

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

**NO.:** BHE 26-34

**BOARD DATE:** January 13, 2026

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**APPROVAL OF BHE VICE-CHAIR APPOINTMENT**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education (BHE) By-Laws require the BHE to annually review and renew the appointment of the BHE's Vice-Chair.

For the remainder of fiscal year 2026 (AY2025-2026) and for fiscal year 2027 (AY2026-2027) the BHE approves the appointment of Harneen Chernow as BHE Vice-Chair.

**VOTED:** Motion was adopted by the BHE on 1/13/2026.

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 membership. *BHE Motion 21-49.*

With regard to the Vice-Chair of the BHE, the 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).* Chair Gabrieli recommends that the BHE approve the reappointment of Harneen Chernow as BHE Vice-Chair, the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 (AY2025-2026), and for Fiscal Year 2027 (AY2026-2027).