SPRING MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015 at BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUMMARY OF MEETING

A meeting of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Trustees’ Association (MCCTA) was held in the Mary L. Fifield Gallery at Bunker Hill Community College on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

I. Meeting Convenes and Introductions:
At 5:35 p.m., Ms. Stacey DeBoise Luster, the Segmental Representative to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) and Board Chair at Quinsigamond Community College called the Spring Meeting to order. She mentioned that Ms. Tina Sbrega, President of the MCCTA and Chair of the Board of Trustees at Mount Wachusett Community College, had a last minute conflict at work and sent her regrets for being unable to make it. Ms. Luster mentioned that Trustee Sbrega had asked for her to handle her duties of hosting for the duration of the meeting.

Trustee Luster then restated the MCCTA’s role of serving community college trustees. She described the recent MCCTA survey that was linked on the MCCTA webpage, and hoped that anyone who hasn’t filled it out yet to do so. Ms. Luster announced the new changes since the last meeting, with a new administration, new leadership in the Legislature, and the recent 9C spending reductions and current FY16 state budget process. Trustee Luster also wanted to be sure to thank President Eddinger and Trustee Board Chair Marita Rivero of Bunker Hill Community College for hosting the event at BHCC. She then referenced that Jennifer Perkins from the Office of Trustee Relations was also in attendance. Finally, she said she was additionally excited to honor student trustees through the MCCTA Student Leadership Awards.

II. Remarks:
Trustee Luster then introduced Mr. James Peyser, the new Secretary of Education under Governor Baker. Secretary Peyser thanked Ms. Luster for the kind introduction and made several announcements. He mentioned that they were down to the finalists in the search for the new Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education. He also made reference to the new Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, Chris Gabrieli.

Secretary Peyser continued by recognizing the importance of the community colleges as the “lynchpins” of the higher education system and the Baker administration. He went on to mention specifically how vital the roles of trustees are to an efficient and high-quality system. He went over a few different priorities of the new administration, including lowering the cost of obtaining a degree, improving completion rates, increasing online learning, and accelerating remediation and completion times. Secretary Peyser also noted the crucial role that community colleges have in the
workforce development system. He finished by providing that the community colleges were a high priority for future state budget funding and capital expenditures by the Baker Administration. Secretary Peyser then opened the discussion up for any questions from the members.

III. **MCCTA Student Leadership Awards:**
Trustee Luster thanked Secretary Peyser for his remarks and helpful information. She continued by mentioning the important and critical role that student trustees have in representing the student voice on community college boards, and that their insight helps serve the collective community college mission in Massachusetts; providing access to high-quality and affordable higher education. She persisted by saying that the MCCTA acknowledges their valuable contributions and service to their campuses each year with the annual Student Leadership Awards.

Trustee Luster invited Secretary Peyser back up to help present each student trustee with their Student Leadership Award. Each student trustee was introduced by Ms. Luster and was presented with an award. After each student trustee received their recognition, they collectively took a picture with Trustee Luster and Secretary Peyser.

Trustee Luster mentioned that she was happy that these students from so many different backgrounds were able to be here to showcase the important work our campuses do, and the incredible students in which they serve. Trustee Luster then mentioned that she was going to continue on with the rest of the meeting’s business.

IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
Trustee Luster asked for a motion to approve the MCCTA Fall Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2014.

*Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the December 8, 2014 MCCTA Fall Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously as presented.*

V. **Board of Higher Education Segmental Representative Report: Stacey DeBoise Luster, Chair of the Quinsigamond Community College Board of Trustees:**
Trustee Luster cited that it was now time for her report as segmental representative on the Board of Higher Education (BHE). She described some of the recent topics at the BHE: presidential evaluations, the funding formula, and the Commissioner Search Committee. She went on to describe the type of candidate for Commissioner that the Search Committee was looking for. She opened the floor for any questions from MCCTA members on BHE matters.

VI. **Remarks:**
Trustee Luster then 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 her college. She mentioned the many new developments in Massachusetts: a new administration, many new Presidents, and several new trustees. President Carberry then discussed the many efforts that the 15 community college presidents have made collectively to look at ways to improve student success and advocate for investments in community college students. She mentioned the recent work that several community colleges did in partnership with state universities to market a “$30k baccalaureate degree.” She continued by focusing on declining enrollments and the challenges that campuses will face in addressing future enrollment concerns. Dr. Carberry mentioned that there needs to be a comprehensive effort to lower the overall cost of a degree to allow
Massachusetts residents to jump on a path to home ownership. She finished by underlining how crucial continued partnerships with K-12, vocational schools, and other public and private institutions were in strengthening an affordable and successful higher education system.

VII. Executive Officer's Report: Bill Hart, Executive Officer, Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office (MCCEO):
Trustee Luster then introduced Bill Hart, the Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office (MCCEO) to offer remarks on the state budget and other statewide initiatives. Mr. Hart thanked Trustee Luster for the introduction. Mr. Hart updated members on the progress of the state budget: mentioning that the House passed a budget just a few weeks prior, and that the Senate would be debating the FY16 state budget in the coming weeks. The House funded the base appropriations of the campuses and provided a modest increase in funding formula dollars. He alluded to the importance of this budget with the recent two rounds of 9C cuts affecting the campuses and also DHE programs.

Mr. Hart described the recent Workforce Skills Cabinet that Governor Baker had put together for which Secretary Peyser and Secretary Walker both serve. He went on to describe the work that his office has done to showcase services for veterans on community college campuses by organizing tours for new Secretary of Veterans Affairs Francisco Urena. He noted that the bill he worked on with Chairman Sannicandro of the Higher Education Committee to target workforce development for TANF recipients was refiled at the beginning of the legislation session. He was hopeful of the bill’s chances by the support it had received by members in the House and Senate. Mr. Hart also touched on the recent national conference that his office helped host in March with the League for Innovation in the Community College. He noted that he would continue to keep trustees informed via E-Flash of developments on the FY16 budget as it passes through the Senate and eventually to the Governor’s desk.

VIII. Treasurer’s Report:
Trustee Luster thanked Bill for his report, and mentioned that Dave Koffman from MCCEO would be happy to give an update on the budget on behalf of Trustee Sbrega.

Mr. Koffman reminded that Dr. Carole Cowan, former MCCTA Treasurer and President of Middlesex Community College had retired a few months earlier, and that Dr. James Mabry was the new president of Middlesex Community College. Mr. Koffman gave a budget update on behalf of Trustee Tina Sbrega, went over the MCCTA budget information for FY15 and provided Ms. Sbrega’s recommendation for FY16.

He told the members that in FY14, the MCCTA budget expenses totaled $35,176. With a Prior Balance Forward of $30,655 and an assessment of $1,500 per campus, the balance forward, or reserve into FY15 was $17,979.

He added that the FY15 expenses were now projected to total around $32,000. With a balance forward of $17,979 from FY14 and an assessment of $2,000 per campus, the balance forward projected at the end of FY15 would be approximately $15,978.

With $15,978 projected as a reserve heading into FY16, he stated that Trustee Sbrega and the Executive Committee determined that most appropriate assessment for FY16 to provide a modest reserve for the budget would be $2,000 per campus. With $15,978 and $30,000 from assessments, the balance forward for the MCCTA going forward would be approximately $7,137.
Trustee Luster thanked Mr. Koffman for the information and asked for a motion to approve the report as presented.

Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, the report was approved with a vote of 26 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 1 Absention.

IX. New Business:

- **Assessment of FY16 Dues**
  In reference to Trustee Tina Sbrega’s recommendation, Trustee Luster asked if there was a motion to set the FY16 dues at $2000 per college.

  Upon a Motion duly made and seconded, there was a proposal to set the FY16 dues at $2000 per college. This motion carried with unanimous support.

X. Old Business:
Trustee Luster entertained any questions from MCCTA members, and asked if there was any old business to discuss. Trustee Chemelli made an announcement to introduce Middlesex Community College’s new president, Dr. James Mabry.

XI. Adjournment:
Trustee Luster made closing remarks and thanked all attendees and all student trustees who were able to join to showcase their hard work.

With no further items to come before the Association, there was a motion for adjournment duly made and seconded which carried with unanimous support.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

David Koffman
Massachusetts Community Colleges Executive Office