SUMMARY OF MEETING

A meeting of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Trustees’ Association (MCCTA) was held in the North Cafe at Mount Wachusett Community College on Monday, May 12, 2014.

I. Meeting Convenes and Introductions:
At 4:30 p.m., Ms. Tina Sbrega, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Mount Wachusett Community College and President of the MCCTA, called the meeting to order. Trustee Sbrega thanked all for attending and went over the value that the MCCTA provides and the dynamic roles that it serves for community college trustees in Massachusetts: “a forum for education, communication, and exchanging information.” She continued to describe the great working relationship that the MCCTA has with the Department of Higher Education’s OTR (Office of Trustee Relations) and the collaborative work they do together. She gave an overview of the meeting’s agenda, and specifically mentioned the interesting presentation that Andy Obuchowski would provide on “IT Security in Higher Education.” Trustee Sbrega finished by mentioning a template that she and Jennifer Perkins of the OTR were to send out to trustee board chairs to help with the annual presidential evaluation process.

II. Approval of Minutes:
Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the May 12, 2014 Minutes were approved as presented.

III. MCCTA Student Leadership Awards:
Trustee Sbrega mentioned the important and critical role that student trustees provide their institutions: “Their insight helps serve the collective community college mission to students; to acknowledge the valuable contributions, the MCCTA presents the annual Student Leadership Awards to the community college student trustees.” 7 Student Trustees were present and received awards by their board chair or college president. Trustee Sbrega again thanked all the student trustees for their service.

IV. Presentation and Discussion: “IT Security in Higher Education:” Andrew P. Obuchowski, Director of Security and Privacy Services, McGladrey LLP
Trustee Sbrega then introduced Andrew Obuchowski from McGladrey LLP to present on “IT Security in Higher Education.” She gave an overview of Mr. Obuchowski’s background in data breaches and more than 20 years of experience. Mr. Obuchowski began by defining what a “data breach” is and how although this issue is timely based on national news, there are many things to consider in order to protect organizations and institutions. He continued by providing relevant statistics on data breaches and appropriate approaches to respond. Mr. Obuchowski stated that to mitigate costs and risks, it was important to be fully prepared ("It’s a matter of when, not if") and to
encourage “data segregation.” He then opened up the conversation for questions that members had specific to IT security within the scope of the fiduciary responsibilities of boards, etc. Trustee Sbrega thanked Mr. Obuchowski for his insight on an extremely timely issue for trustees and presidents.

V. **BHE Segmental Representative Report: Stacey DeBoise Luster, Chair of the Quinsigamond Community College Board of Trustees**

Trustee Sbrega introduced Trustee Stacey DeBoise Luster, Board Chair at Quinsigamond Community College and BHE Segmental Representative to the Board of Higher Education. She reminded the members that Stacey was elected to this role by the board chairs in December 2013. Trustee Luster thanked Trustee Sbrega, and described some of the recent topics at the Board of Higher Education: the civic learning policy, campus strategic plans, building naming guidelines, PACE. She then opened the floor for any questions from MCCTA members. Trustee Sbrega thanked Trustee Luster for her thoughtful remarks, and stated that dinner is now served. She then directed MCCTA members to get food and return to their seats and then Bill Hart would begin his report shortly.

VI. **Executive Officer’s Report: Bill Hart, Executive Officer, Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office (MCCEO)**

Trustee Sbrega then introduced Bill Hart, the Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office (MCCEO) to offer remarks on the FY15 state budget and other initiatives. Mr. Hart thanked MCCTA President Sbrega for the introduction. Mr. Hart mentioned that the community colleges were going to work together as a consortium to apply for Round IV of the US DOL TAACCCT Grant. His office would write the grant and work as a central point to obtain this large federal funding. Mr. Hart reminded that as a follow up on the Boston Foundation’s focus on community college reform, they have provided $50,000 for a position in his office to serve as a “one-stop resource” for training emerging industries in Massachusetts.

Mr. Hart then provided an update on the FY15 state budget. He gave an overview of the increases in the Governor’s and House’s budget recommendations: a $13 million increase to the community colleges through the funding formula, collective bargaining, and crucial funding for other important higher education programs. Mr. Hart mentioned that the State Senate would be deliberating later in the week to provide its proposal of the budget. He confirmed that he held meetings with Senate leadership to review the priorities for the community colleges. The collective bargaining numbers were being closely watched, and there is some concern that the numbers that the Governor and House used for a reserve may not be enough to cover the increases. He continued to describe the budget process and how it may not be clear on the funding that higher education would get for a month or so. Any differences between the House and Senate would have to be reconciled in a Conference Committee. He ensured he would keep MCCTA members updated via the E-News Flash.

VII. **Treasurer’s Report: Dr. Carole Cowan, President of Middlesex Community College**

Trustee Sbrega thanked Bill for his report, and invited Dr. Carole Cowan up to present her report. President Cowan, the MCCTA Treasurer, provided her report and an update on the FY14 MCCTA budget to date and a proposed FY15 budget. She told the members that the Association allocated a budget of $35,325 for FY14, with estimated expenses totaling $34,957. The balance forward projected would be $18,198. The proposed budget for FY15 would total $37,744. President Cowan then recommended an assessment of $2000 per campus for FY15 to provide an adequate reserve for the
Association. President Cowan reminded members that dues were not assessed for FY13, and that they have historically been as high as $4500. To date, all FY14 dues had been paid by each college.

*Upon a Motion duly made and seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report, the motion carried with 26 Yays and 1 Abstention.*

VIII. New Business:

- **Assessment of FY15 Dues**
  Trustee Sbrega thanked Dr. Cowan for her report. In reference to her report’s recommendation, Trustee Sbrega asked if there was a motion to set the FY15 dues at $2000 per college.

  *Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, there was a proposal to set the FY15 dues at $2000 per college. This motion carried, with 20 Yays, 1 Nay, 2 Abstentions.*

IX. **Report of the Nominating Committee:**

Trustee Sbrega then brought up that the MCCTA By-Laws state that the Association must elect its officers every two years at the Spring Meeting. The current officers were:

**President** – Trustee Tina Sbrega  
**Vice President** – President Dan Asquino  
**Treasurer** – President Carole Cowan  
**Secretary** – Trustee Fernando Garcia

Trustee Sbrega then reminded members that to find prospective officers, per the By-Laws, there is a nominating committee that meets and discusses candidates to recommend to the Association biennially on the floor of the Spring Meeting. This year, the chair of the Nominating Committee is Trustee Stacey DeBoise Luster, trustee board chair from Quinsigamond Community College and BHE Segmental Representative. Trustee Sbrega then invited Trustee Luster up to offer the report of the Nominating Committee. Trustee Luster thanked Trustee Sbrega and discussed her conversation with the other members of the Nominating Committee. She recognized the other three members: Trustee Royall Mack – Middlesex CC; President Pam Eddinger – Bunker Hill CC; President John Sbrega – Bristol CC. Trustee Luster mentioned that the committee met via conference call and discussed the necessary strategic vision and leadership that MCCTA officers should convey. She cited that after a thoughtful discussion, the Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for MCCTA officers: “for president, Tina Sbrega, Mount Wachusett Community College; for vice president, Dr. Daniel Asquino, Mount Wachusett Community College; for treasurer, Dr. Carole Cowan, Middlesex Community College; and for Secretary, Fernando Garcia, Bristol Community College.”

- **Election of MCCTA Officers**
  Trustee Sbrega returned to the podium. She mentioned that the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates. Trustee Sbrega stated that additional nominations were open from the floor, and asked if there were any additional nominations for each of the four officer positions. No further nominations were presented.
Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, there was a proposal to elect the following candidates as a slate for MCCTA officers: “for president, Tina Sbrega, Mount Wachusett Community College; for vice president, Dr. Daniel Asquino, Mount Wachusett Community College; for treasurer, Dr. Carole Cowan, Middlesex Community College; and for Secretary, Fernando Garcia, Bristol Community College.” The motion carried, with 26 Yays and 1 Nay.

X. Old Business:
Trustee Sbrega entertained any questions from MCCTA members, and if there was any old business to discuss. Several trustees made announcements in relation to their boards.

Trustee Sbrega thanked the members and the guests at the meeting. In her closing remarks, Trustee Sbrega mentioned that in a new two-year term, there will be a new MCCTA Executive Committee. There will be openings for two trustees, and any interested members should contact Dave Koffman with their interest.

XI. Adjournment:
With no further items to come before the Association, there was a motion for adjournment duly made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koffman
Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office