

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

NO.: BHE 22-04

BOARD DATE: September 22, 2021

APPROVAL OF BHE VICE-CHAIR APPOINTMENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education (BHE) By-Laws, as amended, require the BHE to annually review and renew the appointment of the BHE's Vice-Chair and the BHE's Executive Committee membership.

For fiscal year 2022 (AY2021-2022) the BHE renews and approves the appointment of Sheila Harrity as BHE Vice-Chair. The BHE further approves the BHE Executive Committee membership as follows:

- Chris Gabrieli, Chair of the BHE (and Chair of the Executive Committee)
- Sheila Harrity, Vice-Chair of the BHE
- Veronica Conforme, BHE Chair of the Finance and Administrative Policy Advisory Council
- Patty Eppinger, BHE Co-Chair of the AA&SS Advisory Council
- Bill Walczak, BHE Chair of the Strategic Planning Advisory Council

VOTED:

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 4; BHE By-Laws Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III, Section 2 (as amended, June 22, 2021).

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel

Background

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) By-Laws establish the BHE's governance and procedural structure and form the foundation of how the BHE functions, to the extent that such matters are not otherwise addressed in the Massachusetts General Laws.

During its June 22, 2021 meeting, the BHE amended its By-Laws to require the BHE to, among other things, annually review and renew the appointment of the Vice-Chairperson, and all committee and advisory council membership¹.

With regard to the Vice-Chair of the BHE, the amended BHE By-Laws provide that the Chairperson of the BHE has the authority to appoint and remove the Vice-Chair, subject to Board annual review and renewal. *BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d)*. For fiscal year 2022 (AY2021-2022) Chair Gabrieli recommends that the BHE renew and approve the appointment of Sheila Harrity as BHE Vice-Chair.

With regard to Executive Committee membership the BHE By-Laws provide that the "membership of the Executive Committee shall be proposed by the Chairperson, shall be subject to approval of the Board, and shall be reviewed annually by the Board during the Board's annual meeting." *BHE By-Laws, Article III, Section 1(a)(ii)*. The By-Laws further provide that:

- the "Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of the Board and at least two other members who also serve as chairs of committees or advisory councils;" and
- the Chairperson of the BHE shall be the chair of the Executive Committee.

BHE By-Laws, Article III, Section 1(a)(i) and (ii).

For fiscal year 2022 (AY2021-2022) Chair Gabrieli recommends that all other members of the BHE who also serve as chairs of committees² or advisory councils serve on the BHE Executive Committee. Therefore, for fiscal year 2022 (AY2021-2022) the proposed membership of the BHE Executive Committee is as follows:

¹ Advisory Council membership for fiscal year 2022 (AY2021-2022) is the subject of another motion (BHE 22-01) which is also on the agenda for the BHE's September 22, 2021 meeting.

² In addition to the Executive Committee, the BHE only has one other committee this fiscal/academic year- the Early College Joint [BESE] Committee (ECJC). Chair Gabrieli serves as the BHE-Member co-chair of that committee, pursuant to the appointment process established in BHE17-06.

- Chris Gabrieli, Chair³
- Sheila Harrity, Vice-Chair⁴
- Veronica Conforme, BHE Chair of the Finance and Administrative Policy Advisory Council
- Patty Eppinger, BHE Co-Chair of the AA&SS Advisory Council
- Bill Walczak, BHE Chair of the Strategic Planning Advisory Council

³ In addition to serving as BHE Chair of the ECJC Committee, Chair Gabrieli serves as the BHE Chair of the Evidence Based Policy Making (EBPM) Advisory Council.

⁴ Vice-Chair Harrity also serves as a BHE Co-Chair of the AA&SS Advisory Council.