

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

NO.: BHE 25-15

BOARD DATE: October 22, 2024

APPROVAL OF BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the **Bunker Hill Community College Strategic Plan 2024-2029** 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 22(l).

VOTED: Motion adopted by the BHE on 10/22/2024.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3 and Article III.
Contact: Richard Riccardi, Sc.D., Deputy 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 by regularly measuring and reporting progress toward these goals. . Articulating statewide goals has no impact on creating greater equity in public higher education unless these goals and performance metrics are embraced by the individual colleges and universities and incorporated into their strategic plans. Massachusetts state law therefore charges the BHE and the Secretary of Education with reviewing and approving campus strategic plans. M.G.L. c. 15A, §§9(f), 9(l) and 22(l).

Bunker Hill Community College Planning Process

Touch Point I: On October 21, 2022, Commissioner Santiago and DHE staff met with President Eddinger and members of the BHCC strategic plan steering committee to review the expectations of the BHE for Campus Strategic Plans, which included the changes to the committee structure and the review process approved in June 2022. BHCC asked procedural questions regarding the timeline and sequence for planning purposes. BHCC indicated that several members of the BHCC's Steering Committee are new to the College, and new to the extent and level of planning required in tandem with BHE requirements. DHE staff offered assurances that DHE support is available and accessible throughout the process. A copy of the BHE's June 22 motion related to the process for approving institutions' strategic plans (BHE 22-64) was provided.

President Eddinger reflected that the last plan was almost a traditional business plan and that this time the strategic plan would be centered by the student experience. BHCC will assess and test the student experience, with an eye on the gaze of the student and their experience upon the institution. She noted that this time the institution will stand by the students' side and look with the students. She concluded that equity would also be at the center of the strategic plan and would be a running strand throughout the plan.

Touch Point II: Bunker Hill Community College submitted the Touchpoint II draft plan on February 20, 2024. After a comprehensive DHE staff review, a Touchpoint meeting (virtual) was held on May 3, 2024 with Dean Vallie to provide feedback. DHE staff noted that the plan is clear and takes into account the

institution's mission and characteristics specific to BHCC. The plan discusses the challenges BHCC has faced over the past few years, including COVID-19. DHE staff noted that, in terms of alignment with BHE strategic priorities the plan states that the DHE's New Undergraduate Experience (NUE), Strategic Plan for Racial Equity (SPRE) and the Student Success Framework informed their discussions throughout the planning process, and staff requested more detail for how each theme aligns with BHE priorities. DHE staff also noted that the plan did not elaborate enough about the strategic planning process and requested more detail be included into the plan. BHCC incorporated DHE staff feedback into the final draft of the plan.

Touch Point III: Chief of Staff McDonald submitted the plan to DHE staff on September 6, 2024. The plan was distributed to the members of the Board of Higher Education on October 12, 2024. The plan was approved by Bunker Hill Community College's Board of Trustees in April 2024.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by Bunker Hill Community College at Touch Point II and Touch Point III. Staff recommendation is for BHE approval of the proposed **Bunker Hill Community College Strategic Plan 2024-2029**.