which includes three touch points: Opening Conference; Individual Conversations; and BHE Vote. The plan involves communicating with the institution at the beginning of the year to see how they will address Vision Project goals and revisiting the institution's progress at a later date. At the end of the year, the institution would submit the plan for BHE approval. Chair Gabrieli asked if there were any questions or comments on the work of this committee for the committee chair or the Commissioner. Following a brief discussion, Chair Gabrieli thanked the committee members for their work and said that he looks forward to obtaining more updates on the work of the committee.

The following motion was brought forth, seconded, and unanimously approved.

BHE 15-10 CREATION OF CAMPUS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached "Board of Higher Education Guidelines for Review of Campus Strategic Plans", and creates a Committee on Campus Strategic Planning.

The committee shall have the following powers and duties:
To consider, report and make recommendations to the Board of Higher Education on matters relative to campus strategic planning, in accordance with the attached Guidelines.

The Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education shall appoint the members and the chair of this committee, in keeping with BHE By-laws.

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, §§9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel
Anne Perkins, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Gabrieli welcomed Dr. Richard Bisk, Professor of Mathematics at Worcester State University (WSU), to provide public commentary. Dr. Bisk provided brief summary of his work done at both FSU and WSU, noting the progress and success of WSU's alternate math pathway program, which has reduced, by half, the percentage of students placed into developmental math and, by which the passing rate has increased to 80% from 30%. Dr. Bisk noted that the Accuplacer's are, in fact, effective in identifying student readiness for math, and the deficit can be addressed only by remedial work in college or, preferably, in the senior year of high school. Chair Gabrieli thanked Dr. Bisk for the public comments.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Search: Discussion of Final Steps

Chair Gabrieli continued with the next item on the agenda: the Commissioner Search. He briefly summarized the search committee process and noted that the committee is comprised of members of this Board and other constituencies whose work intersects with that of the DHE. Chair Gabrieli then turned the discussion over to Board member Dani Monroe, Chair of the Commissioner Search Committee, to provide an update on the progress of the committee as well as information on the next steps.

Board member Dani Monroe, first thanked members of the BHE who participated in the committee and representatives of the search firm Isaacson Miller. She continued, stating that 160 applicants were reviewed, and after noting each applicant's qualifications as they related to the position profile, the search firm narrowed the pool down to 30 applicants. A more detailed review by the search firm and the committee brought the pool of qualified candidates down to 8 semi-finalists who were interviewed. All applicants went through the same interview process: they provided an introduction, were asked the same questions, and all candidates were allowed to ask questions of the committee. Search Committee Chair Monroe suggested that the BHE use the same structure for the public interviews of the finalist. Each committee member was assigned the same question to ask, and in the interest of fairness, this allowed each candidate to answer the same questions. Search Committee Chair Monroe asked for BHE member feedback on the proposed process, and any other thoughts or comments. There was a brief discussion on the process, layout, and dates of the public interviews. Chair Gabrieli confirmed that two dates are being held: May 15th for the formal interview of the finalist and May 20th for the selection of the

finalist for recommendation to the Secretary of Higher Education.

Before moving on to the presentations on Transforming Developmental Math, Chair Gabrieli asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked Board members to turn their attention to the next agenda item.

Adding Up The Progress: Transforming Developmental Math

Carlos Santiago, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs

List of Documents Used:

March 10, 2015, BHE PowerPoint

Before welcoming Senior Deputy Commissioner Carlos Santiago, who will present on the topic, Commissioner Freeland provided a quick overview of the Department's work on Transforming Developmental Math. He stated that the board previously voted on accepting an experiment to determine the placement of students in remediation on development math. No vote is being asked of the Board today; this is just a presentation of data from this experiment.

Carlos Santiago thanked Chair Gabrieli and Commissioner Freeland. He also thanked Professor Bisk for coming forward and speaking on the topic at hand. He continued by providing a summary of the work and background on the task force. He also provided an overview of the results of the experiment, displaying the collected data on the PowerPoint presentation. There was a brief discussion during which Board members needed clarification on the percentage goal listed for the intermediate goal. Carlos Santiago then turned the presentation over to Dr. Leslie Bolinger Horton, Dean of School of Math & Science at Quinsigamond Community College. Dr. Horton's presentation was based on their campus piloting the use of GPA and math boot camps as the methods for placement in the developmental math programs and the results of doing so.

Chair Gabrieli noted that the meeting would go over the allotted time to allow the presenters to finish their presentation; he then turned the meeting over to Dr. Maura Mast, Associate Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies at UMass Boston. Dr. Mast's presentation was based on GPA as a method of placement as well as the purchase of a new placement test. . The presentation was then continued by Dr. Karin Vorwerk, Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department of Westfield State University. Dr. Vorwerk's presentation was based on the use of extended time sections for students who scored low on Accuplacer tests, and the results of doing so. Chair Gabrieli inquired if any members of the Board had any questions or comments, before the motion to adjourn the meeting was made. There was a discussion among Board members for clarification on some points of the presentation, as well as a request for additional information for a follow-up presentation in the June BHE meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard M. Freeland, Ph.D.
Commissioner of the Department

and Secretary to the Board