FALL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014 at QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUMMARY OF MEETING

A meeting of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Trustees’ Association (MCCTA) was held in the 109 A&B of the Harrington Learning Center at Quinsigamond Community College on Monday, December 8, 2014.

I. Meeting Convenes and Introductions:
At 4:35 p.m., Ms. Tina Sbrega, President of the MCCTA and Chair of the Board of Trustees at Mount Wachusett Community College, called the meeting to order. Trustee Sbrega thanked all for making it to the meeting and informed the members that the Attorney General-elect, Maura Healey, unfortunately had a last minute scheduling conflict and sends her personal regrets for not being able to attend. She did stress that she would like to join the MCCTA at a future meeting. Trustee Sbrega then focused on the overarching role that the MCCTA has to serve community college trustees. She mentioned many of the major topics and recent changes on many minds: the recent “9C” mid-year spending cuts by the Patrick administration, the looming retirement of Commissioner Richard Freeland, a new Governor and administration in January, and the furthering of many Vision Project goals.

Trustee Sbrega also thanked Jennifer Perkins from the Office of Trustee Relations for joining the meeting. She then mentioned the recent passing of Trustee Fernando Garcia after a courageous battle. Trustee Garcia served as the MCCTA Secretary. She also used the time to recognize the members of the MCCTA Executive Committee.

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

III. Remarks:
Trustee Sbrega introduced Dr. Gail Carberry, President of Quinsigamond Community College and current Chair of the Community Colleges Council of Presidents to offer remarks on behalf of her colleagues and Quinsigamond Community College. President Carberry mentioned the recent Public Higher Education Commission created by the legislature and the many recommendations it had for further investment in higher education. She brought up the concerns many now have on declining enrollments and the challenges that campuses will face in the next decade. She also mentioned that there needs to continue to be a focus in lowering the overall cost of a degree and how to advance students on a faster track towards a baccalaureate education.
IV. **Board of Higher Education 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 Segmental Representative to the Board of Higher Education (BHE). Trustee Luster thanked Trustee Sbrega and described some of the recent topics at the BHE: the Commissioner Search Committee and selection process, the building naming rights policy, campus strategic planning, and revisions in campus Affirmative Action policies.

She then passed out copies of the recent policy priorities of the Board of Higher Education. She opened the floor for any questions from MCCTA members. Trustee Sbrega thanked Trustee Luster for her thoughtful remarks and stated that dinner is served. She then directed MCCTA members to get food and return to their seats and then Bill Hart would begin his report shortly.

V. **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 final FY15 state budget and other statewide initiatives. Mr. Hart thanked Trustee Sbrega for the introduction. Mr. Hart updated members on the significant savings that the PACE initiative has tallied to date, recently highlighted in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) Vision Project report. He also referred to the DHE’s recent budget request for FY16, where Commissioner Freeland’s office advocates for investments in the funding formula that the college presidents work with him on. He emphasized that the DHE request would now go to a new administration, where although the Commonwealth faces another tight budget, officials in the transition team have been extremely receptive to community college priorities. Furthermore, Mr. Hart discussed the many successes of the FY15 state budget, despite the recent 9C budget cuts in November by the Patrick administration.

Mr. Hart added that the fifteen community colleges were successfully awarded $20M in consortium funding during the recent Round IV of the US DOL TAACCCT Grant. His office wrote the grant and the funding was the one of the highest awarded grants in the country. He also notified the members that Ken Tashjy, General Counsel, has been working with the Board of Higher Education on updating affirmative action policies on the campuses. He finished by announcing the dates of the February ACCT meeting in Washington, D.C. and the dates of the “League for Innovation in the Community Colleges” national conference that his office will be co-hosting from March 8-11, 2015.

Trustee Sbrega recognized Jennifer Perkins again and invited her up to inform the members of any new information from the DHE Office of Trustee Relations. Ms. Perkins briefly went over the BHE dashboards and announced she was looking for additional feedback. She then mentioned the Inspector General’s report and the AGB report, and made sure trustees knew that she was available if anyone had any questions.

VI. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Trustee Sbrega thanked Bill for his report, and mentioned that Dr. Cowan also had a last minute conflict on her campus that prevented her from being present. She mentioned that Dave Koffman from MCCEO would be happy to give an update on the
budget. Mr. Koffman gave an update on the MCCTA budget over the past year. He told the members that in FY14 the Association had $30,655 as a prior balance forward, or reserve, from FY13 and had revenue of $22,500 via assessments ($1,500 per campus) for a grand total of $53,155 in revenue. With FY14 expenses at $35,176, the balance forward going into FY15 would be $17,979.

He added that in FY15, $30,000 was received from campuses through assessments ($2,000 per campus) and with the prior balance forward, total revenue would total $47,979. With expenses projected at $37,744, the estimated balance going forward would be $10,236.

Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the report was approved unanimously as presented.

VII. Trustee Forum:
Trustee Sbrega mentioned that in order to engage with community college trustees, she wanted to provide a forum for general discussion on salient and timely trustee issues.

- **MCCTA Trustee Survey**
  Trustee Sbrega described the trustee survey that the MCCTA Executive Committee developed to share feedback and help shape the vision of the MCCTA. It is also available online, but members present were encouraged to submit the hard copy. Results would be announced at a later date.

- **“25% Rule”**
  Several trustees from a member campus had submitted this discussion item due to a concern over the “25% rule.” The “rule” refers to a subsection of Massachusetts law guiding college foundations. General Counsel Ken Tashjy provided brief remarks on the history, context, and new updates for the MCCTA members. He mentioned the restrictive language over the use of college staff and the problems when referring to the overall duties of certain college employees. He described his ongoing work with the General Counsel’s office at DHE has helped alleviate some concerns. He cited the good faith effort to work on MOUs with foundation boards and ways to describe baseline duties of foundation employees. Although he brought up some of the ongoing challenges, he was confident that the work that the colleges are doing with DHE will ease concerns in the long run.

VIII. Old Business:
Trustee Sbrega entertained any questions from MCCTA members, and asked if there was any old business to discuss. Hearing none, Trustee Sbrega thanked the members and the guests at the meeting.

IX. 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 6:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koffman
Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office