

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 18, 2019

10:00 a.m.

University of Massachusetts Boston
Campus Center, 2nd Floor
Alumni Lounge
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 in the Alumni Lounge in the Campus Center at UMASS Boston (UMB) in Boston, Massachusetts.

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair

Sheila Harrity, Vice-Chair

Alex Cortez

Nancy Hoffman

Tom Hopcroft

Paul Mattera

Jim Peyser, Secretary of Education, Ex-Officio

Michael O'Brien

Kush Patel, student member, UMASS segment

Stephanie Teixeira, non-voting student advisor, Community College segment

Paul Toner

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

The follow Board members were absent:

J.D. La Rock

Nick Papa, non-voting student advisor, State University segment

Fernando Reimers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. He welcomed those in attendance and thanked Vice Chair Harrity for chairing the May BHE meeting at Mass Maritime Academy.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Gabrieli reported that there were no requests for public participation.

III. WELCOME

List of Documents Used

None

Chair Gabrieli introduced Interim UMB Chancellor Katherine Newman and invited her to make remarks. Chancellor Newman thanked Chair Gabrieli and welcomed everyone in attendance to UMB. She referenced the BHE's Equity Agenda and highlighted the initiatives and progress that UMB has done in this regard, noting that "if you're interested in equity, you've come to the right place." She referenced a recent USC Race and Equity Center study about how public universities are serving African American students that found UMB earned the nation's second highest score. Further, UMB has made great strides in eliminating gaps in gender equity, racial equity, and racial diversity in the context of student to faculty ratios. She continued that despite these successes, there is still work to be done, citing disparities between Pell and non-Pell recipients, as well as the four (but not the six) year graduation rate, which is a reflection of socioeconomic conditions.

Chancellor Newman continued her remarks by noting that when combining race and gender, there are few gaps at UMB between white women and women of color, and stressed the importance of intersectionality with their analysis and focus. She remarked that UMB has been intentional with their efforts, which included a significant boost in their academic advising services. UMB has hired many additional professional staff and have adopted a case management system of advising that includes campaigns for early alerts and registration, as well as the ability to track success metrics in different courses and sections. She remarked that UMB is very proud of what they have accomplished but there is still work to be done, citing the example of moving beyond the plateau of their 70% graduation rate, and noting that there are few peer institutions to look to see where they can go from here. She noted that UMB is dedicated to continuing their investment in advising, and to continuing to improve financial aid. She then referenced BHE student member Kush Patel and his many accomplishments including serving on the UMB Board of Trustees.

After Chancellor Newman's remarks, the BHE engaged in a brief question and answer session. Chair Gabrieli asked about similar investments at other UMASS campuses. Chancellor Newman responded that the other campuses are all engaged in tracking various metrics because they are all concerned with retention, but UMB is the only campuses with their specific program. Board member Hoffman asked Chancellor Newman to elaborate on opportunities for career advising for her students and asked how the campus is helping faculty and advisors better understand what a good choice is for the labor market. Chancellor Newman responded that they have started a program called Industry Clusters in which they invite industry leaders and ask them to review curriculum, commit to internship opportunities and teach pop-up classes. She also wants to reorganize campus employment to better blend schoolwork and work-work

together to build better pathways. She remarked that she agrees it is their responsibility to integrate what students do in the classroom and in the labor market.

Chair Gabrieli thanked Chancellor Newman and noted that the Commonwealth is fortunate she stepped in with her leadership in such a challenging moment. She thanked the BHE and responded that she is very fortunate for this opportunity with these extraordinary students and faculty.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

V. REMARKS AND REPORTS

A. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

List of Documents Used

None

Chair Gabrieli made brief remarks and thanked BHE members for a busy and intense year which included special circumstances that were both proactive, such as the Early College Initiative and the Equity Agenda, and reactive such as the THESIS work on institutional closures.

B. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Commissioner Santiago stated that he will save the bulk of his remarks for his year-end report. The Commissioner thanked the BHE for their time and efforts this year. He acknowledged the promotions of several DHE staff members and a new hire to the Commissioner's Office, Ms. Tanya Steward. He then acknowledged the presidents in attendance: Ellen Kennedy from Berkshire Community College, Patricia Gentile from Berkshire Community College, David Nelson from Massachusetts College of Art and Design, John Keenan from Salem State University, and Barry Maloney from Worcester State University. He additionally acknowledged Tom Sannicandro and Vincent Pedone from the segmental Executive Offices. He also thanked Ms. Stacy Bougie of the Department of Higher Education for her work in organizing BHE meetings throughout the year.

C. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

Secretary Peyser stated that last week there was an event at Bunker Hill Community College to acknowledge the Early College Designees and in attendance were a number of people representing K-12 and higher education, including representatives from Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), Northern Essex Community College (NECC), Framingham State University, Massachusetts Bay Community College (MBCC), North Shore Community College

(NSSCC), and Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC). Of the students served, 80% were students of color and 45% were low income. He remarked that Early College is reaching new students and not just students who were already on their way to college; it gives them opportunities and puts them on a path to matriculation and success in college. He wanted to acknowledge that there are some proposals pending in the Legislature, one of which is for Chapter 70 school finance reform that also includes a proposal for Early College funding. In addition, there are other proposals for reimbursements for tuition costs for colleges providing Early College programs, and there is an opportunity to take this to a larger scale and for Massachusetts to become a national leader. He concluded his remarks by thanking the BHE for their work, and Commissioner Santiago for his leadership.

D. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

Community College Presidents' Report – North Shore Community College President Patricia Gentile

List of Documents Submitted

None

NSCC President Gentile began her remarks by thanking Roxbury Community College President Valerie Roberson for her hard work as chair the Community College Council of Presidents. President Gentile thanked the BHE and stated that as one year ends and another begins, she would like to focus on the many accomplishments in the community college sector. For a number of years, community colleges have been focused on equity; they are located in neighborhoods and gateway cities with low income families and low literacy rates. Community colleges enroll the largest number of first generation students and students of color, and many are designated as Hispanic serving institutions. NSCC reached the 25% Latinx enrollment minimum required to be designated as a Hispanic serving institution.

She continued that the community colleges are doing their best to move the Equity Agenda forward with limited resources, by leveraging community resources and philanthropic efforts, and have done so with three distinct goals. She highlighted four approaches. First, developing partnerships-- this year, many community colleges embraced the hard work of affiliating with K-12 for Early College programs. President Gentile thanked Secretary Peyser for his earlier comments on Early College programs. She continued that a great example is the program between Holyoke Community College and Holyoke High School, which enjoyed great success with a very diverse cohort; they attempted 254 college credits with a 95% pass rate and will be expanding the partnership this year. Holyoke is but one sterling example of how participation in the Early College effort will move the equity affordability needle. Second, innovative strategies that encompass true institutional change, and she cited several examples including the MBCC Young Women of Color program, a Boston Foundation sponsored program at NECC that assists immigrant students in Lawrence, and a program at Bristol Community College to develop off-shore wind industry programs in response to employer demand. She

remarked that the community colleges are often modest about the strategic ways they accomplish this, and their goal is to message this compelling story better to leaders, students and the general public. Third, although community colleges are a bit late to this, better utilizing the philanthropic sector. She cited several recent examples of philanthropic gifts at the community colleges including substantial gifts at Cape Cod Community College, NECC and a \$1 million gift at NSCC to expand health care simulation labs. Community colleges have a persuasive story on student success and are worthy of taxpayer and philanthropic investment; when donors are aware of their story, they give. Finally, community colleges are the workhorse of workforce development; they ensure employers have access to skilled and credentialed workers and although they generally do this regionally, this is an area that needs a statewide approach. President Gentile concluded her remarks by stating that she looks forward to continuing to update the BHE on progress toward these goals.

State University Presidents' Report – Vincent Pedone, State University Council of Presidents

Mr. Pedone remarked that Mass Maritime President Admiral McDonald is unable to offer remarks today due to Commencement on his campus, and he will be speaking on President McDonald's behalf. He thanked the BHE for the opportunity and noted that President Richard Lapidus of Fitchburg State University will be providing the State University Presidents' report next year. A year ago, President McDonald made forging new partnerships his main priority, and all 29 institutions have been able to move a meaningful and forward-thinking collaboration agenda, and have embraced the spirit of trust and collaboration. He thanked President Roberson for her work on these collaborations, which include a public higher education advocacy campaign, the development of MOUs on our campuses for residence halls for community college students at the state universities, a pilot program to address student homelessness, as well as the development of 2+2 and 3+1 programs. He thanked everyone for their unprecedented collaborations throughout the year.

Mr. Pedone continued by providing some state university updates. The presidents met last week for a two day retreat in which they discussed expanding collaborations with community colleges, developing shared services with international recruitment, and a public option for expanding doctoral programs for clinical programs not offered at University of Massachusetts. He thanked Chancellor Newman for her support of this. Additional topics discussed during the retreat included a comprehensive review of the Student Health Insurance Program (SHIP), and continued work with the community colleges to maximize PACE. They also heard from Commissioner Santiago regarding the DHE's Equity Agenda, which they embrace. The state universities know the best and only opportunity for socioeconomic mobility is public higher education. Secretary Peyser attended this retreat and the state universities are committed to working with him on all of these initiatives. He remarked that there is a bill pending in the legislature that the state universities have all rallied behind that would capitalize endowments, and he asked the BHE to support this.

Mr. Pedone concluded his remarks by thanking Commissioner Santiago and the BHE on behalf of the state universities.

E. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

List of Documents Submitted

SAC Year End Presentation

Student member Patel remarked that he is looking forward to his new role as the student trustee at UMass Boston and is excited to continue working with Chancellor Newman. The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is now in summer session and has named the next new student voting member on the BHE, MWCC student Abby Velozo. Ms. Velozo is a dual enrollment student and is only 16 years old. Anna Grade of Bridgewater State University will serve as the non-voting state university segmental member. He acknowledged the hard work and leadership of current non-voting segmental representative Stephanie Teixeira. He added he was grateful and honored to serve on this Board and appreciated the opportunity learn so much about higher education. He thanked the BHE and DHE staff, and turned the meeting over to segmental representative Teixeira.

Segmental representative Teixeira provided a presentation that highlighted SAC activities this academic year. The presentation included the January 2019 Legislative Advocacy Day regarding Open Educational Resources (OER), the Public Higher Education Advocacy Day, and an OER photo campaign highlighting the money students must spend on textbooks, and a joint DHE and SAC presentation at a regional OER summit in May. SAC's main goal was retention, and they additionally partnered with campuses to advance sexual assault agendas on campuses, and participated in the Every Voice Summit at Harvard. SAC also started Town Hall meetings, and they have received coverage from the *Globe* on their efforts. SAC members have held over 80 meetings with different legislators and public officials and several SAC members attended hearings with Joint Committees in the Legislature.

Chair Gabrieli thanked members Patel and Teixeira and remarked that it was a very strong presentation. He presented them each with a small gift from the Board, a pen, to commemorate their hard work and service to the BHE.

VI. MOTIONS

List of Documents Used

AAC 19-24 through 19-30

SPC 19-08 through 19-09

BHE 19-06 through 19-08

Commissioner's Year-End Report, PowerPoint, June 18, 2019

BHE Authorization to Solicit Public Comment: FRRM Regulations (610 CMR 13), PowerPoint, June 18, 2019

A. Academic Affairs Committee

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to AAC Chair Hoffman. Chair Hoffman reported that the AAC met last week and considered motions to approve new academic programs at Mount Wachusett Community College and UMASS Lowell. The Committee also considered motions to renew two Commonwealth Honors programs, one at Berkshire Community College and one at Worcester State University, in addition to establishing a new program at MassBay.

Chair Hoffman asked for a motion of approval for AAC 19-26: Approval of Academic Affairs Committee motions 19-24 through 19-25 on a consent agenda. On a motion duly made and seconded, AAC 19-26 was approved unanimously by all board members present, without discussion.

AAC 19-26 CONSENT AGENDA AAC 19-24 THROUGH ACC 19-25

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 and Student Success

Chair Hoffman then asked for a motion for approval on AAC 19-30: Approval of Academic Affairs Committee Motions AAC 19-27 through AAC 19-29 on a consent agenda. On a motion duly made and seconded, AAC 19-30 was approved unanimously by all board members present, without discussion.

AAC 19-30 CONSENT AGENDA AAC 19-27 THROUGH ACC 19-29

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., Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

B. Strategic Planning Committee

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Board member Toner, who stated that Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) Chair Fernando Reimers was unable to attend last week and today's meeting due to scheduling conflicts. He remarked that at the SPC meeting last week, the committee was joined by colleagues from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design for Touch Point III. The Committee reviewed MassArt's mission statement and campus strategic plan. Acting Chair Toner then asked for a motion for approval on SPC 19-08: Approval of Massachusetts College of Art and Design Mission Statement. On a motion duly made and seconded, SPC 19-08 was approved unanimously by all board members present, without discussion.

SPC 19-08 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN MISSION STATEMENT

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Massachusetts College of Art and Design revised mission statement to read as follows:

Massachusetts College of Art and Design is a public, independent institution that prepares artists, designers, and educators from diverse backgrounds to shape communities, economies, and cultures for the common good.

The Board further authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 7.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(e), and 22(n)

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

Acting Chair Toner then asked for a motion for approval on SPC 19-09: Approval of Massachusetts College of Art and Design Strategic Plan. On a motion duly made and seconded, SPC 19-09 was approved unanimously by all board members present, without discussion, with the exception of Secretary Peyser, who abstained.

SPC 19-09 APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN STRATEGIC PLAN

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Massachusetts College of Art and Design Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education for final approval pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(l) and 229(l).

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(f), 9(l), and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

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

C. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committee

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to FAAP Committee Chair Hopcroft for a recap of the FAAP meeting last week. Chair Hopcroft remarked that last week, the FAAP committee had a very lively discussion and he thanked members Toner, Mattera and Secretary of Education Designee Moreau for their active participation. The FAAP committee received briefings from DHE staff in three important areas: the Optional Retirement Program, the status of collective bargaining agreements, and the FY20 operating and capital budgets. There were no motions for the Committee to consider.

D. Board of Higher Education

Chair Gabrieli remarked that there are a number of motions before the BHE today. He asked for a motion for BHE 19-06: Authorization for Commissioner to Solicit Public Comment on 610 CMR 13.00 Financial Review and Risk Monitoring of Institutions of Higher Education. The motion was seconded and before he turned the meeting over to Commissioner Santiago, he expressed gratitude to the THESIS Working Group, the DHE staff, and everyone who has participated in discussions on this important work. He acknowledged members Mattera and Cortez for serving on the THESIS working group and observed that there are some substantive recommendations in this motion.

Commissioner Santiago stated that with regard to the task of assessing the financial risks of private institutions of higher education (IHEs) he refers to this work as "part art and part science." Today, the presentation will be focused on the science with a review of the proposed Financial Review and Risk Monitoring (FRRM) regulations intended to guide the work, but he does not want to minimize the importance of this as an art form, as there will be many nuances and relevant contextual factors that the Board and the Department will need to take into account. He then introduced General Counsel Papanikolaou for a presentation on the motion.

General Counsel Papanikolaou thanked the Commissioner and set the context for the discussion stating that today, we are asking the BHE to vote to put draft FRRM regulations

(610 CMR 13) out for public comment. She provided an overview of the THESIS working group timeline, and summarized the scope and purpose of FRRM regulations, which is to establish the standards and processes to permit the BHE to: 1) identify through annual screening IHEs experiencing significant financial distress, placing them at risk of imminent closure; 2) monitor identified IHEs while they either improve their financial condition or transition to closure; and 3) allow for contingency closure planning and timely public notification in the event of imminent closure.

General Counsel Papanikolaou continued with an overview of the content of the regulations, noting that the proposed annual review process will move the DHE into a more proactive role. She noted that rather than codifying one screening metric in the regulations, the regulations allow screening to be conducted through multiple measures and sources, and not based on a single metric; this is an approach which allows us to be adaptable and is also responsive to feedback that we received from stakeholders. The regulations also include a defined standard of "at risk of imminent closure," which is based on the 18 month rule (*e.g.*, a showing that the institution has the financial resources to substantially fulfill its obligations to enrolled and admitted students for the balance of the current and subsequent academic year, using December 1st as the annual threshold date). All IHEs will be screened, and if an IHE is screened in as at risk, the DHE will enter into a dialogue with the IHE. Through this dialogue, we can screen out the false positives, but if the risk is confirmed, the IHE then moves into the "monitoring" phase. Those IHEs must submit risk mitigation plans to the Commissioner, to help the DHE assess the level of the IHE's risk of imminent closure. If the plans demonstrate a likelihood of mitigating risk of imminent closure monitoring will continue; if the plans do not demonstrate a likelihood of mitigating risk then monitoring will be coupled with contingency planning and public notification.

General Counsel Papanikolaou added that the regulations allow for the Commissioner's use of an advisory committee at critical stages of the review and determination process. She stressed the importance of confidentiality throughout these processes and provided an overview of possible sanctions, which include the termination of state financial aid, revocation of degree granting authority, and/or a referral to the AGO. General Counsel Papanikolaou concluded the presentation with an overview of the timeline and next steps, which include a public comment period and hearings, and a subsequent BHE meeting to approve the final regulations for promulgation.

Chair Gabrieli thanked General Counsel Papanikolaou for the presentation, and for her time and care on this matter. He remarked that the goal is to have a process in place this fall in order to avoid going through a second school year post the abrupt closure of Mt. Ida without a plan in place. He added that he wanted to note two things: first, the use of a mixed set of metrics, which was something there was a lot of feedback on; and second, there is an opportunity to work closely and collaborate with NECHE who shares equal obligation to be on top of this.

The BHE engaged in a discussion on the motion. Board member Toner stated that he recognizes need to avoid a self-fulfilling prophecy regarding struggling institutions with premature public notification, but he is still concerned with providing parents, students and guidance counselors with a pressure test as they go through this process of applying to college. He asked if there is a possibility of the BHE coming up with some guidance or questions for parents and students to ask, particularly in light of the number of stories in the media about the doomsday state of higher educations. The Commissioner responded that there is potential for us to publish a "Q&A" on our website. Secretary Peyser suggested that we could work with MEFA and other organizations that work directly with students and families.

Secretary Peyser noted that during the public comment period, we should also be soliciting public comment on what the process might be, which will be just as important. He referenced the annual screening tool and remarked that the inquiry will be to determine whether the IHE has the capacity to teach enrolled and admitted students for the next 18 months, using December 1st as the threshold date. He asked about the timing of that annual screening and when would it occur to meet that threshold date. General Counsel Papanikolaou responded that the screening process needs to begin as early as August, perhaps sooner. Secretary Peyser responded that the process should be started even sooner, so the IHEs have more time to respond. General Counsel Papanikolaou agreed, adding that Year 1 is going to be critical because we have such a short runway, but in subsequent years, there will be more time.

Board member Hoffman asked other than IPEDS, is there a sense of what multiple, publicly available measures will be used? Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance Tom Simard responded that DHE staff are continuing to solicit and engage stakeholders on the measures, and trend data, emphasizing that we will not be considering just snapshot data. Additionally, non-financial indicators such as acceptance rates and tuition dependency are being considered.

Board member O'Brien asked if there will be an exemption under public records laws to ensure confidentiality. General Counsel Papanikolaou confirmed that legislation is pending which is anticipated to create an explicit statutory exemption to information made or received by the department in furtherance of this FRRM work; she added that in the interim we currently engage in some of this work under both the deliberative process and investigatory exemptions to the public records law. Board member Mattera asked about the inclusion of non-state employees on the advisory committee and the interplay to maintain confidentiality throughout the process. General Counsel Papanikolaou stated that the proposed legislation is intended to include advisory committee work. Meanwhile, there is precedent for the expectation of confidentiality in task force or working group work that falls under current public records exemptions, noting presidential search committees by way of example.

There being no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a vote on BHE 19-06. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 19-06 was unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

BHE 19-06 AUTHORIZATION FOR COMMISSIONER TO SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON 610 CMR 13.00: FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RISK MONITORING OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Commissioner to proceed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 3, and solicit public comment on the proposed regulation 610 CMN 13.00: Financial Review and Risk Monitoring of Institutions of Higher Education.

Authority: M.G.L. c. 69, §§ 16, 30A, 31A
M.G.L. c. 30A, § 3; 950 CMR 20.00

Contact: Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner
Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel
Thomas J. Simard, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance

Chair Gabrieli then asked for a motion for BHE 19-07 Board of Higher Education Fiscal Year 2020 Meeting Schedule. He remarked that BHE members may not miss more than three meetings each cycle, and requested that members add these meetings to their calendars. DHE staff will send Outlook invitations later this week. Chair Gabrieli stated that these meetings are important and thanked the BHE for their time and work over the past year. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 19-07 was approved by all members in attendance without discussion.

BHE 19-07 BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOVED That the Board of Higher Education approve the schedule of regular board meetings for Fiscal Year 2020, as presented by the Commissioner.

Authority: G.L. c. 15A, § 4(f); *By-Laws of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education*, Articles II and III.

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

Chair Gabrieli then asked for a motion for BHE 19-08 Summer Delegation of Authority. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 19-08 was approved by all members in attendance without discussion.

BHE 19-08 DELEGATION OF SUMMER AUTHORITY TO THE COMMISSIONER

MOVED The Board of Higher Education delegates to the Commissioner until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board its authority to take such action, in

consultation with the advice of the Chair or Vice Chair of the Board, as is deemed necessary or desirable.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

VII. Presentations

List of Documents Need

Commissioner's Year-End Report

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Commissioner Santiago for his end of the year report. The Commissioner began the presentation by thanking his staff who stepped in when he was unable attend meetings or events this year due to personal matters, and thanked the presidents who were accommodating of this. He remarked that it was a challenging, but productive year.

In his FY18 evaluation, the BHE acknowledged the system of public higher education was at a "critical juncture" so in an effort to seize the day, they together identified equity as the top priority. He remarked that other states are looking to Massachusetts to see where we go on our Equity Agenda. He continued by providing an overview of the Vision Statement on equity.

He continued by highlighting the Performance Measurement Reporting System, noting that it will provide the foundation for measuring success at achieving equity. He remarked that this will be intentional as we work towards our goal of equity, and that the institutions have agreed on the metrics and are supportive in sharing their data. He continued by proving an update on the working paper on the Equity Strategic Framework, noting that the time to do this is now.

Board member Hoffman excused herself from the meeting at 12:13 p.m., due to a prior commitment

Commissioner Santiago continued that the Equity Agenda is not just about addressing gaps, but also about another element that is much more complex. We need to change the culture on our campuses so that students of color can choose our campuses for success, not just in school, but in life. He remarked that it is not just success, but creating a welcoming environment and eliminating microaggressions based on race and gender. He noted that this is hard work, and changing culture will start on the Board level.

He continued by highlighting several DHE initiatives that have the potential to align with the equity framework, as well as the BHE goals and a summary of the major DHE and campus based initiatives.

Chair Gabrieli thanked Commissioner Santiago for his leadership. He remarked that our equity policy's success largely will be the sum of the work of our campuses and our work as a Board. It is incumbent to ask ourselves about our policies, because we can hardly ask campuses to be bolder if we have not done so ourselves.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

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