

**MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025
Student Upper Lounge
Brockton, MA
6:00 p.m.
*Approved February 19, 2025***

Attendees: Tom Carroll, Bonnie Blackler, Eshita Chakrabarti, Kacey Hilton-Gilleo, Carl Kowalski, Laura Lawson, Kate Welch

Absent: Jim Dunphy, Steve Murphy, Eval Silvera,

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti - yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

Chairman's Report

Chair Carroll wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The college's goals are laid out in our strategic plan which President Mitchell will discuss in his report. 2025 will be the year that we will exceed our expectations through enrollment growth, transformation through renovation project and focus on the Canton & Middleborough site and meet the needs of the students and the community. The Chair of our Foundation, Robert Terravecchia, will join us at a future meeting. They have been working closely together with a focus on fundraising internships, student learning opportunities, and deepening our alumni connections. The Consent Agenda, which is on every agenda, includes minutes from our last meeting, All College Purpose Trust Fund report, Human Resources report and a Police report. Chair Carroll encouraged the Trustees to look through the minutes and the reports for the Consent Agenda. Chair Carroll is pleased to have Professor Kenneth Anania at the meeting and to hear about the history of the College. Chair Carroll added that Dr. Ruben Barato has taken on a new opportunity and will leave the college. He has done a terrific job and will be missed.

President's Report

Interim President Mitchell welcomed President Emeritus, Dr. Charlie Wall and Professor Kenn Anania to the meeting. He wished Dr. Ruben Barato all the best in the Connecticut Community College system and thanked him for his service to our students. Ruben had a tremendous positive impact on the institution. In the interim, Ms. Jessica Correia, Executive Director of Enrollment Management will report to Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield and Mr. Joseph Harris, Associate Dean for Student Success, will report to Interim President Mitchell. Both have stepped up and will lead the division until we have a replacement. The search for the Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management will begin soon. The Evening of Champions event, which will honor Carol Bulman, CEO Jack Conway, will be held on Thursday, May 15 as a reception from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Ms. Bulman recently connected Interim President Mitchell with Father Bills who are building a new facility in Brockton that will house individuals both short and long term. This facility will have a health and education component. Our Education and Training Fund, led by Dr. Pamela Witcher, will look at offering 10 -12-week certificate programs at their site. Our Legislative Breakfast has been scheduled for Monday, March 3 from 9 – 10:30 a.m. This breakfast will allow us to talk about free community college and the impact that it has had. As we keep pace with the surge of students, staffing has become a concern, and we will address this through the FY26-budget process. The headcount as of today compared to this time last year is up 30%. We are currently half the size we were

before the pandemic and the demographic cliff. We are starting to see our headcount climb back up. Our fall 2024 semester ended with 4,800 students. The current spring semester is 4,160. It is common to see a decline in headcount from fall to spring. We are currently 1 week away from the start of the semester so our spring numbers will grow. Our growth for part-time students is a 37.9% increase. A part-time student must be enrolled in at least six credits for free community college. Michelle Badger, who was our Vice President of Advancement has been elected to the State House as a State Representative representing the 1st district in Plymouth. We will replace that role with a Vice President of External Relations which will oversee Marketing and Communications, Public and Government Relations, Advancement and Grants. Ms. Margaret Downey, Director of Advancement, has taken on additional responsibilities and recently received a \$10,000 grant from Boston Life Insurance. Mr. Zach Snyder, Special Program Coordinator Health & Wellness, received notification that Massasoit has been selected to host Send Silence Packing. This is a powerful award-winning exhibit which seeks to end the silence that surrounds mental illness and suicide. This impactful exhibit is only bestowed to the honor of 60 to 80 institutions. Interim President Mitchell thanked Zach for bringing forward this difficult subject. Our most recent state nursing pass rate was 92%. We have been named Community Partner of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South. Interim President Mitchell will accept this award at their Bids for Kids Gala on Friday, April 11 at Gillette Stadium. We recently consulted AACRAO (Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) to document all the ways that students come to Massasoit. The report has been completed and handed back to the staff to validate the information and to make recommendations on how we remove barriers to students. Interim President Mitchell recently spoke to the Middleborough Select Board. They are excited to hear that Massasoit is reinvesting in Middleborough. Dean Karyn Boutin will head up the Middleborough site and develop a plan for the Fall of 2025. We will continue to look at additional programs and strengthen our presence in Canton. The Future of Workforce Institute continues making partnerships. We recently got a \$20,000 grant for apprenticeships. We will also implement the recently signed agreement with the Commissioner of Probation, Pamerson Ifill, for workforce training. We will be holding a summit with President Clark and his colleagues from Bridgewater State University to create transfer pathways for our students. Interim President Mitchell recently met with the UMASS Dartmouth Chancellor and Provost to discuss transfer pathways for our students. Since that meeting there are now six more pathways from Massasoit to UMASS Dartmouth. He also met with President Mary Grant and Chief Academic Officer, Brenda Molife, to partner with MASS Art. We have completed the first phase of the Academic Affairs realignment. The next phase is the assessment.

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Hilton-Gilleo stated that the Board of Higher Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25. The Student Advisory Council (SAC) will meet on Thursday, February 13. The Student Senate will meet on January 22 and are happy to welcome Mr. Joseph Harris as their co-advisor for the semester. A Senate recruitment event is scheduled in Brockton on January 22 and in Canton on January 28. Student Life is excited to have their first meeting about the engagement platform campus groups.

MCC Foundation Report

The Foundation Report was given by Interim President Mitchell. The Foundation Board of Directors meeting was held on January 8. The discussion included the Evening of Champions and asked the Foundation members to outreach and to introduce new people to Massasoit. We also discussed a mentorship program for our students. The Foundation is a separate 501c for accounting reasons only.

Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Trustee Kowalski and seconded by Trustee Blackler to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti - yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Title IX Update by Ameer Synnott, J.D., Title IX & Compliance Officer

Ms. Ameer Synnott, J.D., Title IX & Compliance Officer, explained that it is her job to ensure that the College complies with all relevant anti-discrimination laws. The Board of Higher Education created a policy on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Diversity (PAA) that applies to Massasoit and all other Massachusetts community colleges. The PAA brings together all relevant state and federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title IX. Signed into law by President Nixon in 1972, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender at all educational institutions that receive federal funding, which is virtually all K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. The Department of Education has issued thousands of pages of regulations that evolved over the decades to include various forms of sexual harassment. Usually, a new federal executive administration thoroughly revises the regulations and guidance through the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. To help remain current on these ever-changing rules, all the community college Title IX coordinators meet monthly with a lawyer from the General Counsel's office. Ms. Synnott noted that anti-discrimination laws align closely with Massasoit's mission as they ensure that vulnerable populations do not face unfair barriers when trying to access education.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees award Massasoit Community College Professor Emeritus status to Kenneth Anania, by William Mitchell, Interim President (vote needed).

Professor Catherine Boudreau began with an overview of the community college system in Massachusetts. Massasoit Community College became the 4th community college in Massachusetts in 1966. Kenneth Anania was among one of our first students to attend college at MCC and graduated in the first class of 1968. This began Kenn's fifty years at the college. Mr. Anania came back to Massasoit in 1971 to ask Dr. Musselman, the President at the time, to hire him to teach English since he was a Massasoit graduate and recently completed his master's degree. In the fall of 1971 Mr. Anania became a Professor of English at MCC where he remained for 48 years. Mr. Anania was instrumental in the launch of the LATCH program which was replicated across the State. The LATCH programs still flourish today. Mr. Anania was Department English Chair for 7 years. During that time, he developed and restricted curriculum, reworked course descriptions, course objectives, student outcomes, developed and evaluated assessment methods, portfolio and exit exams. He also initiated the qualifying exam for students to demonstrate competency from Comp I to Comp II. Mr. Anania was the 1st President of the MCC Alumni Association. He created the foundation for the future of the alumni association annual dinners. Mr. Anania was on the steering committee for the first gay straight alliance in higher education in Massachusetts. Mr. Anania was involved in the theater doing make-up, acting, and direct performances. One of Mr. Anania's highlights was when the College celebrated its 25th anniversary, The Massasoit Silver Savoy was born, and three Gilbert and Sullivan plays were put on for three years. There were nearly 40 faculty and staff involved, and they covered the entire production from the back of the house to the front. Mr. Anania also became involved and held many positions including President in the Massachusetts Faculty Association which is now known as the Massachusetts Professional Association. Interim President and Chair Carroll thanked Mr. Anania for his dedication and service to Massasoit. Mr. Kenneth Anania added that he is deeply humbled and grateful to accept the distinguished honor of being named Professor Emeritus.

A motion was made by Trustee Welch and seconded by Trustee Blackler to award Massasoit Community College Professor Emeritus status to Kenneth Anania

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti - yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

Public Comments:

Trustee Kowalski, who worked at Massasoit with Mr. Anania, thanked him for his loyalty, kindness and devotion to the LATCH program. Trustee Blackler thanked Mr. Anania for assisting her at the College when she was a student. Numerous faculty and staff shared their stories of working with Mr. Anania and how happy they were that Mr. Anania was named the first Professor Emeritus of Massasoit Community College.

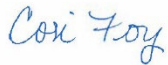
A motion was made by Trustee Lawson and seconded by Trustee Kowalski adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti - yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Kowalski - yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Welch – yes

Recording Secretary

Cori Foy



Board of Trustees, Chair

Thomas E. Carroll

