

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is by and between the Board of Higher Education on behalf of the Massachusetts State Universities (the "Universities") and the Massachusetts State College Association/MTA/NEA (the "Association") (collectively, the "Parties").

WHEREAS, the Parties have a shared commitment to public higher education and the mission of delivering high-quality, accessible and affordable post-secondary educational opportunities for the students of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, the Parties seek to act on this shared commitment in order to further the mission of public higher education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the Parties believe such action may best be accomplished through a joint committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree to the following:

1. The Parties agree to establish a statewide, one-year pilot program consisting of an advocacy committee charged with developing collaborative advocacy practices around the Parties' common goals.
2. The committee shall consist of three (3) unit members, three (3) state university presidents, and three (3) students, the President of the Massachusetts State College Association, and the Executive Director of the State Universities Council of Presidents. To the extent that it is practicable, no university should have more than one representative on this committee, notwithstanding the inclusion of the President of the Massachusetts State College Association.
3. The committee shall develop and execute an advocacy strategy for the state university system that promotes legislation, policies, and funding sources on the state and federal levels that support our institutions and advance student access, success, and well-being. The areas of focus for the committee may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. identifying local, state, and national opportunities that support and promote the mission of our institutions with a focus on increased funding for Massachusetts state colleges and universities; and ensuring that students of all economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds have full and equal access to Massachusetts state colleges and universities;
  - b. increasing public awareness of the issues facing public higher education, particularly in Massachusetts; and
  - c. working collaboratively with other systems of public higher education and constituency groups to organize campus and statewide events with students, faculty, and alumni to expand advocacy initiatives for public education institutions.

4. The committee shall hold its first meeting no later than sixty (60) days after the effective date of this agreement and shall then meet quarterly. Following each meeting, the advocacy strategy may be shared with the Association's Chapter Presidents, the Council of Presidents, and campus constituency groups.
5. The members of the committee shall evaluate the efficacy of the advocacy committee and make recommendations to the Association and Council of Presidents on the utility of establishing a permanent State Universities Advocacy Committee no later than November 15, 2022.
6. If the recommendation of this committee is to continue this work, then this MOU shall remain in effect until June 30, 2023, otherwise this pilot program shall terminate on November 16, 2022.

WHEREFORE the Parties hereto hereunder set their signs and seals as follows:

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION/MSCA

By: Joe Wallerstein  
Joe Wallerstein  
Assistant Commissioner, Administration and Finance  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

Date: 11/16/21

By: Christopher J. O'Donnell  
Christopher J. O'Donnell  
President  
Massachusetts State College Association

Date: 11/1/21

By: James F. Birge  
James F. Birge, Chair  
Council of Presidents  
Date: 11/18/21