

MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT  
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019  
PLYMOUTH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
134 COURT STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA  
*Approved September 18, 2019*

Attendees: Bonnie Blackler, Thomas Carroll, Eshita Chakrabarti, Deborah Enos, Gena Glickman, Robert Harnais, Marilyn MacDonald, Ann Sullivan

Absent: Craig Andrade, Eval Silvera, Cindy Mack

Call to Order

Roll call vote to open the meeting:

Chair Harnais – yes  
Vice Chair Carroll – yes  
Secretary Sullivan – yes  
Trustee Blackler – yes  
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes  
Trustee Enos – yes  
Trustee MacDonald – yes

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

Conference Center Update and Discussion

Chair Harnais requested the agenda be taken out of order to begin discussions about the conference center. Vice Chair Carroll provided some background about how the decision to close the conference center was made advising that it was due to budgetary considerations when the college was facing a \$5 million budget shortfall. At the time, the Board agreed that the closure of the conference center, among other strategies, was a prudent measure in closing the budget gap. Discussion continued about the optics of having a dormant building with the name Massasoit in a high-traffic area near the campus. The Trustees agreed that all Massasoit signage should be removed from the conference center. President Glickman advised that the signage would be removed promptly.

Community Engagement Discussion

President Glickman advised that she had been asked to be the lead facilitator for the Brockton Partnership, a group dedicated to furthering economic development in the City of Brockton. The group is led by Bob Rivers, Chair and CEO of Eastern Bank. Dr. Glickman advised that this is a very positive step to achieving one of the Board's goals "build ties with the community, k-12, local business, political leaders and potential donors". This partnership between Massasoit and the Brockton Partnership was facilitated by the Mayor of Brockton, Bill Carpenter. Secretary Sullivan inquired about the membership and requested to attend one of the upcoming meetings.

Bylaws Review

Trustee Sullivan led the discussion and reviewed suggestions to the existing bylaws. The Bylaw Review Committee has made the following change recommendations for consideration by the Board of Trustees: Article I – Section 2: change language to reflect the appointment of the Chair by the Governor, update the language for the election process; Section 3: remove item E (appointment of a parliamentarian). Discussion ensued regarding the need for a Parliamentarian – the Trustees agreed to strike the language from the bylaws. Regarding Article I – Section 6, the committee recommended the removal of the

assistant secretary position as well as removing the Parliamentary position (Article I – Section 7). Changes to Article II - Section 1: Annual and Regular Meetings: the Trustees discussed the frequency of the regular meetings and suggested the number be reduced. Chair Harnais advised that he had surveyed a number of the college’s sister institutions and noted that most boards met seven times per year. The Trustees agreed to reduce the number of regular meetings from ten per year to seven. Article II – Section 2: update the language to include electronic mail. Article II – Section 4: Agenda of Regular Board Meetings: update the language to include the Consent Agenda, Chairperson’s Report, Student Trustee’s Report, Elected Alumni Trustee’s Report, and Foundation Report. Article II – Section 6: Open Meeting Laws – update this section to the most recent Open Meeting Laws. Article II – Section 7 – subsection 2: update language regarding new items raised at Board meetings to reflect “[new items] may be discussed as time permits, tabled for further discussion or referred to the appropriate committee or administrator”. Article II – Section 7 – subsection 3 – item C: amend language to “The Chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the President, will review all trustee(s)’ requests for College information, other than financial or personnel related, and make an appropriate determination, and give a written response to the trustee(s) with an explanation of their determination. Article I – Section 8 (Remote Participation) update the language to reflect most recent language reflected in the Open Meeting Laws. Article III – Section 1: Standing Committees – update language to reflect name change to the Audit and Finance Committee. Article III – Section 5 (Powers and Duties of Standing Committees): update language to include new Audit and Finance Committee powers and duties. Article III – Section 5 – subsection C (Nominating Committee) – remove nominating committee. Additionally, under the same section update job titles. Article IV – Section 3 (Code of Ethics for Trustees) – subsection F: update the language to reflect the following: “A trustee will not negotiate on behalf of the College regarding operational issues when approached by an organization, outside vendor, or employee of the college. The Trustee will refer these matters to the President of the college or the President’s designee”.

Additional changes and updates to the bylaws were discussed reviewing the document to reflect gender neutral language, include the code of ethics in each board packet, include a review of the state ethics and conflict of interest policy at the Annual Board of Trustees meeting, add a section to the agenda for public comments and update the board packet to the internal college website just prior to the call to order at each regularly scheduled meeting.

#### Agenda Items and Scheduling Future Board Meetings

Tabled

#### Overview of Trusteeship

Kenneth Tashjy, General Counsel for the Massachusetts Community Colleges, gave a presentation on Trusteeship in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as it relates to higher education. Mr. Tashjy discussed the history; current public higher education governance structure; local Board’s duties and authorities; delegation of authority to the President of the institution; immunity and indemnity protections; open meeting law; public records law; state ethics law; and college foundations.

#### Presidential Goals

Dr. Glickman reviewed the presidential goals outlined in the retreat packet. Discussion ensued regarding the addition of metrics where applicable and including language incorporating equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the curriculum.

**A motion was made by Vice Chair Carroll and Seconded by Trustee Chakrabarti to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

Prepared by:



Lydia B. Camara  
Chief of Staff



Ann Sullivan  
Secretary, Board of Trustees