

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

January 22, 2019

9:00 a.m.

Framingham State University
McCarthy Center, Forum Room
100 State Street
Framingham, MA 01701

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 in McCarthy Center Forum Room at Framingham State University (FSU) at 100 State Street in Framingham, Massachusetts.

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair

Alex Cortez

Sheila Harrity, Vice Chair

Nancy Hoffman

Tom Hopcroft

Tom Moreau, Secretary of Education's designee

Kush Patel, student member, UMass

Fernando Reimers

Paul Toner

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

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

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

The follow Board members were absent:

J.D. LaRock

Paul Mattera

Michael O'Brien

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chris Gabrieli called the meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to order at 9:15.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chair Gabrieli stated that there were two requests from members of the public to address the BHE. The guests would speak in alphabetical order. He first invited Mr. Richard Doherty, President of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM) to address the Board.

Mr. Doherty began his remarks by thanking Chair Gabrieli, Commissioner Santiago and the BHE for the opportunity to speak. He introduced himself and noted that AICUM represents 54 independent colleges and universities in Massachusetts, which enroll 285,000 students and employ 100,000 faculty and staff. He remarked that independent colleges are deeply committed to student success and safeguarding their students. He stated he is here at the invitation of Chair Gabrieli. He said he recently met with the Chair and seven AICUM college presidents regarding the THESIS work. He is here to express AICUM and its member institutions' commitment to work with the BHE and DHE staff to implement the guiding principles which drove the work of the THESIS group.

Mr. Doherty continued that AICUM understands the challenges faced by Massachusetts institutions and believe the concepts articulated by the referenced "North Star principle" are important points for discussion. The principle will benefit from further refinements based on the significant concerns of issues related to confidentiality of whatever process evolves. He remarked that AICUM will continue to work with DHE staff to communicate the concerns and questions regarding the Teach-Out Viability metric described in the report, as well as the concerns that independent colleges have about ensuring that the screening metric and its results remain absolutely confidential. He continued that he is here to once again offer AICUM's expertise to assist in designing a metric or process that will guard against false positives, remain confidential and provide the due process opportunity to readily explain one-time factors which may lead to incorrect conclusions about an institution's financial health.

Mr. Doherty expressed concern with the ambitious, suggested time-table, but added that AICUM is prepared to offer any and all resources to the DHE that are needed to deliver an outcome that is effective and in the best interest of students and the

Commonwealth. He trusts that the BHE recognizes that the most recent closure/partnership activity has been conducted according to current processes outlined by the DHE, which provide students with ample notice. He remarked that thoughtful and transparent leadership with regard to how we proceed with the topic of today's meeting will protect the future of small and large private institutions and the students they serve. He thanked the BHE and stated that he looks forward to continuing AICUM's work in partnership with the BHE, the DHE and NECHE going forward.

Chair Gabrieli then invited Mr. Robert Hildreth to address the BHE. Mr. Hildreth thanked the BHE for the opportunity to speak. He congratulated the BHE for taking on this urgent task and for the THESIS report and recommendations. He remarked that the report's focus on students in appropriate and compassionate as illustrated by the closure of Mt. Ida. However, the report omits mention of an important stakeholder: taxpayers, who have provided millions of dollars to colleges through the provision of financial aid, which is funding in exchange for their commitment to graduate our students. Closures violate that commitment.

Mr. Hildreth continued that his main recommendation is that the DHE create a formal role for a financial institution to provide expertise regarding complex financial matters in dealing with the finances of failing institutions. He remarked that relying on fixed formulas such as the Teach Out Viability metric or the 18 month threshold will not be adequate and recommended the BHE hire a merger and acquisition expert, or a bankruptcy lawyer of a private law firm to navigate this process. He continued that the 18 month threshold may not be viable, as institutions may close much sooner, citing that a 10 seat enrollment drop could be enough to spell financial doom, and as word leaks out, credit lines could be pulled. He additionally urged the BHE to establish an emergency line of credit for struggling colleges, which could provide time for students to find replacement institutions and time for colleges to make a good merger and avoid a bad one. He noted that lines of credit are common practice in private sector bankruptcies. He suggested that MEFA could administer such a line. He concluded his remarks by stating that the report says nothing about prevention and attributes the difficulties in college finance to demographics and rising costs, and that until we recognize the effects of student loans on college finances, we will be unable to address prevention.

III. WELCOME

Chair Gabrieli invited FSU President Javier Cevallos to offer remarks. President Cevallos welcomed the BHE to Framingham and remarked that FSU has a long tradition of education with the last few years focused on STEM disciplines, citing their connection with NASA, the Christa McAullife Center and the Challenger Learning Center. He then invited Dr. Irene Porro to address the BHE and provide an overview of the Moon Landing in Context series, a reflection on the historical and cultural context of one of the most celebrated achievements in human history. She remarked that July 20, 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and the series in an interdisciplinary effort through the FSU community, referencing the project's affiliation with the Smithsonian. She invited the BHE to join their Moon Landing in Context events. President Cevallos thanked her, and the BHE and welcomed everyone to the college.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2019 BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

V. REMARKS AND REPORTS

A. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In the interest of time, Chair Gabrieli stated that he would forgo remarks today with one exception- noting that the BHE will continue to move forward our equity-focused discussion. He thanked the BHE for their understanding regarding the change in time and location for today's meeting, which was due to a previously scheduled event on youth homelessness with Governor Baker that has since been postponed.

B. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Commissioner Santiago began his remarks by welcoming everyone in attendance and thanking the Board and Chair Gabrieli. He thanked President Cevallos and FSU for hosting and acknowledged the Presidents in attendance: Ellen Kennedy from Berkshire Community College, James Mabry from Middlesex Community College, Fran McDonald from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and Barry Maloney from Worcester State University. He additionally acknowledged Vincent Pedone and Gretchen Manning from the segmental Executive Offices.

Commissioner Santiago began a presentation regarding the equity strategic framework. He expressed urgency in moving this agenda forward. He stated that these

discussions will involve the campuses and have campus input, beginning with the community colleges and then the state universities.

He continued, stating that the BHE recently adopted a vision statement for public higher education in Massachusetts to significantly raise the enrollment, attainment and long-term success outcomes among under-represented student populations. He remarked that the DHE is very much supportive of this agenda and rallies around this charge; if we are successful in meeting this objective, *all* students will benefit from the support structures in place.

The Commissioner continued the presentation by stating that there is much to celebrate in Massachusetts. We lead the nation in a number of important indicators and we want to remain at the top; we have the highest high school graduation rate, the highest college enrollment rate, and overall college attainment is highest in the country. He remarked while there is much to be proud of, when we slice and dice the data by race, gender and ethnicity indicators, it tells a much different story. He showed slides that illustrated key education indicators by race/ethnicity and gender, which show white female students at the top of all of the metrics and Latino males at the lower end. He remarked that there are significant differences that require our focus: the white female/male Latino college attainment gap is 43%. Further, over time, while we have seen some improvement in select groups such as African American females, Latino males' college going rates are trending in the wrong direction; it is getting worse rather than improving. Coupled with population projections for Massachusetts, these findings give even more cause for concern. For our K-12 population, the demography indicates that there is even more urgency because the high school population is slowing down significantly, and the populations that are most underserved are the ones that are growing. The data show that by 2032, one in four students will be Latinx.

Commissioner Santiago continued the presentation by referencing the 100 Males to College program that provide additional academic supports for motivated but underprivileged students with an emphasis on males of color. He remarked that he thinks we have moved away from a gatekeeper approach and referenced a recent *Boston Globe* article on 100 Males to College at Framingham. He remarked on the success of 100 Males to College, stating we know that it works, and having role models works, as it worked for many of us in the room. He additionally referenced Early College programs, noting he is very proud of the work the campuses have done in this space.

He concluded by summarizing the process of developing the Strategic Framework, stating that the intent is to have an advisory board. We will reach out to the campuses, as we want staff members, faculty, and presidents to participate. The Executive Committee of the BHE will additionally play a very important role in the development of this framework. He showed slides of next steps that include narrowing the commitments and initiatives the campuses will support as we move into the summer. In the fall of 2019, we will provide feedback to the campuses, identify projects that will be scaled up and will then propose a systemwide strategic framework to BHE in December. Finally, there will be a statewide convening in spring of 2020.

Chair Gabrieli thanked the Commissioner and remarked that he looks forward to continuing this conversation about equity going forward.

C. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

In the interest of time, the Secretary of Education's designee Tom Moreau did not offer remarks on behalf of the Secretary.

D. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

Community College Presidents' Report – MassBay Community College President James Mabry

List of Documents Submitted by President Mabry:

Remarks

President Mabry thanked the BHE and stated that he is happy to offer the segmental report on behalf of the community colleges, noting that Roxbury Community College President Valerie Roberson Valerie was unable to attend due to a critical meeting on her campus.

He stated that over the next few days, most of our institutions will be welcoming back students for another semester. He added that he loves the first days of a new semester because of the energy and optimism that marks the beginning of a new academic year. However, he said it is important to remember that many students face food and housing insecurity, and he referenced a report released this January by the U.S. Government Accountability Office that reports nationally, more than 30% of college students are food insecure. This study reinforces work done under the leadership of Commissioner Santiago and the Wisconsin Hope Lab survey. He continued, stating that the findings of these reports and studies have left our Presidents to engage with Congressional leaders to address this important issue. Possibilities include better

connections to federal programs like SNAP, but this is much more than a federal issue; it is a state policy issue because student success is inhibited by hunger. Further, Early College students lose their free and reduced lunch benefit on their campuses. He remarked that at Middlesex, they have an emergency food fund and have partnered with local food banks to establish pick up locations on campus. He and his colleagues are also working with Senator Lovely and Representative Meschino to file a bill to create a new trust fund to scale programs aimed at reducing food insecurities for community college students. As this bill moves through the legislative cycle, he asked the BHE to advocate for solutions to this issue to help our most vulnerable students persist and succeed.

Nancy Hoffman excused herself from the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

President Mabry continued, reporting that through the PACE partnership, the 24 campuses are working to address cyber-attacks and cyber security, noting there is tremendous urgency in this work. He hopes the BHE will advocate for much needed funding to assist in this project. He concluded his remarks by referencing a second, large-scale PACE partnership project on the use of data to improve student outcomes. The 24 campuses are embarking on a project that incorporates the system-wide use of the Tableau platform for system level reporting and data analytics. He reported that MCC is using a federal Title III grant to build an integrated data warehouse that will utilize the Tableau reporting platform to assist with data analytics and predictive analytics. He added that this is a critical tool and key endeavor for moving the lever on student success. He thanked the BHE for their time and for the opportunity to speak.

State University Presidents' Report – Massachusetts Maritime

Academy President Fran McDonald

List of Documents Submitted by President McDonald:

Remarks

President McDonald thanked Chair Gabrieli, Secretary Peyser, Commissioner Santiago and the BHE for the opportunity to provide an update on the Massachusetts State University System. He thanked the Commissioner and the BHE for their FY Budget recommendations and remarked that he is hopeful they will be included in the Governor's budget when released later this week.

President McDonald reported that the Council of Presidents has adopted a legislative agenda that they believe will strengthen their institutions, benefit students, and better align the state universities with other public and private institutions. The state

universities, along with their colleagues at UMASS and the community colleges have worked closely on a number of legislative bills and initiatives, and he stated that will provide an overview of six bills they believe are critical to the success of the state universities for his remarks.

- 1) Act to Fund Public Higher Education Labor Contracts seeks to secure funding of public higher education collective bargaining agreements. The bill would require that the Governor recognize all incremental salary increases in bargaining agreements in his annual state spending plan submitted to the legislature. Public higher education is often criticized for raising student fees but the unfunded portion of our contracts, as well as other unfunded liabilities such as employee fringe benefits, account for 80% or more of the student fee increases. He added that the CoP are pleased that the BHE in December endorsed a budget request that recognizes these collective bargaining costs within our base appropriation.
- 2) An Act to Protect Student Data will create an exemption in the Massachusetts public records laws allowing campuses to withhold personal information such as student names, telephone and cellphone numbers, email addresses, area of study and graduation data from marketers. If any of this information is listed in campus directories, institutions are compelled under our state's public records laws to provide that information to the requester, and the state universities contend that being required to produce such records, particularly for commercial or marketing purposes, compromises our students and serves no public interest.
- 3) An Act to Ensure Tuition Equity to Massachusetts Residents would amend the General Laws to allow public higher education institutions to continue to extend the in-state tuition rate to students currently qualifying for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. Passage of this bill will allow qualifying DACA students in Massachusetts to be eligible for the in-state tuition rate, regardless of changes made to DACA by President Trump. Simply put, the bill would allow institutions to continue to afford DACA students in-state tuition benefits.
- 4) Late last year, a bill was passed and signed into law allowing for a \$2 surcharge on car rentals in order to create a revenue source for municipal, Massachusetts Environmental and UMass Police training and professional development grants. Unfortunately, under the law, state university and community college

campus police officers are not permitted to access those training grants. The bill filled will change the general laws permitting our campus police to access to those funds.

- 5) Together with our colleagues from the three segments, the state universities are pursuing bills that will recapitalize the highly successful endowment match program for public higher education foundations, DCAMM construction regulations for campus construction and changes to the MSCBA allowing for more flexibility to fund campus projects.
- 6) On a number of occasions over the past year, the state universities have shared their desire to develop clinical doctorate degree programs on our campuses due to changing licensing requirements in certain professions. Over the past decade many professions began requiring clinical doctorates, rather than Master's Degrees, for both accreditation and employment. Currently, the General Laws prohibit the state universities from offering doctorate level programs, except if "in collaboration" with UMass and authorized by the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, however UMASS has not been a willing partner. The state universities respect and agree with the statutory distinction of University of Massachusetts as the Commonwealth's PhD granting institution, however, a clinical doctorate degree is fundamentally different from a PhD; State Universities offering certain clinical doctorate programs will not encroach upon the mission or Carnegie designation of UMass; allowing State Universities to offer advanced degree programs aligns with our mission; and furthermore, many of the programs they seek to offer are not offered at the University of Massachusetts. He concluded the legislative update by asking the BHE for support for these bills.

President McDonald continued his remarks by reporting that last week, representatives from the state university campuses were in Washington D.C. to meet with members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to discuss several issues that impact public higher education. The issue of most immediate concern are the proposed Title IX regulatory changes released by the U.S. Dept. of Education in mid-November. Their representatives shared with members of the congressional delegation the serious reservations with many of the proposed changes and the impact these changes would have on campus communities. He remarked that the CoP is submitting written comments to the DOE outlining all of their concerns, and he asked the BHE for their support in making their voices heard. Additionally, their representative discussed issues that impact student affordability such as Pell grants,

expanded work study funds, paid internships, and student debt, as well as issues related to transportation, housing, food insecurity, and equity.

President McDonald concluded his remarks by reporting that the state universities are joining with MassBio, MassBioEd, Mass LifeSciences and Bottom line to increase internship opportunities in the life sciences, and he invited the BHE attend a news conference with MassBio Chairman, David Lucchino, and State and local officials to kick off this partnership. He thanked the BHE for their time and for the opportunity to speak.

E. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student member Kush Patel reported that the next monthly SAC meeting will be held tomorrow at Quinsigamond Community College, and the SAC will hear an update from Open Educational Resources representatives. He reported that SAC went to the State House and met with members of the Legislature, which will be an avenue of advocacy of which they will continue to move forward. Additionally, SAC wants an OER rep from each campus. He continued that SAC will also get an update from the "Every Voice Coalition," and they are encouraging more students to register for their upcoming Summit in February in Cambridge. Finally, he reported that SAC is also engaged with changes to Title IX.

Commissioner Santiago thanked Mr. Patel for his update and stated that later in the week, the Rennie Center would release its Condition of Education report, and both he and the Secretary will be speaking about student financial aid and OER. He remarked that he will be clearly indicating the importance of OER in his remarks.

VI. MOTIONS

List of Documents Used:

BHE 19-04- Receipt of Report Issued by THESIS Working Group and Charge to Commissioner to Develop Implementation Recommendations (along with all attachments)

THESIS PowerPoint Presentation, January 22, 2019

AAC 19-11

A. Board of Higher Education

Chair Gabrieli introduced the next motion, BHE 19-04. He observed that the meeting has deviated slightly from the normal agenda for a number of reasons, including

accommodating the event with Governor Baker that has been rescheduled for January 31 due to scheduling conflicts. In addition, before hearing updates and motions from the standing committees, the first motion on the agenda will be a discussion and vote on receiving a report issued by the Transition in Higher Education (THESIS) working group established in May 2018. The motion will begin with a presentation, and then he will ask to move the motion and proceed with a discussion before calling a vote.

Chair Gabrieli began the PowerPoint presentation by acknowledging the many people who participated on the working group and added that they were fortunate to receive *pro bono* support from EY Parthenon. He reported that the working group met four times over the summer, and the initial charge to the group had four questions: 1) what is the nature and extent of the problem; 2) are there current measures and monitoring processes that effectively identify and manage risk; 3) how can we engage college Boards more in risk awareness and mitigation; and 4) what could the DHE do about undermanaged risk?

Chair Gabrieli continued, stating that the summary conclusions are that the risk of financially driven closures is significant and growing and that the DHE should adopt a new process to identify and manage risk, including the adoption of a North Star standard that there be a contingency plan and student notification no later than December 1 of each year if a school is judged financially uncertain to complete the current and subsequent school year.

Chair Gabrieli highlighted the pressures currently experienced by higher education, noting that the problem could be exacerbated with the upcoming dip in enrollment. He referenced the 15 completed institutional closures and mergers in the past five years, and one pending closure, and he noted that a number of remaining private institutions show problematic financial health. He continued, stating that our current oversight and metric, the USDOE score, does not provide adequate accuracy or notice of financial problems.

Chair Gabrieli then reviewed the THESIS Working Group findings, noting that the risks of further challenges to non-profit institutions of higher education (NPIHEs) leading to potential student disruption is significant, ongoing and likely growing, and that current standard financial metrics are insufficient for timely or fully identifying NPIHEs. The challenge, he said, is to acknowledge that many institutions are not at risk and we do not want to trouble them, but we still have to act proactively and not reactively. He continued by summarizing the remaining THESIS Working Group recommendations, and the urgency for acting expeditiously to launch a new process for implementation

in academic year 2019-2010. He opined that the single most important recommendation brought to the BHE today is the adoption of the "North Star" Principle which articulates an 18-month threshold—meaning that if an institution cannot financially sustain its operations for the balance of the current school year and the entire subsequent one, then intervention is warranted as this defines excess risk to students. Such institutions have the option to continue but otherwise, they need a contingency plan.

Chair Gabrieli continued by highlighting the remaining recommendations, including using an appropriate screening metric to focus our resources on relevant colleges and minimize the burden on all colleges. The proposed screening metric, the Teachout Viability Metric (TVM), is a common sense approach that relies on IPEDS data and requires no additional data provided by institutions. The 4th Recommendation is to actively monitor where risk is significant, which must be specific to each institution and situation and requires engagement with local Boards of Trustees, Presidents and CEOs. He stressed the importance of confidentiality during this process and remarked that it will require legislative support to maintain confidentiality. Additional recommendations include a public notification requirement, the creation of an Office of Student Protection within the Department and the establishment of an advisory council to assist the Department.

The BHE engaged in a lengthy discussion. Board member Toner remarked that he intends to support and vote for this, and hopes that we can be even more proactive in notifying students and families. He also asked if 18 months is sufficient, because students have the expectation when they enroll that they will be able to finish a four year degree. Chair Gabrieli acknowledged that 18 months may not be sufficient, but that the Working Group felt it was as far as they could go. Board member Toner responded by asking if local board members are being trained and taking their responsibilities seriously, and if a pressure testing measure for our public institutions exists. Commissioner Santiago responded that we have the information for the public institutions and can engage in these conversations much earlier, as the assets of the institutions are the assets of the state.

Board member Reimers remarked that he believes this report is adequate to protect consumers, but asked if we can charge this subcommittee with the concerns of the public interest in public sector; this is a headache and mergers are just taking a Tylenol. He continued that one of the charges of this board is inequity, and the kinds of students served by these institutions who are closing are not being served by the rest of the system. He suggested that the proceeds of land sales could be set up an

endowment with scholarships for these students in perpetuity; the future involves a lot more than an easy way out for these institutions. Further, he asked whether there another option besides mergers and sales such as reinventing these institutions? He noted that these mergers have the potential to make inequality worse because they institutions that are closing serve these underrepresented students and reward the more financially established institutions that do not serve these students.

Board member Harrity stated that she supports the recommendations of the Working Group and wants to avoid another situation like the closing of Mount Ida.

Chair Gabrieli Invited Dr. Barbara Brittingham, the President of NECHE to address the BHE. Dr. Brittingham thanked the BHE and stated that she appreciated the opportunity to work on THESIS. She continued that their website has a section called closed and merged institutions and it is the second most popular page on their site and has been for over a year. They have a committee on financially fragile institutions, they also have an annual report process which has been moved up earlier in the cycle. Additionally, a public warning called "Notation" was just approved, and it will be a judgement call to determine when there is enough of a concern to let the public know. She continued that NECHE also committed themselves to a retreat that is happening this week to look at its interaction with governing boards. She stressed the importance of confidentiality throughout this process. A board member asked Ms. Brittingham to elaborate on what data drives the Notation process; she referred him to NECHE's website which details it, but it is ultimately a judgment call. Chair Gabrieli thanked Dr. Brittingham for her remarks.

Rich Doherty, speaking from the audience, asked to be recognized. He referenced a headline on WBUR that was posted online during today's meeting, and states that Massachusetts BHE is looking to identify "failing colleges." He stated that this exemplifies the issue and that context is what causes concern among the private colleges—that the BHE's proposed screening and monitoring tool will create a list synonymous with "failing colleges," and will send even healthy institutions into a death spiral. Chair Gabrieli acknowledged his comments but stated that we cannot control how the media covers this work. Bob Hildreth, speaking from the audience, also asked to be recognized. Mr. Hildreth stated that the report shows concern for students, but is silent on the implications of financial aid. The report does not adequately address the effects of student loans on college financing; nor does it address the significance of the fact that the Commonwealth's commitment to state financial aid is among the lowest in the country- ranked 48th.

Chair Gabrieli stated that Board member Paul Mattera was unable to attend the meeting, but that he sent the following in advance of the meeting to be included in the record: “As a member of the working group, I thank the Chair, Commissioner and staff, especially Tom Simard, for the open, deliberative, informative and collaborative way the meetings were conducted. The recommendations we developed were aided and fine-tuned by the participation of every conceivable stakeholder who were either in the room or at the table. I enthusiastically support the recommendations and look forward to the continued process of refinement and ultimate adoption of regulatory and statutory actions in furtherance of this important step to protect students at schools in crisis.”

There being no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli called for a motion on BHE 19-04. On a motion duly made and seconded, the following motion passed unanimously by all board members present:

BHE 19-04 Receipt of Report Issued by the *Transitions in Higher Education: Safeguarding the Interests of Students (THESIS) Working Group and Charge to the Commissioner to Develop Implementation Recommendations*

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education (BHE) receives the report issued by the THESIS Working Group and expresses its appreciation to the THESIS members for their work. The BHE directs the Commissioner to advance the Working Group recommendations, as outlined in the report and in accordance with the attached implementation timeline, which includes a stakeholder vetting process and target implementation for academic year 2019-2020. The BHE further directs the Commissioner to provide regular updates to the Board on the Department’s progress in this regard.

Authority: BHE By-Laws, Article III, Section 2; M.G.L. c. 69, § 30 et seq.; M.G.L. c. 15A, §9 and 16; 610 CMR 2.

Contact: Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner

Thomas J. Simard, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance

B. Academic Affairs

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to acting AAC Chair Sheila Harrity. Acting Chair Harrity remarked that Nancy Hoffman had to leave the meeting early to meet with

students, as she is teaching a course this semester at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The Academic Affairs Committee met last week and considered two motions, one at the associate level and we revisited a program at the master's level. Department staff also presented on the new letter of intent for public institutions and the AAC is excited about advancing this work to the next stage, implementation. Finally, DHE staff presented on new Accuplacer cut scores and their plans for continued collaborations with the campuses to transform developmental education.

Acting Chair Harrity called for a motion on AAC 19-11. On a motion duly made and seconded, AAC 19-11 was approved unanimously by all board members present, without discussion.

AAC 19-11 CONSENT AGENDA – AAC 19-09 through AAC 19-10

MOVED: The BHE hereby approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

AAC 19-09 Worcester State University
Master of Public Management

AAC 19-10 North Shore Community College
Associate in Science in Database Management and Security

Authority: Article III, Section 6m By-Laws

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

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gabrieli reported that the Strategic Planning and Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy Committees did not convene last week and as such, there are no further items on the agenda. He noted that all three committees are scheduled to meet in March.

There being no further business, Chairman Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

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