

**Massachusetts Board of Higher Education  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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June 11, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

One Ashburton Place, 14th Floor  
DHE Large Conference Room  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Committee Chair Nancy Hoffman; Secretary of Education Designee Tom Moreau.

Committee Members Absent: Board Chair Chris Gabrieli; Vice Chair, Sheila Harrity; SPC Committee Chair Fernando Reimers; Secretary of Education James Peyser; Student Board Member Kush Patel; Community College Segmental Student Advisor Stephanie Teixeira (non-voting member).

Department Staff Present: Cynthia Brown; Ignacio Chaparro; Winifred Hagan; Patricia Marshall; Alexander Nally; Dena Papanikolaou; and Ashley Wisneski

Campus Representatives: Janice Barney; Henry Theriault; Stacy Evans; Bob Gamache; Sandy Blanchette;

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Nancy Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

On a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes from the April 30, 2019 meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee were unanimously approved.

**III. REMARKS**

Deputy Commissioner Marshall began her remarks by stating that she would be discussing the status of the Open Educational Resources (OER) report, delegated authority for teach outs, and the transition to the new program approval process. Dr. Marshall then added that based on feedback from stakeholders and conversations with the OER committee, a decision was made to postpone the final OER report until October in order to consider whether the recommendations received fall under the purview of the Board of Higher Education (BHE).

Deputy Commissioner Marshall thanked Marilyn Billings (UMass) and Susan Tashjian (NECC) for their work on the report and for serving as co-chairs of the working group. She also added that Nicole Allen, the Director of Education for the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resource Coalition (SPARC), was impressed with the ground-up approach and direction that Massachusetts is taking with OER.

As there were no questions regarding OER, Dr. Marshall then talked about delegated authority for teach-out plans, noting past abrupt closures and how institutions like Cape Cod Community College, Framingham State University, and UMass have taken on programs from recently closed institutions. She added that teach-out authorities are granted with a time limit and that in discussion with Chair Hoffman, noted that there would be more on-going conversations regarding the teach-out process.

Deputy Commissioner Marshall closed her remarks by briefly outlining the transition to the new program approval process. As the transition from the old process to the new process is made with the beginning of the fiscal year, Associate Commissioner Hagan will be reaching out to institutions who have programs in the pipeline to notify them that they need to bring said programs before the Board prior to the January 2020 Board meeting, or they will be subject to the new process. There will be a period of time during which the old and new process overlap in the Fall to ensure a smooth transition for programs currently in the pipeline. The transition process also will include an update to the website and a memorandum will be issued to campuses in mid-to-late July that outlines the steps taken at the Department and how the new Letter of Intent (LOI) process will proceed for Sept 15, 2019.

Chair Hoffman then opened the meeting for comments and questions from campus representatives. Bob Gamache, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and International Relations noted that, due to the internal preliminary process at UMass, it can take two or three months before a campus gets permission to develop a full proposal. The full process can take anywhere from one to two years, and a list of pending proposals can be provided to Associate Commissioner Hagan.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau asked whether the UMass Board of Trustees must approve the proposal internally prior to it coming before the Board of Higher Education. Dr. Gamache responded in the affirmative and explained that there is a pre-proposal process which is approved by his office, at which point the campus gets authority to develop a final proposal. When the final proposal is complete, it then goes to the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, then to the Board of Trustees for approval, and if passed there it goes to the Board of Higher Education. Associate Commissioner Hagan added that between these processes the LOI's from UMass are circulated. As a result, there are a number of LOI's in the pipeline that campuses are trying to move forward before the new policy is implemented on July 1. Chair Hoffman noted the need for a one-page document demonstrating the steps for each segment given the different internal processes. Deputy Commissioner Marshall noted that there are adjustments being made to the full application in order to align it with the LOI, and that there are guidelines in process.

Chair Hoffman thanked everyone for their attendance today and offered a brief summary of the programs and motions on the agenda.

#### **IV. MOTIONS**

##### **A. AAC 19-24 Mount Wachusett Community College Associate in Science in Mathematics**

Associate Commissioner Winifred Hagan presented the program. The intent of the proposed Mount Wachusett program is to respond to students asking for an Associate in Science in Mathematics program. It is planned that graduates will meet workforce needs in career areas such as mathematics education, actuarial science, statistics, and operational research analysis. In addition, Mount Wachusett intends that the proposed program will help address the shortage of math teachers in the area and that it will become a part of the A2B Commonwealth Commitment.

External reviewers noted that students who graduate from Mount Wachusett with an Associate in Science in Mathematics and transfer to a four-year institution in order to complete a bachelor's degree will experience significant cost savings. They also noted that the course requirements of an undergraduate mathematics major are remarkably similar across four-year colleges and universities in the United States and that the proposed program includes all these requirements, and that the proposed program is aligned with what the Mathematical Association of America has agreed on for content during the first two years of study. The reviewers further underscored the expectation that students will be using the software Mathematica to develop skills in learning and doing mathematics using technology. This was upheld as an important capability for careers in mathematics, statistics and data analytics, actuarial science, and operations research. The reviewers suggested that in addition to course outcomes, faculty consider developing four to six overall program learning outcomes for which students would demonstrate proficiency. Mount Wachusett responded in agreement with the external review report.

Staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by Mount Wachusett Community College and the external reviewers. Staff recommendation is for approval of the proposed Associate in Science in Mathematics.

Chair Hoffman acknowledged the value of student input driving program creation, and inquired as to recruitment practices with local high schools. Janice Barney, Dean of the School of Business, Science, Technology and Mathematics at Mount Wachusett responded that the math modeling programs embed faculty into high schools to help remediate students prior to graduation. This provides a natural transition for students from feeder schools to Mount Wachusett. Dean Barney also reinforced the institution's commitment to meeting unmet demand and collaborating with students to create successful programs.

Chair Hoffman then inquired as to whether there are partnerships with four-year institutions for students to take courses. Dean Barney responded in the affirmative, noting the summer bridge partnership at Fitchburg State.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau asked whether this program intends to bring new students or if it offers an alternative direction for students currently pursuing other math and science programs. Dean Barney responded that the program is targeted at underrepresented students who have not had the opportunity to look at a degree in mathematics.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously by all board members present.

**AAC 19-24 APPLICATION FROM MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO AWARD THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS**

**VOTED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Mount Wachusett Community College** to award the **Associate of Science in Mathematics**.

Upon graduating the first class for these programs, Mount Wachusett Community 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, §9(b).

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

**B. AAC 19-25 University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering,  
Master of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering,  
Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering in Industrial Engineering**

Associate Commissioner Winifred Hagan presented the programs. The proposed programs in Industrial Engineering are designed to meet the needs of the Massachusetts economy in advanced manufacturing and automation. By drawing on expertise in engineering, sciences, business and health sciences, the proposed degrees are intended to provide an affordable pathway in this field of study. UMass Lowell intends that the programs be concerned with the design, improvement and installation of integrated systems of people, materials, information, equipment and energy. UMass Lowell believes that the proposed programs will complement current mechanical engineering offerings, as they focus primarily on design; and the Industrial Engineering programs are intended to focus on manufacturing, with an emphasis on automation. UMass Lowell intends that the proposed programs will focus on manufacturing by building on a foundation of science and engineering with advanced coursework in automation and control, the manufacturing process, ergonomics, analytics and operations management.

Advanced degrees are intended to provide research opportunities and the bachelor's program is designed such that students may simultaneously pursue minors in robotics or production and operations management. The bachelor's program should facilitate advanced study in engineering or professional degree pursuits such as business or law. The graduate-level programs are designed, as are other programs in the Francis College of Engineering, to include a core set of courses and electives from approved subsets of courses within manufacturing and automation; analytics and operations; healthcare systems engineering; and ergonomics and safety.

The reviewers found that the proposed programs are designed to meet a significant need for talent in manufacturing and service industries. They indicated that the emphasis on automated

system design and analysis are warranted for the future economic outlook of Massachusetts and beyond. The team also noted that the skills students will learn should be applicable to both the design and the implementation of any system. The reviewers recommended changes to both the undergraduate and graduate curricula to strengthen student learning and ensure full preparation for the workforce. The team also identified budget areas that UMass Lowell should consider during the launch period of the programs, including investments in automation and support for lab experiments in ergonomics and human factors. UMass Lowell responded by adjusting the proposal prior to submitting it for approvals.

Staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by University of Massachusetts Lowell and the external reviewers. Staff recommendation is for approval of the proposed programs: Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering, the Master of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering and the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering in Industrial Engineering.

Dr. Gamache commented that the new Provost at UMass Lowell was running late due to traffic and that he was willing to take questions in their absence.

Chair Hoffman then inquired as to the companies providing internships and the duration of the internships. Dr. Gamache responded that UMass Lowell has an internship office and that their engineering program works with a variety of corporations like Raytheon that have developed robust internship opportunities. Associate Commissioner Hagan noted that the larger proposal outlined in more detail the larger array of companies involved in providing internships.

Chair Hoffman added to her question, asking whether these internships were paid opportunities for students. Dr. Gamache responded that many of them are paid and many students end up in positions at the companies where they intern.

Chair Hoffman then posed a new question, inquiring as to the characteristics of the population interested in these programs. Dr. Gamache responded that actual numbers were unavailable, but that recruitment practices attempt to recruit diverse populations to both the Engineering College and the University. Chair Hoffman asked whether the recruitment practices have proven successful in attracting diverse students. Dr. Gamache responded affirmatively, noting that the student body is diverse. Deputy Commissioner Marshall also noted the partnership that UMass Lowell has with Middlesex and the Early College opportunities.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau then asked if it is typical for a BS/MS/Ph.D. program to be proposed simultaneously. Associate Commissioner Hagan responded that UMass campuses intentionally design their degree programs simultaneously in order to build a pathway for students to the graduate level. Dr. Gamache noted that the sequence is done on purpose in order to create a smooth transition from BS to MS to Ph.D. for students.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau added to his original question, inquiring as to whether students would be admitted immediately into the next degree program. Dr. Gamache responded that students would still have to apply to each program independently and meet the requirements of the program. Chair Hoffman noted that at most institutions you can be admitted from a BS to Ph.D. program with preference, though at times some institutions may refer you back to the Master's level first.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau then clarified noting that he was referring to institutional sequencing and whether the degree would be built up over time considering

enrollment projections. Associate Commissioner Hagan and Dr. Gamache responded that the degrees would be introduced simultaneously and enrollment levels would start slowly and ramp up.

Mr. Moreau then asked how the program plans to fit into program offerings within the Engineering College, and whether the program allows students to have a more specialized curriculum. Dr. Gamache responded that the program is intended to be different than the mechanical program. Currently students have to choose different courses in order to gain these skills. The institution plans to have these Industrial Engineering programs run at capacity very quickly because there are a lot of student interest and job opportunities in Massachusetts for these students.

There being no further discussion, Committee Chair Hoffman asked for a motion on the three degrees which was seconded and approved unanimously by all board members present.

**AAC 19-25 APPLICATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSCHUSETTS LOWELL TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, AND THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**

**VOTED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **University of Massachusetts Lowell** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering, the Master of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering and the Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering in Industrial Engineering.**

Upon graduating the first class for these programs, the University of Massachusetts Lowell 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, §9(b).

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

**C. AAC 19-26 Approval of Academic Affairs Committee Motions AAC 19-24 and AAC 19-25 on a Consent Agenda**

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

**AAC 19-26 CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED:**

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

- AAC 19-24 Mount Wachusett Community College  
Associate in Science in Mathematics.
- AAC 19-25 University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering  
Master of Science in Engineering in Industrial Engineering  
Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering in Industrial  
Engineering

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

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

#### **D. Overview of CHP**

Deputy Commissioner Marshall provided an overview of the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP) and the motions on the agenda. Two of the three motions were re-approvals, and one was a new program. The two re-approvals were for Berkshire Community College (BCC) and Worcester State University. The new program was for Massachusetts Bay Community College (Mass Bay). Representatives from all three institutions were present: Stacy Evans from BCC, Hank Theriault from Worcester State, and Christopher Barbera from Mass Bay. Before asking Ignacio Chaparro to present the motions, she provided a quick overview of the Commonwealth Honors Program, including its benefits to students and a description of the approval process.

The CHP was established in 1997 by the BHE, and has existed in the Commonwealth for over 20 years. CHP is an integrated network throughout the Public Higher Education system, with 24 participating campuses – if approved today, Mass Bay would make 25. The approval process guidelines include standards for a mission, organization and administration, admissions criteria, curriculum, graduation criteria, and program resources.

Each institution with a program establishes Honors Program Admissions Standards that are BHE approved. The program provides guaranteed admissions, with all students who complete a program at a community college being accepted for transfer to a four year public institution. Honors courses are distinguished by their attention to student inquiry, writing, critical thinking, and oral presentations, and tend to be smaller in size. Graduates of the program must meet or exceed established criteria that can include: cumulative GPA, number of honors courses, an honors seminar or colloquium, and an honors thesis or project at a four-year institution.

Some of the benefits of being in a CHP include that the curriculum promotes a close faculty-student relationship, and that it offers students a chance to conduct and present independent research, allowing for the student to earn a Commonwealth Honors Scholar distinction. CHP students also have leadership opportunities, and the experience often extends beyond the classroom and into the community. Successful completion of the program is recognized on students' transcripts, providing an enhanced academic record.

Moving into the review process and the motions before the Committee, Deputy Commissioner Marshall stated that the process is designed to ensure that programs meet the rigorous

standards set forth in the 2006 *Approval Process Guidelines* mentioned previously. The college or university prepares a self-study, the CHP Visiting Committee conducts a day-long visit and evaluation, and then produces a report containing observations and recommendations. These recommendations are forwarded to the campus president for written comment. Based on the Visiting Committee's recommendations and the president's response, the CHP Executive Committee recommends approval or disapproval or to defer action. Finally, DHE staff bring a motion summarizing these reports and recommendation before the BHE.

Deputy Commissioner Marshall then turned over the meeting to Project Specialist Ignacio Chaparro, who introduced the motions.

### **AAC 19-27    Renewal of Berkshire Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program**

Project Specialist Ignacio Chaparro presented the motion. Berkshire Community College prepared a self-study document presenting its Honors Program structure and operation in terms of the Commonwealth Honors Program requirements. On March 11, 2019, the CHP Visiting Committee conducted a day-long assessment of the Honors Program at BCC, noting that students enrolled in the program were "an energetic, diverse, creative and intellectually engaged group who take advantage of opportunities for independent inquiry guided by faculty who challenge them and share in their excitement." In its response to the evaluation by the Visiting Committee, BCC affirmed the recommendations and agreed to: increase visibility and marketing of Honors Program and its benefits, target recruiting of new students and consideration of faculty course reassignment, and invest into student aid and cross-disciplinary experiences.

DHE staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation received from the CHP executive committee and recommends that the Board approve the renewal of the membership of Berkshire Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau inquired as to how the institutions address the challenges of bringing in first versus second semester students, and those who may have had a break between graduating high school and college. Professor of Sociology and Honors Coordinator Stacy Evans responded. Berkshire Community College is a smaller scale institution with over 2,000 students. Some of the complexity with recent graduates from high schools are that students do not see themselves as Honors students. BCC is moving towards recording GPA electronically as the students apply for admission to the institution. Faculty also work with students and BCC scholars to encourage and convince them to apply to the Honors program. The marketing department will also be using new software starting in July to determine when students open emails. Different email mediums will be used in order to determine best approach.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau then asked whether there is a heavy correlation between participation of students using the institution as a transfer school. Dr. Evans responded that there is a fair number of students who are pursuing terminal degrees and pursuing transfer options.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously by all board members present.



**AAC 19-27 RENEWAL OF BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Berkshire Community College** in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for six years, effective June 18, 2019.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006; G.L. c. 15A, § 9.

**Contact:** Patricia A. Marshall, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Ignacio J. Chaparro, MPA, Project Specialist for Academic Affairs and Student Success

**E. AAC 19-28 Establishment of Massachusetts Bay Community College Membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program**

Project Specialist Ignacio Chaparro presented the motion. Mass Bay prepared a self-study document presenting its Honors Program Structure and operation in terms of the Commonwealth Honors Program requirements. On March 25, 2019, the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP) Visiting Committee conducted an assessment of the Honors Program at Mass Bay, where they met with students, program coordinators, faculty, and administrators. The Visiting Committee found that the Mass Bay program satisfied the CHP criteria, calling it an “established and primed for blossoming [program].” The Visiting Committee recommends that Massachusetts Bay Community College be granted Commonwealth Honors Program status. The institution reviewed the recommendations by the Visiting Committee and has agreed to: reappoint its co-coordinators and expand Honors Course offerings; increase funding for program visibility, student research/travel, and student aid; set faculty compensation at directed study rates; and develop transcript annotation for students satisfying Honors Program requirements.

DHE staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation received from the CHP executive committee and recommends that the Board approve the establishment of membership for Massachusetts Bay Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program.

Chair Hoffman then recognized two individuals who arrived into the room; Assistant Professor Perry Beardsley and Jason Mazaik, co-coordinators of the Honors Program at Mass Bay. Chair Hoffman also noted a theme among the recommendations calling for higher visibility, more resources, more faculty, and more courses. Chair Hoffman then posed a question to the representatives from Mass Bay, asking how they intend to move forward with a high-quality program with few resources.

Dr Beardley responded that the Honors Program has been flourishing thus far even with limited resources; it has been attracting students and placing them into transfer programs to four-year

institutions. There is a large faculty buy-in for Honors even with limited financial resources because faculty are motivated and passionate about setting up students to succeed.

Chair Hoffman then noted a recent article in the paper about a student transferring to Harvard from Mass Bay. Dr Beardley responded in the affirmative, that the student was in the Honors Program at Mass Bay and transferred to Harvard.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau asked how many institutions are not participating in CHP. Deputy Commissioner Marshall clarified that there are five remaining: Mass Maritime, Mass Art, UMass Medical, Greenfield, and Mass Bay. With Mass Bay approved, only four would not have a CHP program.

Mr. Moreau then asked the representatives from Mass Bay what benefits of CHP led them to wish to participate in the program. Dr. Beardley responded that CHP status aids in recruitment to the Honors Program. It provides prospective and current students and incentive to consider long-term prospects at four-year institutions, and there is also an access factor to additional resources for students and the institution. Christopher LaBarbera, Assistant Provost at Mass Bay added that one other benefit is that the last evaluation of the Honors Program added new perspective and value to the institution because of the external representatives.

Chair Hoffman noted the importance in value that these collegial opportunities add for students and the institution. Dr. Evans described how the Western Mass Honors CHP directors came together recently to share best practices around recruitment and courses, and that CHP status has assisted community colleges with funding compared to larger institutions. There has also been recognition for Massachusetts' CHP programs at the national level from the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC).

Chair Hoffman asked whether there was participation from the CHP institutions in the NCHC. Dr. Evans replied in the affirmative, that one recommendation that BCC had received was participation in the NCHC. Chair Hoffman noted her agreement with the evaluations, adding that it is important to advertise the national participation and recognition in the Commonwealth to students and families. This type of publicity would help inform students and families of the cost savings and benefits.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously by all board members present.

**AAC 19-28 ESTABLISHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and approves the establishment of **Massachusetts Bay Community College** membership in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for six years, effective June 18, 2019.

**Authority:** Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006; G.L. c.

15A, § 9.

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

Ignacio J. Chaparro, MPA, Project Specialist for Academic Affairs and Student Success

**F. AAC 19-29 Renewal of Worcester State University in the Commonwealth Honors Program**

Project Specialist Ignacio Chaparro presented the motion. Worcester State prepared a self-study document presenting its Honors Program structure and operation in terms of the Commonwealth Honors Program requirements. On March 26, 2019, the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP) Visiting Committee conducted a day-long assessment of the Honors Program at Worcester State. The Committee recommended re-approval of CHP status, calling it an “active, well-funded, and thriving” program. The Committee was impressed with the commitment of the students and faculty, as well as the full support of the administration. The institution reviewed the evaluation by the Committee and responded in the positive by: Considering how to use new funds to support the Honors Program; Using recommendations to inform Building renovation for May Street Building; Proposal for sophomore-level seminar and additional honors sections/courses.

The institution did not directly respond to the recommendation for a full-time administrative assistant and long-term appointments for its director and assistant director.

DHE staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation received from the CHP executive committee and recommends that the Board approve the renewal of the membership of Worcester State University in the Commonwealth Honors Program.

Chair Hoffman inquired as to the difference between honors courses that are embedded and designated. Henry Theriault, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Worcester State, responded. The Honors embedded courses are seats designated within general courses that require a separate syllabus and assignments indicating a higher level of work that is beyond that done by other students in the course. Chair Hoffman then asked as to the proportion of embedded versus regular Honors courses. Dr. Theriault responded that currently there are seven honors only courses, with about 250 seats in embedded courses. Furthermore, a discussion from the site visit team recommended designating more courses as honors courses and allowing non-honors students to enroll. This would provide an opportunity for students who may be talented in specific areas to have an honors experience without being in the program.

Chair Hoffman then asked about how courses are differentiated at Mass Bay and if they follow a similar approach. Dr. Beardlsey responded that there are no embedded courses, only honors courses open to all students.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau then asked how faculty are compensated in embedded courses given the extra responsibilities associated with specific honors students. Dr. Theriault responded that faculty who teach honors courses sections were receiving extra credit from workload for compensation, but the MSCA determined and challenged this extra compensation as an unfair practice two or three years ago. Typically, the registrar limited

Honors enrollments in embedded courses to about five students and the faculty who take this on do so on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Moreau recognized the efforts from the faculty and advisors in accepting this extra responsibility. Chair Hoffman noted how passionate faculty can be when working with students and inquired as to how data is currently collected on student outcomes and post-graduation pathways for CHP students.

Deputy Commissioner Marshall responded that the number of students who participate is available through HEIRS, but she was unsure as to mechanisms currently in place to track student learning outcomes and post-graduation pathways. Individual campuses may need to look at internal data in order to recognize outcomes in these areas. She noted alumni support for the CHP is very strong, highlighting a large donation from the late Colonel Sheehan to Worcester State University. Chair Hoffman noted it may be of interest to see five years of data regarding students who graduated from these programs.

Secretary of Education Designee Moreau asked whether there is data available on the number of students participating in more than one honors course. Deputy Commissioner Marshall responded that the data may be available through course level data on enrollments. Dr. Gamache responded that at UMass, the data is flagged. Dr. Evans responded that BCC follows a similar practice.

Dr. Gamache followed up and explained the process by which students are recruited into the Honors program and tracked. Mr. Moreau asked whether the UMass system recruits from the Honors programs at community colleges. Dr. Evans responded that a recent meeting of Western Massachusetts CHP directors indicated how well the current system is working but that there is a lot of on the ground work and human capital spent on ensuring that students in a community college CHP program receive acceptance into programs at four-year institutions.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was duly made, seconded and approved unanimously by all board members present.

**AAC 19-29     RENEWAL OF WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

**MOVED:**     The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the membership of **Worcester State University** in the **Commonwealth Honors Program** for six years, effective June 18, 2019.

**Authority:**     Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006; G.L. c. 15A, § 9.

**Contact:**     Patricia A. Marshall, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Ignacio J. Chaparro, MPA, Project Specialist for Academic Affairs and Student Success

**G. AAC 19-30 Approval of Academic Affairs Committee Motions AAC 19-27 through AAC 19-29 on a Consent Agenda**

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

**AAC 19-30 CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- AAC 19-27 Renewal of Berkshire Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 19-28 Establishment of Massachusetts Bay Community College membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program
- AAC 19-29 Renewal of Worcester State University in the Commonwealth Honors Program.

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

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

**V. OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.