

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

January 26, 2016
10:15 a.m.

Roxbury Community College Reggie Lewis Track Center
Multi-Purpose Room 218
1350 Tremont Street
Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Multi-Purpose Room 218 of the Reggie Lewis Track Center at Roxbury Community College (RCC) located on 1350 Tremont Street, Roxbury Crossing, Massachusetts.

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair
Sheila Harrity, Vice Chair
Nancy Hoffman
Tom Hopcroft
Robert Johnson
J.D. LaRock
Dani Monroe
Tom Moreau, Secretary of Education Designee
Fernando Reimers
Henry Thomas
Paul Toner
Owen Wiggins, Student Trustee, UMass Amherst

The follow Board members were absent:

Don Irving

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

II. Welcome

Dr. Valerie Roberson, President, Roxbury Community College

President Roberson welcomed and thanked everyone on the Board for the opportunity to host and speak today. She began her remarks by describing the unique characteristics of the student population at Roxbury Community College (RCC). President Roberson also mentioned their recently completed New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation review, which was favorable. She continued her remarks by highlighting ongoing campus efforts around strategic planning and improving the overall financial stability of the institution. In that regard she noted that she is working closely with Department of Higher Education staff members. She also described RCC initiatives around transfer pathways, increasing student enrollment and early college programs. President Roberson concluded her remarks by thanking the Board of Higher Education for its continued support.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairman Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the Special BHE meeting, which was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved, with one abstention from Chairman Gabrieli.

Chairman Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the BHE meeting, which was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Paul Leoni, Accounting Student at University of Massachusetts Boston, addressed the Board. The remarks were primarily regarding student difficulties in transferring credits. He illustrated his point by describing his experience in transferring from a community college to a state university.

V. REMARKS & REPORTS

A. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Gabrieli began by welcoming new Board member J.D. LaRock, the BHE's Community College trustee representative, and turned the meeting over to Mr. LaRock for a brief introduction. Board Member LaRock thanked Chairman Gabrieli for the opportunity to represent the Community College segment. He briefly provided an overview of his professional experience, highlighting work with legislation and policy. Trustee LaRock concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for the opportunity.

Chairman Gabrieli continued the meeting by noting the work on early college design possibly moving forward and helping students avoid developmental education. Chairman Gabrieli elaborated on his intention to use the BHE Executive Committee to prioritize specific larger goals. He noted that the Executive Committee would meet soon to work on a strategic plan. There being no comments or questions, Chairman Gabrieli concluded by stating the goal was to have a list of key issues by June.

B. Commissioner's Remarks

Commissioner Santiago began by thanking President Roberson for hosting the meeting. The Commissioner acknowledged the Presidents in attendance: President Kennedy, President Cox, President Roberson, President Eddinger, President Glenn, President Cevallos, President Maloney, Admiral McDonald, and the newest President, Ramon Torrecilha. He also recognized Vincent Pedone, Executive Officer for the State Universities, for attending.

He continued his remarks by detailing his recent regional visit to Bunker Hill Community College, followed by a regional visit to Fitchburg State University. The Commissioner noted that he is in the process of completing his review of the FY15 presidential evaluations. He also stated that he intends to slightly change the process in FY16 by including a one-on-one meeting with each President, preferably during the summer, to review evaluations prior to finalizing his response letter.

Commissioner Santiago also spoke about the educational divide, the difference between those with post secondary degrees and those without, and

the impact it has on income inequality. He provided an historical background and the challenges that arise around this issue.

C. Secretary of Education’s Remarks

Chairman Gabrieli noted that Tom Moreau is here today as the designee for Secretary Peyser, who was attending another Board meeting. He offered Tom Moreau an opportunity to provide remarks on behalf of the Secretary. Mr. Moreau declined.

D. Reports from Presidents

**State University Presidents’ Report – Worcester State University
President Barry Maloney**

List of Documents Submitted by President Maloney

None

President Maloney brought greetings from the State University segment and welcomed President Ramon Torrecilha as the new President of Westfield State University. Additionally, he noted two recent appointments: Dr. James Birge, President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) and Dr. David Nelson, President of Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt). President Maloney continued by recognizing the leadership and work of Acting and Interim Presidents: Cindy Brown and Jim Clemmer for MCLA; Kurt Steinberg and Ken Strickland for MassArt, and Elizabeth Preston, Interim President of Westfield State University.

President Maloney elaborated on the FY17 budget proposal, noting the expected exclusion of collective bargaining funding and the impact this would have on the State Universities. He shared appreciation for the Board’s recent support in requesting funding to cover previously approved collective bargaining obligations. He wanted to also highlight a second priority for the FY17 budget, focusing on funding contractual salary increases for unit members.

President Maloney also noted the State Universities’ continuing work in building partnerships with Community Colleges. He provided an overview of the annual Undergraduate Research Conference, and the Partnership to Advance Collaboration and Efficiencies (PACE) initiative, specifically the recent completion of a campus security assessment. He concluded his remarks by thanking the Board for their consideration towards the proposed budget request.

**Community College Presidents’ Report – Northern Essex Community
College President Lane Glenn**

List of Documents Submitted by President Glenn

None

President Glenn brought greetings from the Community Colleges. He welcomed new Board member J.D. LaRock. He also thanked Commissioner Santiago for his continued support of the Community Colleges.

President Glenn noted that the Community Colleges have expanded partnerships with technical vocational schools, making best use of resources available in order to provide support for more students. Additionally, a senior

year math curriculum has been developed to prepare students for college level math. He acknowledged that 500 vocational students have participated, and the goal is to promote math readiness for college, which is a major barrier many students face when enrolling at community colleges.

President Glenn wanted to make a note that \$250,000 has been raised by local employers, and matched by the state, to educate and create partnerships for technical education collaborations. Additionally, he spoke of a 1.2 million dollar grant from MassHousing to purchase equipment and property in greater Lawrence. He also provided more information around the Commonwealth Commitment and another effort in early college education on the north shore. He concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for their work and support.

E. Report from Student Advisory Council

Student Member Owen Wiggins thanked Chairman Gabrieli. He briefly noted that the council has not met and will be meeting in early February.

VI. MOTIONS

A. Board of Higher Education

Chairman Gabrieli referenced the joint meeting of the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Board of Higher Education held earlier today. He thanked board members for the lively and thoughtful discussion, and noted that as a result of that discussion he sensed a general agreement among both boards to amend the definition of college and career readiness to capture the suggestions offered by the Secretary regarding U.S. History and respecting freedom of speech. He said that it was his understanding that the Board's General Counsel is prepared to read into the record proposed amended language. Before turning the meeting over to General Counsel, Constantia Papanikolaou, for an introduction on the motion, Chairman Gabrieli stated that he would open up the meeting for discussion and then the Board would vote. General Counsel Papanikolaou stated that she had consulted with the General Counsel for the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education immediately after the joint meeting to compare notes, and they were both in agreement that the following amendments to the definition of college and career readiness captured the discussion at the joint meeting:

1. On page 6, under the subheading "civic readiness," add the following language to the first sentence:

To be college and career ready and prepared for civic life, students must also possess a deep understanding and knowledge of U.S. History and its foundational documents, along with the knowledge, intellectual skills, and applied competencies

2. On page 6, under the subheading "civic readiness," add the clause "respect for freedom of speech and thought" in the fourth bullet under

This was followed by a brief discussion among Board members regarding the definition of the phrase "commitment to equality." Specifically, Student Trustee Board Member Owen Wiggins expressed concern that under the proposed amended definition a political view or set of views could be perceived as being imposed upon students through this policy, and he felt strongly that the language was not well rounded enough to allow for differing perspectives. The Board then engaged in a discussion about the wording. Board Members

generally did not agree with Mr. Wiggins' interpretation, noting that the language, when taken in context, was intended to encourage civic dispositions and behaviors that would encourage the opposite of what he was suggesting—e.g., free and open dialogue, respect for others and respect for freedom of speech. Chair Gabrieli thanked Board Member Wiggins for noting his concerns for the record, and asked Board Members if they had any other concerns or questions for discussion prior to calling the matter for a vote.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Gabrieli asked for a motion to approve BHE 16-05..The motion was made, seconded and approved by all Board Members present, with one opposition (Board Member Wiggins), as follows:

BHE 16-05 Motion to Adopt the amended Massachusetts Definition of College and Career Readiness and Civic preparation

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education acknowledges receipt of a proposed revision of the *Massachusetts Definition of College and Career Readiness*, prepared by a working group from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Higher Education.

The Board thanks the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for its commitment to join with the Board of Higher Education in revising this definition to include Civic Preparation, and thereby connecting its work to the BHE's 2012 commitment to the Vision Project goal of Preparing Citizens and the BHE's 2014 Policy on Civic Learning. The Board thanks the joint working group for developing the revised language in this agreement.

The Board of Higher Education moves to adopt the amended *Massachusetts Definition of College and Career Readiness and Civic Preparation* for joint implementation across the P-12 public education system and the community colleges and state universities, and invites the participation of the University of Massachusetts in this effort.

Authority: M.G.L. Chapter 15A, Sec. 9 (c) and (u)

Contact: Dr. Patricia A. Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

B. Academic Affairs

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Committee Chair Nancy Hoffman. Before beginning her remarks, Ms. Hoffman wanted to thank Commissioner Santiago for framing the issue of inequality. She then provided an overview of the five programs approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. She noted that the study of the pilot initiative on developmental education led to good discussions. Additionally, the Committee directed the Commissioner to implement the MassTransfer report. Before moving to the approval of the motion, she acknowledged the Commissioner and staff at the Department for the work being accomplished on transfer pathways.

Committee Chair Hoffman sought approval of AAC 16-17. The motion was

seconded and approved by all Board Members present, as follows:

AAC 16-17 Consent Agenda – AAC 16-12 through 16-16

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

- AAC 16-12 Bristol Community College
Associate in Science in Life Sciences
- AAC 16-13 Cape Cod Community College
Associate in Science in Engineering, Technology,
and Advanced Manufacturing
- AAC 16-14 Westfield State University
Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies
- AAC 16-15 University of Massachusetts Boston
Doctor of Philosophy in Computational Sciences
- AAC 16-16 University of Massachusetts Boston
Doctor of Philosophy in Integrative Biosciences

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

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

Committee Chair Hoffman provided an overview of the following motion (AAC 16-18) and opened the matter up for discussion.

There being no discussion she sought approval for AAC16-18. The motion was seconded and approved by all Board Members present, as follows:

AAC 16-18 Revocation of Marian Court College Degree granting authority

MOVED: The Board hereby revokes the legal authority of Marian Court College to operate and grant degrees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts retroactive to December 31, 2015.

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

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

Committee Chair Hoffman provided an overview of the following motion (AAC 16-19) on developmental math pilots and turned the meeting over to the Commissioner for any additional remarks. Commissioner Santiago noted some changes in the experimentation process, which would provide a better sense to the Board of what direction to consider for this important work.

This was followed by a discussion among Board members regarding statistical significance of the pool size, the focus on GPA, and the importance of the study.

Hearing no further discussion, Committee Chair Hoffman sought approval for AAC16-19. The motion was seconded and approved by all Board members present, as follows:

AAC 16-19 Extending campus work in the area of developmental mathematics

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby amends AAC 14-12 to extend the period of experimentation of the developmental math campus GPA pilots through the 2018-2019 academic year. During this period, public higher education institutions may use the placement standards listed below for recent high school graduates (a student who has graduated from high school within the last three years):

- Pilot A1 Standard: 2.7 GPA or above
- Pilot A2 Standard: 2.7 GPA and a “B” or higher in Algebra II
- Pilot A3 Standard: 2.7 GPA and four years of high school math

The Board also encourages campuses to assess more students using the new Pilot A standards beginning in the Fall of 2016. The Board further directs the Department to report back to the Board in the Fall of 2018 with a status report which shall include the findings of the new Pilot A standards.

The Board hereby accepts the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMDI) Final Report, “A Qualitative Study on the Developmental Education Strategies in Mathematics Pilot Initiative.” The Board thanks the UMDI for their hard work and participating campuses for their commitment to student success (Appendix A).

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6, 9(c), 9 (u) and 32.

Contact: Dr. Patricia A. Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Committee Chair Hoffman provided an overview of the final motion from the Academic Affairs Committee on MassTransfer Pathways implementation. The Board had a brief discussion on which majors would be offered through this project. Hearing no further discussion Ms. Hoffman sought approval of AAC 16-20. The motion was seconded and approved by all Board members present, as follows:

AAC 16-20 MassTransfer Pathways Implementation

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education is statutorily mandated to “develop and implement a transfer compact for the purpose of facilitating and fostering the transfer of students without the loss of academic credit or standing from one public institution to another.” M.G.L. c. 15A, § 9(v).

In June 2008, the Board accepted the Final Report of the Commonwealth Transfer Advisory Group (CTAG) and adopted the MassTransfer Policy. In furtherance of the CTAG recommendations, the Board directs the Department to continue ongoing efforts to create a seamless system of transfer.

To that end, the Board hereby calls upon the Commissioner to (1)

implement the MassTransfer Pathways initiative; and (2) report to the Board by Spring 2017 on progress towards implementation.

The Board thanks the Department and the Commonwealth's institutions of public higher education for taking the initiative to develop a seamless system of transfer through a collaborative process.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, §§ 6 and 9(v)

Contact: Dr. Patricia A. Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

C. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Committee Chair Tom Hopcroft. Chair Hopcroft introduced two motions that the Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy (FAAP) Committee had voted on last week. Committee Chair Hopcroft provided an overview of the meeting, highlighting a presentation on the funding formula and proposed revisions for the FY17 budget, which include adding a metric of enrollment. He then asked if there were any questions or comments from Board Members.

Hearing no discussion Mr. Hopcroft sought approval of FAAP 16-15. The motion was seconded and approved by all Board Members present, as follows:

FAAP 16-15 Approval of amended guidelines regarding the MassTransfer tuition waiver program

MOVED: For reasons set forth in the background document, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) hereby adopts the attached amended Guidelines for the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver Program. These guidelines will go into effect beginning in Academic Year 2016 – 2017.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 15A, Section 9 (i) and 19

Contact: Dr. Clantha McCurdy, Senior Deputy Commissioner, Access and Student Financial Assistance
Sean P. Nelson, Deputy Commissioner, Administration and Finance

Committee Chair Hopcroft provided an overview of the final motion, FAAP 16-16 which seeks BHE approval to name a building at Westfield State University after a donor. Hearing no discussion Mr. Hopcroft sought approval of FAAP 16-16. The motion was seconded and approved by all Board members present, as follows:

FAAP 16-16 Naming of Westfield State University's former laboratory school The Catherine Dower Center for the Performing and Fine Arts

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, § 9(m); BHE Policy Regarding Building Naming Rights at Massachusetts Public Higher Education Institutions (FAAP 15-14).

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

Commonwealth Commitment to Access and Affordability

Katy Abel, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Katy Abel to address the Board. Ms. Abel began by providing an overview of the *Commonwealth Commitment*, noting that it is an expansion of previous arrangements made between certain campuses. Additionally, she noted that leveraging what we know is the public's number one concern, affordability for students. She continued by detailing the process of drafting guiding principles, using campus regional agreements to craft a potential statewide agreement. She then explained the urgent need for more degree holders in the Commonwealth. Ms. Abel noted that 16 programs would be covered; six rolling out in 2016 and ten to follow in 2017. Ms. Abel explained that, under this program, students will be given a financial incentive to complete an associates and bachelors degree within four and a half years in one of these 16 programs.

Board member Nancy Hoffman left the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Ms. Abel listed all the programs and noted slight changes for the special schools, such as Mass Maritime Academy and MassArt. She also highlighted discussions with the UMass system on how they would also be a part of the agreement. She finalized her remarks by mentioning rising costs as a concern that would need to be address annually and summarizing the benefits of the agreement.

Board member Dani Monroe left the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Commissioner Santiago also wanted to raise a potential concern, saying that the number and rate of students that go through our system through this route in four years or less is currently very low. He hopes that perhaps this program could dramatically improve that figure.

This was followed by a discussion among Board Members which touched upon: degree attainment, affordability, population of students which the program would be accessible to, relaying information to guidance counselors and parents, and the timeline for it to be finalized.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Gabrieli moved to new business.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

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