

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

---

January 24, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Bridgewater State University  
Rondileau Campus Center  
Small Ballroom  
19 Park Avenue  
Bridgewater, MA

### **Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in the Small Ballroom of Bridgewater State University at 19 Park Avenue, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

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

Chris Gabrieli, Chairman

Sheila Harrity, Vice-Chair

Nancy Hoffman

Tom Hopcroft

Robert Johnson

J.D. LaRock

Paul Mattera

Dani Monroe

Tom Monroe, Secretary of Education's Designee

Fernando Reimers

Jasson Alvarado-Gomez, Student Member, Mount Wachusett Community College

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

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

Henry Thomas

Paul Toner

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

Chairman Chris Gabrieli called the meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to order at 11:23 a.m.

### **II. WELCOME**

Chair Gabrieli welcomed everyone in attendance and invited Bridgewater State University (BSU) President Fred Clark to offer remarks. President Clark welcomed the BHE and began his remarks by acknowledging Massasoit Community College President Charlie Wall and Bristol Community College President Jack Sbrega, who have both announced that they will be retiring later this year. He stated that both of these presidents personify the role of leadership in southeastern Massachusetts, and then asked those in attendance to offer a round of applause.

President Clark continued his remarks by highlighting two areas of importance, the first of which being serving the underserved. He complimented the BHE, the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and Commissioner Santiago for their collective focus on underserved populations. He continued that he is proud of the progress public higher education has made in serving underserved populations in southeastern Massachusetts through a focus on Gateway Cities, and BSU in particular is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for diversifying their campus community and closing achievement gaps. He added that increasing access and affordability are critically important for those communities, and he looks for guidance from the state for serving Gateway Cities.

President Clark highlighted a second area of importance, workforce development, citing several examples of regional business and community partnerships. He remarked that he believes we need to do more to articulate the importance of the liberal arts, citing the business community's desire for a culturally competent labor force of critical and practical thinkers, problem solvers, and strong writers. He continued by stressing the importance of experiential learning opportunities for students, and thanked the Commonwealth for the State University Internship Program, which has produced hundreds of interns. He stated that the program is the greatest workforce development tool they have. President Clark concluded his remarks by thanking and again welcoming the BHE, and wished them a productive meeting.

Chairman Gabrieli thanked President Clark for his comments, and for hosting the meeting today.

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

Chairman Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the November 29, 2016 Special BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present, with the exception of the Secretary of Education's designee, Tom Monroe, who abstained because he was not in attendance.

Chairman Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2016 BHE meeting. BHE member Tom Hopcroft stated that his attendance should be noted on the first page of the minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present, subject to Board member Hopcroft's noted correction.

### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

### **V. REMARKS AND REPORTS**

#### **A CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Gabrieli offered brief comments and remarked that he was pleased with the productive discussion during the joint Board of Elementary and Secondary (BESE) and BHE meeting, as it provides a great opportunity to consider our vision in Massachusetts not just year to year, but more broadly. He remarked that he appreciated BHE member J.D. La Rock's comments during the joint meeting regarding free community college, and thinking of a K-14 system as opposed to a K-12 system. He continued that as a Board, it is critical to continue to think more broadly, and cited examples of their work in this context, such as the early college initiative, the Commonwealth Commitment program, and the Campus Violence and Sexual Assault initiative, but also working with the campuses to move Massachusetts' vision ahead

and remain positioned as a leader.

## **B. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS**

Commissioner Santiago welcomed everyone and thanked President Clark and Bridgewater State University for hosting the BHE. He then welcomed and acknowledged the other presidents in attendance: Cape Cod Community College President John Cox, Bristol Community College President Jack Sbrega, Massasoit Community College President Charlie Wall, North Shore Community College President Patricia Gentile, Bunker Hill Community College President Pam Eddinger, Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn, Framingham State University President Javier Cevallos, and Mass Maritime Academy President Francis McDonald. He additionally acknowledged the attendance of Bill Hart, Executive Officer for the Community Colleges, and Vincent Pedone, Executive Officer for the State Universities.

Commissioner Santiago began his remarks by expressing appreciation to all the staff of the DHE and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), as well as the BHE for their work in providing the context for what he believes is a historic vote by both boards. He acknowledged the leadership of BHE Chair Gabrieli, and the support of Secretary of Education Jim Peyser to bring this initiative to fruition. He continued by acknowledging the working relationship between DESE and the DHE, as the goals of public higher education are often dependent upon the creation of an effective pipeline of students from our K-12 system.

The Commissioner continued his remarks by stating that the BHE is not just a coordinating board, but is a governing board, which is an important distinction, largely linked to the BHE's overarching governance role in selecting, compensating and evaluating campus presidents. He added, however, that the DHE's effectiveness is tied less to authority, and more towards providing guidance and successfully engaging with our institutions to successfully implement BHE policies, and to this end, he has instilled a strong service mentality within his staff, as their most important role in moving BHE policies forward is convening campus stakeholders. He continued that he believes it necessary that the DHE be viewed as an honest broker throughout these processes, reflecting a transparent and inclusive process. The Commissioner cited the recent presidential evaluation process update as an opportunity to test this approach, shifting from an exclusive focus on metrics to a more comprehensive approach that includes context and dialogue with campus leadership. He remarked that the outcome achieved is beneficial to all parties, which is critical in our current environment of changing leadership on our campuses.

The Commissioner concluded his remarks by stating that he continues to look forward to fruitful and instructive conversations with campus presidents as we move forward with BHE policies in several policy areas. Chair Gabrieli thanked Commissioner Santiago for his comments. He then asked the Secretary of Education's designee Tom Moreau if he had any comments for today's meeting.

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

None

## **D. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS**

**Community College Presidents' Report – Cape Cod Community College President  
John L. Cox**  
*List of Documents Submitted by President Cox*

*None*

President Cox brought greetings from the Community College segment, and thanked the Commissioner, Chairman Gabrieli, and the members of the Board for the opportunity to speak today. He began his remarks by thanking the Commissioner for his comments, remarking that he appreciates the consideration of the campuses as partners and including them at the table. He then congratulated James Vander Hooven on his recent appointment as president at Mount Wachusett Community College, as well as Laura Douglas, the new president at Bristol Community College. He continued by echoing the earlier comments of BSU president Fred Clark, acknowledging the leadership and retirement of Massasoit Community College president Charlie Wall.

He remarked that the discussion regarding the Early College Initiative was timely, as he recently engaged in a discussion with a Cape high school regarding a partnership with high school students and Cape Cod Community College's (CCCC) Aviation Management program. He continued he that looks forward to an opportunity to come together and build on this momentum on early college initiatives. He then referenced two legislative items supported by his sector, the first of which provides coverage for collective bargaining costs. He continued that this measure would ensure fiscal stability for community colleges and state universities. The second legislative item recognizes the need for private gift giving. He then offered some brief highlights of community college news and student accomplishments:

- 1) North Shore Community College (NSCC) is providing a gateway to college program for high school students through a \$150,000 grant. The program will serve students who demonstrate academic potential, but are at risk of dropping out.
- 2) Microsoft is offering internships to Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) students.
- 3) CCCC is launching academic programs that will train cyber technologists. Graduates will enter the field of digital database protection, uncovering security weaknesses and exploring cyber crime trends. This is a field that is poised to explode in the labor market.
- 4) Given the shortage of sleep technologists in the labor market, students at Northern Essex Community College's (NECC) sleep technology program are receiving job offers before they have even graduated.

Finally, President Cox concluded his remarks by stating that he is looking forward to the formation of the working group for strategic planning, as well as guidance for a framework for deferred maintenance funding.

**State University Presidents' Report – Framingham State University President Javier Cevallos**

*List of Documents Submitted by President Cevallos*  
*Massachusetts State Universities Legislative Agenda*

President Cevallos brought greetings from the State University segment. He thanked Commissioner Santiago, Chairman Gabrieli, and the members of the Board for the opportunity to speak today. He began his remarks by providing an update on the

Massachusetts State University segment's legislative agenda, as the new year welcomes a new legislature to the 190<sup>th</sup> session of the General Court. He remarked that he is pleased to report that the Massachusetts State Representatives and State Senators have filed a number of bills at their request, and then provided a brief overview of each bill:

- 1) *An Act to Fund Public Higher Education* is the segment's number one priority. The bill seeks to secure funding to support collective bargaining agreements by requiring the Governor to recognize all incremental salary increases for bargaining unit members in his annual state spending plan submitted to the legislature. Without state funding to cover the costs of the contracts, campuses are forced to use other funds to meet these funding obligations. This affects student fees and reduces affordability, and puts the economic mobility of our most vulnerable populations in the Commonwealth at risk.
- 2) *An Act to Ensure Tuition Equality to Massachusetts Residents* would amend the General Laws to allow public higher education institutions to continue to offer in-state tuition rates to qualifying DACA students, regardless of any changes made, if any, to DACA by the federal government. Sixteen other states have already authorized in-state tuition rates to qualifying students and many other state legislatures are considering similar legislation or executive actions.
- 3) *An Act to Authorize the State Universities to Offer Clinical and Professional Doctorate Programs* will allow the state universities an opportunity to offer clinical doctoral degrees, which is currently prohibited by the General Laws. The move to offer clinical doctoral degrees, which are distinct from the research based Doctor of Philosophy/PhD, is needed to meet changing licensing requirements in certain professions, certifying advanced clinical proficiency. It is noteworthy that post graduate degree programs are not subsidized by the state so offering these programs comes at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- 4) *An Act to Protect Student Data* would amend Chapter 66 of the General Laws by allowing public higher education institutions to safeguard student information from predatory data collection companies of groups seeking to profit off our students' personal information through public records requests. The bill would allow institutions to designate this student data, including directory information, as an education record protected under FERPA.
- 5) *An Act Relative to Commonwealth Building Projects* would increase the minimum threshold for Department of Capital Assets Maintenance and Management (DCAMM) review from \$250,000 to \$1M, and raises the "opt out" threshold provision on construction projects from \$2M to \$10M.

President Cevallos thanked the members of the Legislature who sponsored and cosponsored the bills for their commitment to strengthen public higher education, and asked for support in promoting public higher education in the legislature.

He concluded his remarks by reiterating the commitment of both himself and his colleagues in finding new and innovative ways to provide access to Massachusetts students seeking a high quality and affordable college experiences. He remarked that he is concerned that historic disinvestment and chronic underfunding jeopardized their ability to serve students and communities in need by providing access to quality academic programs. He cited a recent report from the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, as well as a recent New York Times study that both illustrate the critical role public higher

education plays in the overall economic strength of the state. President Cevallos again thanked the BHE for the opportunity to speak and asked for their support in his segment's efforts.

## E. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

None

## VI. MOTIONS

### List of Documents Used:

AAC 17-10 through 17-12

FAAP 17-12 through 17-24

### A. Academic Affairs

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Chair Nancy Hoffman. Before proceeding with the motions, she provided a brief summary on the recent AAC meeting, which included a discussion about the process the BHE uses to approve new academic programs, and a redesign of the process to encourage more alignment with campus strategic plans. She continued that the goal is to bring this to closure by the first BHE meeting in the fall. She additionally reported that there was a brief discussion about the agenda for the joint BESE/BHE meeting.

Committee Chair Hoffman then provided an overview of the motions listed in the AAC 17-12 consent agenda. There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all board members present voting in favor

#### **AAC 17-12 Consent Agenda – AAC 17-10 - AAC 17-11**

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

AAC 17-10 Massachusetts College of Art and Design

- Master of Education in Art Education

AAC 17-11 University of Massachusetts Boston

- Master of Science in Business Analytics

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)

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

### B. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy

Chairman Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Fiscal Affairs and Administrative

Policy (FAAP) Chair Tom Hopcroft, who provided a summary of the discussions at the recent FAAP meeting. He reported that the committee considered motions on tuition rates, the rent schedule and operating budgets from the Massachusetts State College Building Authority, the building naming process and an amendment to the Early Childhood Educators Scholarship program.

Committee Chair Hopcroft then provided an overview of the motions listed in the FAAP 17-19 Consent Agenda. There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded, and approved as follows with all Board members voting in favor, with the exception of student member Jasson Alvarado-Gomez, who abstained:

**FAAP 17-19 Consent Agenda – FAAP 17-12 – 17-18**

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

FAAP 17-12 Community College Resident Tuition Rates for FY2018

FAAP 17-13 Community Colleges Non-Resident Tuition Rates for FY2018

FAAP 17-14 State Universities Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY2018

FAAP 17-15 State Universities Non-Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY2018

FAAP 17-16 State Universities Resident Graduate Tuition Rates for FY2018

FAAP 17-17 State Universities Non-Resident Graduate Tuition Rates for FY2018

FAAP17-18 Berkshire Community College and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Alternative Non-Resident Undergraduate Tuition Rates for FY18

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

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

Committee Chair Hopcroft continued by providing an overview of FAAP motion 17-20, which pertained to the FY2018 MSCBA Rent Certificate.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

**FAAP 17-20 FY2018 MSBCA RENT SCHEDULE AND OPERATING BUDGETS  
MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the attached Fiscal Year 2018 Schedule of Proposed Rents and Operating Budget for the Authority and State University Resident Halls, effective July 1, 2017, provided that any increase in the rent schedule shall be subject to approval of the Board of Higher Education

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 73 App., Section 1-9 as amended and the *Contract for Financial Assistance, Management and Services*, dated February 1, 2003, made between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through the Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts State College Building Authority.

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

Next, Committee Chair Hopcroft provided an overview of FAAP motion 17-21, which pertained to a lease or license agreement for cadet housing at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

**FAAP 17-21 APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO LEASE OR LICENSE AGREEMENT CADET HOUSING, MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Massachusetts State College Building Authority to enter into a lease or license agreement for Cadet Housing at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, for up to 100 beds, as described in the attached Exhibit A, the lease or license term not to extend beyond the Spring of 2020.

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 73 App., Section 1-9 as amended and the *Contract for Financial Assistance, Management and Services*, dated February 1, 2003, made between the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through the Board of Higher Education and the Massachusetts State College Building Authority.

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

Committee Chair Hopcroft continued with the next motion, which pertained to naming Westfield State University's new science building in honor of Dr. Nettie Maria Stevens.

There was a brief discussion among Board members about this motion and the overall policy on building naming, which would be discussed in greater detail during the next agenda item. Sean Nelson, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance clarified that this building name was driven by faculty request, as well as Westfield State committing to a fundraising campaign to honor Dr. Stevens, who was an alumna and accomplished

scientist.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

**FAAP 17-22 NAMING OF WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY'S NEW SCIENCE BUILDING IN HONOR OF NETTIE MARIA STEVENS**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of the Westfield State University (WSU) Board of Trustees to name the college's new science building the "Dr. Nettie Stevens Hall" in honor of the renowned scientist and WSU graduate Nettie Maria Stevens.

**Authority:** Section 9(m) of Chapter 15A of the Massachusetts General Laws

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

Committee Chair Hopcroft continued with the next motion which seeks to amend the BHE's building naming policy. The Board engaged in a discussion on building naming and how it relates to fundraising. Board member Paul Mattera asked if the policy was perhaps unnecessarily tactless to require a fundraising expectation, even if the building is being named after a donor who has already made a significant contribution. Commissioner Santiago responded that the national public higher education landscape has changed significantly and naming rights for buildings, which are public assets, are seen as fundraising opportunities. Further, when we hire campus presidents now, there are increased expectations that there will be fundraising campaigns. Board member Mattera clarified by stating that he believes for the most part, we should be aggressive in fundraising pursuits but cautioned against tying our hands if there were a valid cause but not a substantial fundraising effort. General Counsel Dena Papanikolaou responded that the draft allows for some flexibility under the naming and recognition section when campuses come to the BHE for approval, they could have a fundraising campaign in mind or one that has already been completed.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

**FAAP 17-23 APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION BUILDING NAMING POLICY AMENDMENT**

**MOVED:** For reasons set forth in the background document, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) hereby adopts the attached amendment to the Building Naming Policy:

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

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

Committee Chair Hopcroft continued with the final motion of the meeting, which pertained to proposed amended guidelines for the Early Childhood

Educator Scholarship program.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

**FAAP 17-24 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the recommended amendments to the Early Childhood Educator Scholarship guidelines for students and programs

**Authority:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6,9, and 15B

## **VII. PRESENTATIONS**

- **Assessing Food and Housing Insecurity on Campus**

List of Documents Used:

*Student Hunger and Homelessness at Massachusetts Public Colleges and Universities  
January 24, 2017 BHE Power Point*

Chair Gabrieli introduced Katy Abel, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs and NSCC President Pat Gentile, who provided a presentation on student hunger and homelessness on our public campuses.

Ms. Abel began the presentation by explaining that they are presenting an emerging picture of the problem, and that the data provided was from informal queries and questionnaires to the campuses. She continued that we know through FAFSA data that there are 1,020 unaccompanied homeless youth on our campuses, and one third of our campuses are reporting an increase in students with food insecurity and homelessness within the last year. She continued that 24 out of our 29 campuses offer food pantries and 18 out of 29 offer additional types of assistance (food drives, awareness programs, SNAP, student donations, etc.) to combat this issue. Homeless students report that they sleep in shelters, cars, 24 hour businesses or “couch-surf” and that their homelessness is driven by a lack of family support.

Ms. Abel then turned the presentation over to President Gentile, who offered a community college perspective on the issue and provided an overview of a survey on homelessness and hunger administered to NSCC students in October 2016. She remarked that community colleges serve the largest population of low income students, and that NSCC rated higher levels of hunger and homelessness than national college students. To address this, they have started some initiatives and fundraising efforts.

President Gentile and Ms. Abel then invited two current students, Mr. Lorenz Marcellas, a senior at Bridgewater State University and Mr. Christopher Aguirre, and student a Bunker Hill Community College to share their experiences with homeless and food insecurity.

Mr. Marcellas spoke first, and commented that he has experienced homelessness as a student on and off, though he is now living in campus housing. He remarked that he feels fortunate to have been part of the School on Wheels program, and he appreciates the food pantry on campus. He commented that hunger and homeless makes it difficult to study.

Speaking next, Mr. Aguirre expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to speak. He stated that after fleeing an abusive family situation in Florida he lived in Revere where he had difficulty

paying rent while working full time as a bank teller. He then became homeless right before college started, surviving by “couch surfing” and sleeping at Logan Airport. He eventually became approved for the Bridge Over Troubled Waters program, which was a blessing but his continuation in the program was not allowed when he decided to enroll in college, because education was not a recognized service need supported by leadership. He continued that he has been denied eligibility for other programs because he is a full time student and has little income. Despite this, he has made the Dean’s List and is set to graduate this year and transfer to a four year institution. He concluded his remarks by expressing his gratitude for all of the support of his campus connections at BHCC, and he urged the BHE to take action and to help solve this problem.

Several Board members thanked Ms. Abel and President Gentile for organizing the presentation, and Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Marcellas for sharing their stories and bringing this issue to their attention. They also thanked Mr. Aguirre and Mr. Marcellas and for their candor and resiliency, and then engaged in a discussion about the issue of student hunger and homelessness. Topics covered during the discussion included the role of financial aid, and that this issue not only affects students, but in some cases also affects children of students. The Board concluded their discussion by discussing strategies to solve this problem by engaging lawmakers and corporations, and increasing public awareness.

#### **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

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