

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

October 27, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Bristol Community College  
Commonwealth College Center (G Building)  
Rykebusch Faculty Staff Lounge  
777 Elsbree Street  
Fall River, MA

### **Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 in the Bristol Community College Rykebusch Faculty Staff Lounge, 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, Massachusetts.

#### **The following Board Members were present:**

Chair Chris Gabrieli  
Sheila Harrity  
Nancy Hoffman  
Tom Hopcroft  
Don Irving  
Robert Johnson  
Dani Monroe  
Secretary James Peyser  
Fernando Reimers  
Paul Toner  
Owen Wiggins

#### **The follow Board members were absent:**

Henry Thomas

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

Chairman Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

#### **II. WELCOME**

*Dr. John J. Sbrega, President, Bristol Community College*

President Sbrega welcomed the Board of Higher Education (BHE) and members of the public and thanked everyone for coming to Bristol Community College (BCC). President Sbrega mentioned two items: first, a campus initiative towards sustainability, which includes a solar canopy that provides 50% of the electricity to campus. It required zero construction at a low price. Second, BCC is currently building a one-of-a-kind health and science center. President Sbrega noted that it is still under construction, yet it has already won six international awards for the design.

#### **III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Chairman Chris Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the Tuesday, June 16, 2015 BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Diane Yohe, Coordinator of Legal Studies & Professor, Bristol Community College*

Ms. Diane Yohe welcomed everyone to BCC and thanked Chairman Gabrieli for the opportunity to address the Board. Ms. Yohe stated she has been a professor in the Community College system since 1978, and she is the leader of the local chapter of the Massachusetts Community College Council (MCCC). Ms. Yohe added that BCC is 1 out of 15 institutions in the system.

She stated that she would like to convey four messages: the important work accomplished, the diversity amongst students, the environment in which they work and a request for the Board's support in settling a fair contract that expired on June 30<sup>th</sup>. She continued by speaking briefly on the diversity in their student population, such as, first generation students, working students, commuters etc. She then noted that out of 718 faculty members only 128 were full-time and that 85% of gateway courses are taught by adjunct faculty. Lastly, Ms. Yohe urged the Board to support the settlement of a fair contract.

#### **V. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Before beginning his remarks Chairman Gabrieli thanked Ms. Yohe for her comments, and wanted to note that the Commissioner will give an update on contract negotiations, as we all care about the quality and state of the faculty members.

Chairman Gabrieli then proceeded to share a few action items. First, he wanted to formally welcome Dr. Robert Johnson to the Board. Chair Gabrieli also acknowledged Maura Banta and Stacey Luster, who were no longer with the Board and thanked them for their service. Chair Gabrieli shared with the Board that he is seeking to fill two positions on the BHE that have been vacant. Specifically, he is seeking to appoint Tom Hopcroft as the Fiscal and Administrative Affairs Policy (FAAP) Committee Chair, and Dr. Sheila Harrity as the Vice Chair of the BHE. He added that it was his understanding that the BHE Bylaws required a vote on these appointments. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved Dr. Sheila Harrity as the BHE Vice Chair and Tom Hopcroft, with Dr. Harrity and Board Member Hopcroft abstaining from this consolidated motion.

Chairman Gabrieli spoke about the October BHE Retreat and mentioned that it was the first step in a longer process of developing a strategic plan for Massachusetts public higher education. During the retreat, Board members also identified campus sexual assault as a topic of interest, and it was noted that DHE staff have been working with the institutions to address this issue for some time. A coordinated effort will continue in FY16. He also shared that he recently attended the annual Complete College America (CCA) conference and found it very informative. He learned that there were other states that are doing similar work in developmental math and transfer, some at the local level and others as a system.

#### **VI. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

Commissioner Santiago thanked Chairman Gabrieli and welcomed the Board and members of the public. Commissioner shared his appreciation for the opportunity to be hosted by BCC and thanked President Sbrega. He also wanted to acknowledge and thank the presidents in attendance from other institutions:

President Clark, President Cox, President Sbrega, President Wall, Chancellor Grossman, President Kennedy, President Carberry, President Glenn, President Maloney and Acting President Strickland. The Commissioner also recognized the segmental executive officers in attendance-- Bill Hart for Community Colleges, and Vincent Pedone for State Universities. Commissioner Santiago then acknowledged and thanked previous BHE members Maura Banta and Stacey Luster for their service. He also welcomed new Board members Dr. Robert Johnson and Student member Owen Wiggins.

Commissioner Santiago spoke briefly about the BHE Retreat and the development of a five-year blueprint. The Commissioner continued his remarks by mentioning several ongoing initiatives, such as transfer, fiscal updates, and PARCC.

The Commissioner provided a historical overview of the campus violence issue. He mentioned the campus safety study completed in 2008 that focused primarily on active shooters on campus and provided recommendations for campus preparedness. Commissioner Santiago added that the DHE received funding in the FY16 budget to revisit the report, with a special focus on looking at best practices around campus sexual assault. Commissioner Santiago charged General Counsel Constantia Papanikolaou to convene a task force of broad stakeholders to update the 2008 report and to focus on sexual violence as required in the FY16 budget.

The Commissioner provided an update on the BHE's work on creating a seamless system of transfer. He stated that earlier in October, the Department convened approximately 300 faculty members to begin working on creating statewide transfer pathways in ten disciplines.

Commissioner Santiago acknowledged that contract negotiations with the MCCC were ongoing, and added that he was hopeful to have a contract in place shortly. He thanked Ms. Yohe for sharing her perspective as a faculty member and mentioned that supplemental funding to support the deficiency for collective bargaining costs is moving through the legislature.

Lastly, the Commissioner noted that the Department has experienced considerable staff turnover particularly in the area of Administration and Finance, due in part to early retirement. Two positions have been posted to support the staff in this division.

Commissioner Santiago informed BHE members that he recently provided testimony before the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) on the issue of college readiness. He stated that BESE is scheduled to act on PARCC at their November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, and he joins Commissioner Chester in his commitment to college ready standards and the shared goal of a rigorous assessment providing an early signal of college readiness.

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

Secretary of Education Jim Peyser stated that he did not have any remarks.

## **VIII. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS**

**Community College Presidents' Report – Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn**  
*List of Documents Submitted by President Glenn*

*None*

President Glenn welcomed everyone on behalf of the Community Colleges, including students and faculty members. He then congratulated and welcomed the newly appointed BHE members, Robert Johnson and Owen Wiggins. President Glenn acknowledged the recent inauguration of President James Mabry at Middlesex Community College. He also wanted to thank today's host, BCC, and give another "shout-out" towards the initiatives of energy efficiency, with the new five-acre canopy built at BCC.

President Glenn said that one common theme in the work of the Community Colleges is collaboration. One particular project he wanted to highlight was the TAACCCT Grant that was awarded to the fifteen Community Colleges by the Department of Labor. President Glenn provided an overview and stated that the focus of their work is reducing the time to completion and having more students entering into the workforce or going on to continue their studies at a four-year institution.

President Glenn continued his remarks by discussing student retention issues. He stated students drop out in the first year, often the first semester and sometimes within the first few weeks. This can be as a result of an array of factors that are not related to education, like transportation, child care or personal issues. President Glenn spoke briefly in regard to the funding difference from FY14 to FY15 and noted his appreciation for the support from the BHE. In addition, he spoke about investment in capital construction and renovation projects, adding that these were paused as the administration conducts its own review of capital projects. However the Community Colleges are feeling the freeze more severely than most, especially since deferred maintenance is an issue predominantly felt by the two-year institutions. Twenty-two projects still remain and nineteen of those are for the community colleges. President Glenn said that there was an urgent need to advance these construction and renovation projects on the campuses.

### **State University Presidents' Report – Worcester State University President Barry Maloney**

#### *List of Documents Submitted by President Maloney*

*None*

President Maloney shared his appreciation for the opportunity to address the Board and welcomed members of the audience. President Maloney also welcomed new Board members Owen Wiggins and Robert Johnson.

President Maloney began his remarks by stating that State Universities have experienced significant changes in leadership since July. He stated that Bridgewater State University (BSU) has a new President, Fred Clark, as well as Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Admiral Francis McDonald. Fitchburg State University also has a new President, Richard Lapidus. In addition, President Maloney noted three interim Presidents: James Clemmer, Interim President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA); President Ken Strickland, Interim President of Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt); and Elizabeth Preston, Interim President of Westfield State University.

President Maloney spoke about collaborations among the state universities and with neighboring community colleges, high schools, school districts and

other institutions. He spoke about a regional collaboration between Worcester State University, Fitchburg State University, Quinsigamond Community College, and Mount Wachusett Community College to offer a \$30k bachelor's degree. President Maloney continued his remarks by speaking briefly on changes in the student population. He said there was a need to market the universities to underserved populations and that this has become more prevalent over the years. Additionally, he mentioned the collaboration with the DHE on the *Go Higher* events, noting that it gives campuses the opportunity to speak to students and their families about higher education. There were also efforts among several four-year institutions to implement a pilot in FY16 that would not require students to submit SAT scores for admissions. He added that this pilot falls under the DHE admissions guidelines as universities are able to admit up to 10% of applicants that do not meet the minimum admission standards.

President Maloney added that looking ahead at the FY17 budget, if the state is able to cover some of the collective bargaining costs, then fee increases could be reduced or avoided entirely. He also mentioned that through Partnership for Collaboration and Efficiency (PACE), the State Universities and Community Colleges have been able to save \$170 million on the 24 campuses.

Board member Nancy Hoffman asked that in light of the conversations around not requiring the SAT for admission, if there had been any consideration to use PARCC and/or MCAS for admission. President Maloney said that these conversations had begun with the DHE, but that everyone was awaiting the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) vote.

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

Board member Owen Wiggins thanked Chairman Gabrieli and members of the Board for their warm welcome. He stated that the Student Advisory Council (SAC) is comprised of student government presidents from all 29 public higher education institutions. Board member Wiggins stated that the SAC has met twice this year and has discussed how students can be more vocal so the legislature can hear why they believe higher education should be more accessible and affordable. Board member Wiggins stated that the SAC hopes to meet with Governor Baker and thanked the DHE and Deputy General Counsel Michael Mizzone for his support coordinating and working with the SAC.

## **X. MOTION**

List of Documents Used:  
AAC 16-01, 16-03 through 16-07  
FAAP 16-01 through 16-12  
October 27, 2015 BHE Power Point

### **A. Academic Affairs**

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Committee Chair Nancy Hoffman. Board member Hoffman summarized the motions that were considered by the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) and are before the Board today. The committee considered five program approvals from UMass

Lowell and one program approval from BCC. The committee approved all but one of the UMass proposals for recommended approval today. The UMass Dartmouth proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Business Administration was tabled to allow the institution to submit additional information in response to the AAC members' questions

Committee Chair Hoffman then called for a vote on the BCC proposal (AAC 16-01), adding that it was a strong proposal. Board members Robert Johnson and Sheila Harrity each stated for the record that they were recusing themselves from this vote to dispel the appearance of a conflict, because Becker College is referenced as having a potential future interest in a transfer agreement with BCC regarding this program.

The following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor and Board members Robert Johnson and Sheila Harrity abstaining:

**AAC 16-01 Bristol Community College  
Associate in Applied Science in Veterinary Health Care**  
**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Bristol Community College** to award the **Associate in Applied Science in Veterinary Health Care**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, the 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: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D.

Interim Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Success Board member Hoffman sought approval of AAC 16-07. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously as follows:

**AAC 16-07 Consent Agenda**

AAC 16-03 University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Biomedical Engineering

AAC 16-04 University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Master of Arts in History

AAC 16-05 University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Master of Science in Business Analytics

AAC 16-06 University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Master of Science in Engineering

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success

**B. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy**

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Committee Chair Tom Hopcroft.

Committee Chair Hopcroft provided an update of the FAAP Committee meeting last week and said it was quite a productive meeting. He stated that the FAAP committee received a presentation from the MSCBA which served as the foundation for advancing nine project proposals and one bond refinancing proposal. The following motion was brought forth, seconded and unanimously approved:

- FAAP 16-10 Approval of Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee Motions 16-01 Through 16-09 on a Consent Agenda
- FAAP 16-01 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Bridgewater State University – Renewal and Adaption Projects
- FAAP 16-02 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Fitchburg State University – Residence Hall Renovations
- FAAP 16-03 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Framingham State University – Warren Center and Inn Acquisition
- FAAP 16-04 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Framingham State University – Worcester Road Acquisition
- FAAP 16-05 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority – Framingham State University – Mt. Wayte Avenue Acquisition
- FAAP 16-06 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts – Residence Hall Renovation
- FAAP 16-07 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts – Student Center Facility Improvements
- FAAP 16-08 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Salem State University – Ellison Center Renovation
- FAAP 16-09 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Westfield State University – Davis Hall

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Sean P. Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance

Committee Chair Hopcroft then provided a brief overview of the motion. The following motion was brought forth, seconded and unanimously approved:

**FAAP 16-11 Approval of Massachusetts State College Building Authority Revenue Bond Refinancing**

**MOVED:** MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY

1. The Massachusetts State College Building Authority is hereby

authorized to issue refunding bonds to refund certain of its outstanding bonds, as described on the attachment, provided the aggregate net present value savings achieved from the refunding is no less than four percent (4%) of the par amount of refunded bonds, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized and directed, in the name and on behalf of the Board of Higher Education, to approve in writing the issuance by said Authority of bonds for such refunding purpose.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Sean P. Nelson  
Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance

Committee Chair Hopcroft noted that there were two parts to FAAP motion 16-12. He stated that the motion seeks to amend the eligibility requirements of the Adams Scholarship in particular, as well as similar, non-need-based tuition waivers. He added that during the FAAP meeting General Counsel Papanikolaou presented the motion and provided a summary of the background and context for this proposed policy change. In addition, he confirmed that the full background was clearly laid out in the board materials.

Committee Chair Hopcroft stated that a recent analysis of the Adams Scholarship program brought to our attention that under the BHE guidelines, which apply to this scholarship program, as well as to five other non-need-based tuition waiver programs, some high school graduates who are legally authorized to live and work in the United States can access the scholarship, while others who are also legally authorized to live and work in the United States cannot.

Committee Chair Hopcroft said the Department is recommending amending the guidelines of the Adams scholarship and the other non-need-based tuition waiver programs to address this inequity. The FAAP committee reviewed the proposed change, as well as the reasoning behind, all of which is outlined in the motion, and recommended approval of the motion. Sheila Harrity stated that she would be abstaining from the motion out of an abundance of caution because her daughter is a senior in high school and eligible for the scholarship. The motion made, seconded and approved, with none opposed, and one abstention from Sheila Harrity.

FAAP 16-12 Tuition Waivers: Approval of Amended Guidelines Regarding the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

### **C. Board of Higher Education**

#### List of Documents Used:

*BHE 16-01*

*MassArt Partnership Plan PowerPoint*

A motion was brought forth and seconded to approve the Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt) Special Mission Partnership Renewal Plan. Chairman Gabrieli provided brief context for the motion, explaining how a couple of public institutions operate differently because they are “special mission” institutions, and under statute those campuses have partnership plans that require BHE renewal every five years. Chair Gabrieli turned the discussion over to Interim President Ken Strickland to provide an overview of



the institution.

Interim President Strickland spoke briefly about MassArt and said that 67 percent of the institution's undergraduate enrollment comes from in-state. He added that the freshmen retention rate is 92 percent and the six-year graduation rate is 72 percent.

Chair Gabrieli thanked Interim President Strickland and told members of the Board that AAC members had asked MassArt for additional information and today's PowerPoint presentation was prepared by the institution in response to that request. The information was meant to illustrate MassArt's status as a special mission institution. This was followed by a discussion regarding collaboration and partnerships with Boston Public Schools (BPS). President Strickland elaborated on an initiative called ArtwardBound, where the institution works closely with BPS and provides college readiness programming for 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Secretary Peyser noted that the final approval of a special mission plan comes from the Executive Office of Education (EOE) and that the institution should prepare for further interaction with EOE. He went on to say that he had several questions regarding enrollment patterns for the next five years, metrics the institution can include providing comparison to other campuses, how tuition is set, and other similar questions. Secretary Peyser thanked Interim President Strickland for the strong proposal and said that he would abstain from voting given that the plan still needs to go before EOE, but that this was not a reflection of his opinion of the plan.

Board member Johnson inquired about college completion and job employment. Commissioner Santiago noted that the DHE is compiling the information on behalf of the campuses on employment after college. This would include information on employment and earnings one year and five years out of college, broken down by major. This work is still ongoing and he hopes to bring it before the BHE soon.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was approved with all in favor, none opposed, and one abstention from Secretary Peyser.

**BHE 16-01      Approval of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
Special Mission Partnership Renewal Plan**

**MOVED:**      The Board of Higher Education (Board) hereby approves the attached Massachusetts College of Art and Design special mission partnership renewal plan for 2015-2020 ("the MassArt Special Mission Renewal Plan").

The Board further authorizes the Commissioner to forward the MassArt Special Mission Renewal Plan to the Secretary of Education for his review and approval pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 15A of the General Laws.

**Authority:**      Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9 and 22

**Contact:**      Winifred M. Hagan Ed.D., Interim Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

## XI. PRESENTATIONS

- Summer Delegation of Authority  
*Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner, DHE*

Commissioner Santiago stated that his predecessor, Commissioner Richard Freeland, used his summer delegation of authority to work personnel salary increases for campus non-unit professionals. Commissioner Santiago added that he used his summer delegation of authority to approve the DHE employee handbook.

- CONNECT Report  
*John Sbrega, President, Bristol Community College*  
*Charles Wall, President, Massasoit Community College*  
*Divina Grossman, Chancellor, UMass Dartmouth*  
*Fred Clark, President, Bridgewater State University*  
*John Cox, President, Cape Cod Community College*

President Sbrega and Chair of the Connect group began the presentation said the mission of the partnership was to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of Southeastern Massachusetts. He then provided a historical overview from the initial convening under former Bridgewater State President Mohler-Faria.

President Sbrega noted a major factor of success was the use of consultants that were well renowned and respected across the Commonwealth. Additionally, he noted that the group represents the three segments of public higher education: the Community Colleges, State Universities, and University of Massachusetts. President Sbrega then listed numerous collaborative that were the outcomes of their work, such as work to further strengthen their articulation agreements amongst all segments. He said their efforts also led to the statewide initiative PACE. President Sbrega then turned the presentation over to President Charles Wall of Massasoit Community College.

President Wall continued the discussion by elaborating on the expertise and financial resources needed to be more efficient on a number of fronts. He noted that this type of work required all three segments to pull their resources together. President Wall also spoke about the leadership program and said that a key element of this was bringing together the faculty members from different disciplines to align curriculum across the institutions and providing them stipends for their work. He then turned the conversation over to Chancellor Divina Grossman of University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Chancellor Grossman continued the presentation and spoke briefly on PK through 12 outreach and STEM innovation. She discussed an initiative with six local middle schools and said the program targets 7<sup>th</sup> graders and allows them to have a college immersion experience. That includes a campus tour. She also mentioned a one week residential summer camp where 48 girls from ages 11 through 13 get them involved in STEM related assignments. Chancellor Grossman stated that the goal was to increase interest in STEM due to the shortage of woman in STEM higher education

programs and careers. Lastly, Chancellor Grossman said UMass Dartmouth was in the midst of launching a \$30k bachelor degree in a number of program areas in partnership with the community colleges in the CONNECT partnership. Before turning the discussion over to President Fred Clark of BSU, Chancellor Grossman stated that Commissioner Santiago will be speaking at UMass Dartmouth and extended the invitation to everyone in attendance.

President Clark thanked BSU Chair Eugene Durgin for also attending. He stated this consortium has stood the test of time and has been established twelve years. President Clark said that the CONNECT partnership also has a focus around workforce development. He provided an overview and then turned the conversation over to President John Cox of Cape Cod Community College.

President Cox wanted to acknowledge Stacey Kaminski, Executive Director, and Kim Williams, Staff Assistant, who staff the CONNECT group. President Cox then gave an example of alignment across all partner institutions and the longitudinal approach as students move from two-year to four-year institutions. President Cox then opened it up for questions and comments.

Commissioner Santiago expressed his excitement to hear about the \$30k degree it's great to see that UMass is also involved in that collaboration. There was a brief discussion of the importance of involving local industries into the conversation to help inform what types of programs should be offered and what should be covered in the curriculum in order to ensure that students are adequately prepared to enter the workforce. Board members then asked the CONNECT group to discuss what types of difficulties they faced as a result of the collaboration. Member of the group primarily focused on curriculum alignment and how even something as seemingly simple as making sure English 101 was equivalent across the partnering institutions required extensive conversations among faculty. Yet, while there was friction the message of collaboration resonated throughout the institutions from the administration to staff and this created a culture of working together to solve challenges faced by the institutions

Board Member Hoffman asked if the group could speak to the cost of the program, both financially and time commitment, as well as any lessons learned that could help inform other regional partnerships across the Commonwealth. Chancellor Grossman answered by stating that there is no limit to what can be accomplished if people are not looking to receive credit. This led to a further discussion on the commitments made by each of the institutions, like paying dues.

Board Member Reimers inquired how the collaborative has impacted faculty. President Wall and Executive Director Stacey Kaminski answered by noting one of the current groups that are convening to focus on the implications in correlation to PARCC and that the conversations have been both fruitful and informative.

Chairman Gabrieli asked members of the CONNECT partnership think about how their regional partnership and collaboration was aligned with the

BHE mission and how this model might be expanded statewide. Chair Gabrieli also urged the group to think about the sacrifices and commitments required work collaboratively and efficiently. President Sbrega stated that the group would be happy to look into and present to the on their findings at a later date.

- Fall 2015 Enrollment Estimates  
*Jonathan Keller, Senior Associate Commissioner for Research and Planning, DHE*

List of Documents Used:  
*October 27, 2015 BHE Power Point*

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Senior Associate Commissioner for Research and Planning Jonathan Keller, who would present on the Fall 2015 Enrollment Estimates. Senior Associate Commissioner Keller stated that this report is done every year at the first BHE meeting of the year and thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the data.

Senior Associate Commissioner Keller stated that the data represents early enrollment and the number does shift due to drop outs, transfer, and other circumstances. The data presented looked at fall undergraduate enrollment over a ten-year period, from Fall 2005 to Fall 2015 and demonstrates a period of fairly rapid growth that tapers off from Fall 2013. Senior Associate Commissioner Keller noted the factor of economic downturn having an effect on education and more students enrolling in postsecondary institutions during the recession. He explained that enrollment declines are cyclical and affected by the state of the economy and demographics.

He said that the DHE worked closely with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), a highly reputable group, when developing the population projections that show a decline in the college-age population. The DHE also worked with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute when developing the enrollment projections.

Senior Associate Keller pointed out that UMass system was not experiencing a decline and has seen an increase in the number of international students. He also pointed out a peak year in 2013 but the significant changes show decline in enrollments for the Community Colleges, which are the more to the change in demographics and the stabilizing of the economy. Senior Associate Commissioner Keller also noted that completion rates were consistently low and that gaps remained persistent for underserved populations.

Senior Associate Commissioner Keller stated 72 percent of jobs in the Commonwealth will require a postsecondary credential and that the data show a majority of these jobs will require a bachelor's degree or higher. He added that research by Dr. Anthony Carnevale, Georgetown University, supports this notions. Finally, Senior Associate Keller stated that alignment with PK-12 is imperative in order to produce the number of graduates the Commonwealth needs from its public higher education institutions.

Board members engaged in a discussion around the enrollment figures and also what types of degrees students should be receiving. This led to a conversation on what types of programs need to be developed in order to meet workforce demands and Board members weighed the pros and cons of being prescriptive Board members agreed that the data should be shared with campus Presidents so that they can make informed decisions and make this a priority for their institutions. Senior Associate Commissioner Keller added that the data from the employment after college reports can show how many students enter STEM related fields without STEM related backgrounds. This information could show what programs are successful in creating workers for certain fields.

Board members then discussed how race and other social factors play a role in the enrollment decline. Senior Associate Commissioner Keller stated that the data presented at the meeting did not disaggregate by race, gender, or socioeconomic status, but the DHE did have this data. Board member Monroe stated that from her own review data that is available to the public, there are gaps between different racial groups and by socioeconomic status. Board member Toner stated that he was also interested in learning how much of the decline could be due to people leaving Massachusetts due to housing affordability issues.

## **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carlos E. Santiago  
Commissioner of the Department and  
Secretary to the Board