

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

NO.: BHE 27-16

BOARD DATE: September 29, 2026

**RATIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF EARLY COLLEGE JOINT COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education (BHE) ratifies and approves Chair Gabrieli's appointment of Board Member Margorie Ringrose as a member of the Early College Joint Committee, which is a joint committee of the BHE and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

VOTED: Motion adopted by the BHE on 9/29/2026.

Authority: BHE By-Laws Article I, Sections 3(d)-(e) and Article III, Section 4 (as amended, June 22, 2021); BHE 17-06.

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 Board 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 21-49](#) With regard to Committee membership, the BHE By-Laws provide the BHE Chair with the authority "to appoint and remove, subject to the approval of the Board and subject to Board annual review and renewal, the Vice Chairperson, committee members, and advisory council members, and to appoint and remove task forces of the Board of Higher Education as in his/her discretion he/she may from time to time determine necessary." *BHE By Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) (emphasis added)*.

The Early College Joint Committee (ECJC) is a joint committee of the BHE and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). The ECJC was established via a joint resolution passed by both the BHE and BESE during a joint meeting held on January 24, 2017. *See BHE 17-06*. That joint resolution establishes the membership of the ECJC as comprising of five members as follows:

- the BHE Chair;
- the BESE Chair;
- one member of the BHE appointed by the Chair of the BHE;
- one member of the BESE appointed by the Chair of the BESE; and
- the Secretary of Education.

BHE Chair Gabrieli has served on the ECJC since its creation. Regarding the second seat reserved for a BHE member, that seat has been vacant for some time with Chair Gabrieli appointing temporary successor members, as needed, pursuant to his authority in the By-Laws to fill vacancies. *See BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(e)*. Most recently, on or about September 2, 2026—and in anticipation of an upcoming ECJC meeting-- Chair Gabrieli appointed BHE Member Margorie Ringrose to fill the current BHE seat vacancy on the ECJC, pursuant to Section 3(e) of the By-Laws.

BHE Chair Gabrieli now seeks to appoint BHE Member Margorie Ringrose as a permanent member of the ECJC. Accordingly, through this motion, Chair Gabrieli

seeks BHE ratification and approval of his appointment of Margorie Ringrose as an ECJC member, pursuant to BHE By Laws, Article I, Section 3(d).