

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

April 30, 2024

10:00 a.m.

via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE or Board) was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, remotely via teleconference (Zoom).

The following Board Members were present:

Chris Gabrieli, Chair

Danielle Allen

Mary Burns

Harneen Chernow

Ann Christensen

Veronica Conforme

Alex Cortez

Cindy Mack, Voting Student Member, State University segment

Paul Mattera

Judy Pagliuca

Christina Royal

Robert LePage, Designee of the Secretary of Education

Bill Walczak

Andrew Whitcomb, non-voting Student Advisor, UMass segment

Noe Ortega, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

The following Board Members were absent:

Sarah Alzate-Pérez, non-voting Student Advisor, Community College segment

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Chris Gabrieli called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Department of Higher Education (DHE or Department) Assistant Commissioner Elena Quiroz-Livanis took roll call attendance (see above for attendance roster).

II. COMMISSIONER'S SPOTLIGHT

List of Documents Used

[Commissioner's PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Commissioner Ortega stated that the Commissioner's Spotlight aims to highlight the work of the Department, focusing on equity, affordability, and high quality. The Department and Board have adopted a framework that aligns with these principles, aiming to advance high-quality, affordable education, invigorate innovation and collaboration, ensure data and outcomes, inform decision-making, and promote equity in outcomes. Today's Spotlight focuses on why creating conditions for success in higher education is important to achieving these outcomes.

Commissioner Ortega shared that the meeting's Spotlight focuses on the work of the Department's Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA), led by Senior Deputy Commissioner of Access & Student Financial Assistance Clantha McCurdy. Senior Deputy Commissioner McCurdy was joined by Jose Luis Santos, Senior Deputy Commissioner & Special Advisor, and Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Assistant Commissioner.

Senior Deputy Commissioner McCurdy stated that Massachusetts received 172,000 unique FAFSA applications, compared to 209,000 FAFSA applications a year ago, representing an 18% decline. Massachusetts consistently ranks in the top seven states of all FAFSA completers nationally. State-led initiatives have been implemented to encourage students to complete the FAFSA, including a FAFSA extension deadline by the Healey-Driscoll Administration moving the priority filing date from May 1 to July 1. To focus on low-income and underrepresented students, the DHE launched a FAFSA completion initiative in Gateway Communities, targeting 26 gateway cities.

Senior Deputy Commissioner McCurdy added that a communications campaign will run through the summer months, targeting these communities. Hands-on virtual workshops with partners like the Massachusetts State Financial Aid Association will be provided, allowing students and their parents to access these resources. Commissioner Ortega is also working to provide institutions with early award notifications, which indicate the amount of state financial aid available for institutions to award to students. This will allow institutions to address student needs and provide information to students sooner, enabling students to consider college as an option. Additional details about FAFSA filers and other outreach initiatives will be provided in the next update.

Commissioner Ortega stated that Senior Deputy Commissioner McCurdy highlighted the challenge faced by Massachusetts in FAFSA submissions, particularly for historically underrepresented populations. He emphasized the concern lies in ensuring better access and success for all students, regardless of race, geography, or college knowledge. In addition, access to success strategies are primarily focused within the institutional level. He then turned to Assistant Commissioner Elena Quiroz-Livanis to continue the presentation.

Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis shared that an environmental scan was conducted and focused on efforts being made across the country to increase access for students from marginalized populations and ensure their success in completing and earning a post-secondary degree credential at the institutional level. The analysis identified four major design elements: Financial Resources, Early Momentum Structures, Curriculum and Experiential Learning, and Sustained Support Services.

Some of the programs under consideration include TRIO, Upward Bound, CUNY ASAP, and ACE. The CUNY ASAP program uses a quasi-experimental design with a constructed comparison group, partnering with external evaluators like MDRC. She emphasized the ASAP component's unique structure in that it can be replicated across different states, helping students earn associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges and earn bachelor's degrees. Crucial to ASAP outcomes is an assurance that students receive sufficient grant aid to meet their full cost of attendance, not just tuition and fee costs. For example, after six years, 42% of students from the program group earned an associate's degree, a 15-percentage point difference, which is critical for increasing post-secondary certificate and degree completion rates.

Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis stated institutions should be affordable, provide students with financial resources, high-quality learning experiences, and the opportunity to accumulate credits in a timely manner to ensure success. Commissioner Ortega then discussed the importance of affordability and affordability strategies in driving legislative agendas and promoting success strategies for students. He highlighted the need for institutions to integrate these strategies into their work, ensuring affordability strategies are tied to financial aid programs and success strategies that encourage persistence and completion. Evaluation and accountability are crucial aspects of the state's approach, with transparency being a key focus.

Commissioner Ortega emphasized the significance of affordability strategies in legislative agendas and student success, emphasizing the need for institutional integration, evaluation, accountability, and transparency in the state's approach. He then turned to Senior Deputy Commissioner Santos to continue the presentation.

Senior Deputy Commissioner Santos shared his experience at the ASUxGSV Conference in San Diego, where startups, venture capitalists, philanthropic foundations, nonprofits, K-12 and post-secondary education leaders, and policy makers discussed tech-enabled solutions for education. These solutions aim to help learners achieve academic goals and meet students where they are in terms of study location, time, technology, and devices.

Senior Deputy Commissioner Santos shared how AI is being explored as a tool for harnessing its power for student success and learning. AI can be used for intelligent tutoring systems, immersive learning technologies, predictive analytics and early intervention, micro credentialing and personalized learning pathways, and gamification and engagement strategies. These technologies can make learning more engaging, supplement physical locations, and help students navigate challenges, improving their chances of success.

Commissioner Ortega summarized critical challenges faced by higher education institutions, including the impact of the pandemic and FAFSA delays. He continued that for state intervention to enhance existing institutions and address these challenges, the state must find ways to integrate innovation, particularly tech-enabled design, across various domains of the ecology. The presentation also discussed new inputs on addressing affordability and capital investments in institutions. It emphasizes the importance of reconciling these new inputs with past effective strategies to design future needs. Lastly, the presentation addressed evaluating past performance and highlighting the need for the right team to execute these efforts. The goal is to establish a place where all students have access to equitable, high-quality, and affordable education, ensuring access and success for all students. .

At the conclusion of the Commissioner’s Spotlight, Chair Gabrieli invited questions from Board members. Board Member Pagliuca asked a question about measuring state-level success with respect to FAFSA completion and after a brief conversation Commissioner Ortega suggested a follow up discussion on making college more affordable as the Board thinks about designing metrics.

Member Allen asked how the DHE is contributing to related conversations in the legislature regarding AI and if the DHE is able to help shape that legislation in ways that would be beneficial for the educational system. Commissioner Ortega stated that although we have not been formally invited into the discussions at the state level, our team has been engaged in the conversation on the national level in preparation. Senior Deputy Commissioner Santos commented that we should think of AI in terms of its crucial role in teaching and learning, enhancing lives and directing learners to resources at all stages of their learning cycle, ultimately enabling them to pursue academic goals.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chair Gabrieli asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the BHE meeting held on March 19, 2024. Hearing no further discussion, and on a motion duly made and seconded, the motion proceeded to a roll call vote and was approved as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes

- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Assistant Secretary Robert LePage – Yes
- Bill Walczak – Yes

V. REMARKS & REPORTS

A. Chair's Remarks

Chair Gabrieli discussed the progress made in Early College enrollment and student affordability efforts, including the MassReconnect initiative and increased graduation rates. He emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of these efforts to meet the necessary levels of support needed. Chair Gabrieli stated that the Board has initiated a strategic planning process and will enlist external assistance to help. He commended the Board for comparing other states' efforts and emphasizing the need for real-time parallel evaluation. He also commended Commissioner Ortega and his team's emphasis on the importance of technology-mediated innovations in education.

B. Secretary of Executive Office of Education's (EOE) Remarks

Assistant Secretary Robert LePage, the Secretary of Education's designee, offered remarks on behalf of the Secretary. He recognized commencement season is underway and emphasized the powerful significance of graduation in a student's life and milestones. He emphasized the role of the Board in ensuring graduates receive higher education credentials, leading to better job opportunities and basic skills. Assistant Secretary LePage also emphasized the importance of connectiveness in high school strategies and the need to double down on efforts to drive connectedness and support the workforce. Chair Gabrieli then turned to the Presidents for their reports.

C. Reports from Presidents

State University Segmental Report

For a copy of President Keenan's full remarks, please see:

<https://www.mass.edu/bhe/documents/BHE%20Segmental%20Report%20-%20April%20-%202024.pdf>

President John Keenan of Salem State University provided updates on the Massachusetts State University segment on behalf of the State University Council of Presidents (Council or CoP). He reported on the following topics.

Educator Alumni Awards: President Keenan reported that the annual State University Educator Alumni Awards ceremony celebrated graduates from nine campuses who have made a difference in Massachusetts' public schools. The Commonwealth was the first state to recognize the importance of teacher preparation programs and continues to educate over one-third of public-school teachers in

Massachusetts. Graduates were recognized for their teaching excellence and contributions to their communities.

FY25 Budget: President Keenan reported that CoP is grateful for the House of Representatives' \$1.9 billion funding for public higher education, a 4% increase over FY24. The budget includes \$80 million of Fair Share funding to expand the MassGrant Plus program and includes funding for the state university internship program. He highlighted the proposal to extend the SUCCESS program to state universities to provide wraparound student support services.

However, he noted there are two shortfalls: funding for student behavioral and mental health grants for state and community colleges, and funding for public higher education deferred maintenance. The Council of Presidents has spoken to Senate members about these issues and will continue advocacy efforts to include these recommendations in the Senate budget. The Council hopes to address these issues in the Conference Committee.

FAFSA completion: President Keenan reported that the Healey-Driscoll Administration extended the deadline for the MASSGrant financial aid program to July 1 and invested \$550,000 in Gateway Cities to improve FAFSA completion. These initiatives will help students and families navigate the challenges of the new FAFSA rollout and make college a reality.

Commencements: President Keenan reported that the commencement celebrations for the 2023-2024 academic year are weeks away, providing an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of public higher education graduates and reinvigorate campus communities. These events also highlight the work of local, national, and international leaders, with keynote speakers and honorary degree recipients reflecting a diversity of opinions and adhering to the practice of promoting equity, fairness, and inclusivity. Salem State University will welcome Secretary Patrick Tutwiler to provide their commencement address, while Framingham State will select Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia (Ka-poo-yah), a renowned trauma expert, to address mental health and social justice. Shannon Holsey, president of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, will be the keynote MCLA speaker, while Mary Louise McDonald, president of Ireland's Sinn Fein political party, will be the keynote speaker at Westfield State University. Worcester State will feature Adrienne Haslet, a professional ballroom dancer and runner who survived the Boston Marathon terrorist attack, providing a message of inspiration and hope for their students.

President Keenan concluded his remarks by refuting a Boston Globe article suggesting a consolidation of state universities, citing DHE data showing enrollment up nearly 3% in 2023. He stated that while the FAFSA debacle delayed the release of financial aid information, the state's historic financial aid investment and community college partners' initiatives like MassReconnect are expected to increase enrollment through transfer. President Keenan emphasized that the state universities are good stewards of Commonwealth resources, ensuring efficiencies and allowing time for public higher education investments to pay off.

Community College Segmental Report

For a copy of President Vander Hooven's full remarks, please see:

https://www.mass.edu/bhe/documents/BHE_Community%20College%20Report_4.30.24.pdf

President Vander Hooven of Mount Wachusett Community College provided updates on the Massachusetts Community College segment on behalf of the Community College Council of Presidents.

President Vander Hooven expressed his condolences for the loss of Massasoit Community College President Ray DiPasquale, expressing gratitude for President DiPasquale's his deep commitment to community colleges, students, and his community. He thanked the DHE and the Commissioner for their efforts during the difficult transition. He also publicly thanked Bill Mitchell, who has stepped in as interim president, for his unwavering commitment to the Commonwealth and to Massasoit students.

As the legislature prepares for the Senate to release their budget, President Vander Hooven highlighted critical items that are of importance to the colleges. The community college SUCCESS program is a model for innovation in student success, working well to increase persistence for vulnerable students. The community colleges are hopeful that the Senate will inject additional funding into this important program.

The Workforce Education and Training Fund (ETF) is also seeking additional funding. Established with one-time funds in FY22, ETF supports high-demand workforce training programs at community colleges that align with regional labor market blueprints. ETF has trained nearly 3,200 students in healthcare, education, and information technology at no cost to the student. However, these programs are not eligible for federal financial aid due to the duration of the programs.

Federal aid would cover the cost of any degree for fully Pell-eligible students, but students seeking to study in CNA or EMT fields must pay out of pocket due to the lack of financial aid. The ETF program has been successful in training students into fields where they go right to work, which is crucial for building the Commonwealth's workforce.

Lastly, President Vander Hooven stated that the Senate President expressed excitement about the possibility of free community college in the Senate budget proposal. A report on free community college recommendations was submitted to legislative leadership, and passing Free Community College would directly impact the lives of students across the Commonwealth, including those who thought college was out of reach or never considered it at all.

D. Report from Student Advisory Council (SAC)

BHE Student Member Cindy Mack reported on SAC's recent activities, including their meeting on April 25 where elections were held for new student members and advisory seat positions for the FY25 Board of Higher Education. UMass will have the voting member seat, while the student advisors will be represented by the State University and Community College segments. Nicki Nguyen will be the BHE

voting student member and Student Advisory Council Chair. Sylvia from Cape Cod Community College and Imani Barbo from Bridgewater State University were elected as segmental advisors. Their appointments will officially begin on July 1. All new members will be introduced during the June 30 BHE meeting. Student Member Mack turned to UMass Segmental Advisor Andrew Whitcomb for his report.

UMass Segmental Advisor Andrew Whitcomb shared his congratulations to UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and UMass Amherst Chancellor Javier Reyes for their recent inaugurations. As a first-generation student, he is proud to officially graduate from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and emphasized the importance of support from institutions, faculty, and peers in a student's journey.

Member Chernow inquired about campus climate amid the Israel-Hamas conflict and protests on campus. Student Member Mack stated that BSU has invited students to share their concerns and has also made mental health a top priority. UMass Segmental Advisor Whitcomb commented that it is the responsibility of administrators to listen and take care of students affected by the conflict. He observed that many students are protesting for personal reasons and because the conflict impacts their families, studies, and relationships. UMass Segmental Advisor Whitcomb also suggested that students and faculty should discuss the issue and find a balance between protesting and maintaining a positive global conversation in both private and public universities.

Chair Gabrieli turned to the next item and invited Commissioner Ortega to share his report.

E. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Ortega expressed condolences to the Massasoit community on the passing of Massasoit Community College President Ray DiPasquale. He also acknowledged institutions' efforts, including the presidents, faculty, and staff, to maintain freedom of speech and prioritize safety. The DHE continues to provide resources and guidance, with Amanda Robbins, its Campus Safety Advisor, leading campus safety and violence prevention efforts. Within the context of the DHE's campus safety work, he also noted that May is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) and he highlighted the ongoing related work at the DHE relative to the campus sexual assault law. Commissioner Ortega closed by emphasizing that there is no place for hate, violence, or discrimination of any kind on our campuses.

Chair Gabrieli turned to the next item on the agenda.

VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & MOTIONS

A. Executive Committee Report

No report.

B. Motions

List of Documents Used

[BHE 24-43](#): Approval of Letter of Intent of Bridgewater State University to Award the Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies and Authorization for Fast Track Review

[BHE 24-44](#): Application of the American University of Greece to Award the Master of Arts in Learning Design and Technology

[BHE 24-45](#): Board of Higher Education Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Meeting Schedule

Chair Gabrieli asked for a motion to approve *BHE 24-43, Approval of Letter of Intent of Bridgewater State University to Award the Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies and Authorization for Fast Track Review*. He stated that the motion is to approve the letter of intent for Bridgewater State University as well as authorize fast track review for a new Bachelor of Arts program. Chair Gabrieli turned to the Board for questions.

Without further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-43 was approved by members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Assistant Secretary Robert LePage – Yes
- Bill Walczak – Yes

BHE 24-43 APPROVAL OF LETTER OF INTENT OF BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY TO AWARD THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INDIVIDUALIZED STUDIES AND AUTHORIZATION FOR FAST TRACK REVIEW

VOTED: The Board of Higher Education (BHE) has evaluated the Letter of Intent of Bridgewater State University to award the Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies and has determined that the proposal aligns with BHE criteria. Accordingly, the BHE authorizes the Commissioner to review the program and to make a final determination on degree granting authority pursuant to the Fast-Track review protocol.

Authority Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b); AAC 18-40

Contact Richard Riccardi, Sc.D., Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Chair Gabrieli turned to the next agenda item, a motion to approve **BHE 24-44**, *Application of the American University of Greece to Award the Master of Arts in Learning Design and Technology*. He summarized the motion and noted that BHE 24-44 was primarily administrative, arising from a misunderstanding about a degree's past approval. Chief Legal Counsel Dena Papanikolaou confirmed that the BHE's degree-granting regulations allow for a retroactive approval process, noting that technical issues such as this are not uncommon. Chair Gabrieli turned to the Board for questions.

Without further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-44 was approved by members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Assistant Secretary Robert LePage – Yes
- Bill Walczak – Yes

BHE 24-44 APPLICATION OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF GREECE TO AWARD THE MASTER OF ARTS IN LEARNING DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

VOTED The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF GREECE with the authority to award the Master of Arts in Learning Design and Technology. Provided further, that said degree-granting authority shall be retroactive to January 1, 2023.

Authority Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact Cynthia Farr Brown, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner of Regulatory and Veterans Affairs

Chair Gabrieli turned to the next agenda item, a motion to approve **BHE 24-45**, *Board of Higher Education Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Meeting Schedule*. He summarized the motion and noted that BHE 24-45 is the new meeting schedule, which is now two years out. Chair Gabrieli also reminded the Board that there are separate plans to schedule a BHE retreat. Chair Gabrieli turned to the Board for questions.

Without further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-45 was approved by members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Assistant Secretary Robert LePage – Yes
- Bill Walczak – Yes

**BHE 24-45 BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND FISCAL YEAR 2026
MEETING SCHEDULE**

VOTED That the Board of Higher Education approve the schedule of regular board meetings for Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026, as presented by the Commissioner.

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

Contact Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Assistant Commissioner
Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel

VII. BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

List of Documents Used

[BHE 24-46](#): Approval of Commissioner’s FY2023 Evaluation and Compensation Adjustment.

A. [Attachment A](#)

B. [Attachment B](#)

Chair Gabrieli turned to the final agenda item, a motion to approve **BHE 24-46**, *Approval of Commissioner’s FY2023 Evaluation and Compensation Adjustment*. He stated the motion approves the Evaluation of the Commissioner for his initial tenure period, as well as a compensation adjustment.

Chair Gabrieli commended Commissioner Ortega, who assumed his role in November 2023, for his enthusiasm and commitment to higher education finance, even in the face of challenging circumstances. The Commissioner’s self-review, which focused on his direct contributions and goals, highlighted four key areas. He noted that the Board will have an opportunity to review his performance against those goals in his next cycle. Chair Gabrieli reiterated that the Commissioner’s investment in a team with diverse experiences, including both current and new members, is a clear demonstration of his commitment to high performance and growth. He has also worked with the Board to set a clear, prioritized agenda. External stakeholders have recognized the Commissioner for his energy and outreach engagement. Chair Gabrieli turned to the Board for questions.

Student Member Mack remarked that Commissioner Ortega motivates the Student Advisory Council to think innovatively. In addition, he consistently demonstrates a willingness to actively listen and provide support for any necessary tasks while fostering a sense of self-confidence in individuals to overcome obstacles. According to Student Member Mack, Commissioner Ortega effectively engages everyone when he talks because he recognizes that it is not solely about himself. The Commissioner’s and the DHE’s combined endeavors have greatly enhanced students’ academic success.

Member Conforme expressed appreciation for Commissioner Ortega's leadership and significant achievements. She highlighted his strategic planning skills, which have led to the creation of a well-rounded plan that effectively utilizes the resources of the Department. This innovative approach has driven the Department towards greater success, instilling a sense of confidence in his leadership.

Member Walczak highlighted the difficulties of being the Commissioner of Higher Education in light of the world's ever-changing complexities. He praised the Commissioner for successfully setting priorities and ensuring that colleges and universities work together to support common goals. Member Walczak also congratulated the Commissioner for 18 months of progress in advancing the DHE.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Gabrieli turned to Assistant Commissioner Quiroz-Livanis for the vote. On a motion duly made and seconded, BHE 24-46 was approved by members present through a roll call vote, as follows:

- Chair Chris Gabrieli – Yes
- Danielle Allen – Yes
- Mary Burns – Yes
- Harneen Chernow – Yes
- Ann Christensen – Yes
- Veronica Conforme – Yes
- Alex Cortez – Yes
- Cindy Mack – Yes
- Paul Mattera – Yes
- Judy Pagliuca – Yes
- Christina Royal – Yes
- Assistant Secretary Robert LePage – Yes
- Bill Walczak – Yes

BHE 24-46 APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER’S FY2023 EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT

VOTED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the attached Commissioner’s FY2023 Performance Evaluation.

Further, that the Board approves a compensation adjustment for Commissioner Ortega in alignment with the salary increases and the effective dates that the Commonwealth’s Human Resources Division (HRD) announced on July 26, 2023 for all eligible managers in the executive branch.

The Board commends Commissioner Ortega and his team for their accomplishments and work, and thanks the Commissioner for his service.

Authority Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, Chief Legal Counsel
Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Assistant Commissioner

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Noe Ortega, Ph.D.
Commissioner and Secretary to the Board*