

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Strategic Planning

NO.: SPC 18-03_as
amended by SPC
10/24/2017

COMMITTEE DATE: October 24, 2017

BOARD DATE: October 31, 2017

**APPROVAL OF MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY SPECIAL MISSION
PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the **Massachusetts Maritime Academy** "*Special Mission Renewal Plan 2017-2021*" Strategic Partnership plan and authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education for final approval pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 7.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9 and 22; Sections 160 and 163 of Chapter 352 of the Acts of 2004; Section 25 of Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2005; and BHE 12-03

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Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Background

A fundamental responsibility of the BHE is to provide overall direction to the state's system of public higher education. The Board enacts this responsibility by establishing statewide goals and regularly measuring and reporting progress toward these goals building upon the foundation of the Vision Project. Articulating statewide goals has no impact unless these goals and performance metrics are embraced by the individual colleges and universities and incorporated into their strategic plans. Massachusetts state statute therefore charges the BHE and the Secretary of Education with reviewing and approving campus strategic plans. M.G.L. c. 15A, §§7, 9 and 22.

Massachusetts Maritime Academy Planning Process

MMA began working on the Special Mission Renewal plan in the summer of 2016 when it was determined that because the system-wide campus strategic planning process is now closely aligned with that of the special mission institution planning, it should be processed in a similar fashion. In the fall of 2016 MMA submitted an initial draft and worked with staff through the spring of 2017 when final revisions were made.

The special mission of the institution was an important determinant in developing the plan. MMA must satisfy United States Coast Guard (USCG) licensing standards, such that students are required to accrue sea time, meet physical fitness standards, and pass the USCG licensing examination. This necessitates an education that differs significantly from traditional institutions of higher education. MMA's non-marine licensed majors include extensive lab-based learning and additional credit hours of cooperative and experiential learning that reinforce the classroom learning throughout the academic year. The leadership team for developing the plan was comprised of MMA's President, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and the Director of Institutional Effectiveness. Input was solicited from all departments and offices across campus throughout the drafting process and during a series of targeted meetings with key stakeholders. The MMA plan provides information in twelve areas, and provides specific detail on current conditions and challenges, as well as the desired outcomes for each area. Highlights of the plan include areas of College Participation, Diversity, Affordability, Financial and Infrastructure Resources, Civic Engagement, and Workforce Development.

Touch Point II took place during August 11-22 2017. Strategic Planning Committee Chair Fernando Reimers and Commissioner Carlos Santiago reviewed the final draft of the plan and met with board staff who had been working with MMA over the last year. Commissioner Santiago noted that the plan reflected a comprehensive and inclusive process, and that it was on-target with the added challenge of factoring in USCG requirements.

On September 15, 2017 the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Board of Trustees approved the Strategic Partnership plan. On September 19, 2017 President Francis MacDonald submitted the plan to Commissioner Santiago and on September 24, 2017 the plan was distributed to the Strategic Planning Committee. On October 24, 2017 the BHE Strategic Planning Committee approved MMA's Special Mission Renewal Plan 2017-2021.