STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 | 8:00 – 10:00 A.M. | BY WEBEX

Trustees Present	Rebecca Negreli, Chair; Tobey Choate; Alfonso Hidalgo; Ilissa Povich; Reyad Shah
Staff Members Present	Liz Blumberg, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students; Karen Britton, Executive Director and Board Liaison; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Catherine Gildae, Dean for Institutional Effectiveness; Sue Hamilton, Associate Professor, STEM; Rebecca Heimel, Dean of Teaching & Learning; Courtney Jackson, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost; Nina Keery, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Henry Lopez, Director of End User Services; Nhon Phan, EDP Systems Analyst; David Podell, President; David Protano, Dean of Automotive Technology and STEM; Halye Sugarman, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; Richard Williams, Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

Reyad Shah departed the meeting at 9:30 am.

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Negreli called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum was present.

June 23, 2026, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Choate moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting, and Trustee Hidalgo seconded the motion.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Hidalgo - Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Trustee Shah - YES

MASSBAY BY THE NUMBERS: 2016 COMPARED TO 2026

Vice President Jackson introduced Dean Catherine Gildae, who gave a presentation entitled MassBay by the Numbers: 2016 Compared to 2026, including the following:

*Enrollment Trends, Academic Year 2016 through Academic Year 2026

- Annual unduplicated headcount includes credit and non-credit/workforce students.
- Total enrollment was similar at the endpoints: 8,740 in Academic Year 2016 and 8,877 in Academic Year 2026, an increase of 137 students.
- Enrollment was already declining before COVID-19; the pandemic most directly affected Summer 2020 through Academic Year 2021.
- Enrollment began increasing in Academic Year 2022–2023; MassReconnect launched in Fall 2023, followed by MassEducate the next year.
- Degree-seeking first-time students increased from 1,418 up to 1,540, an increase of 122 students after a drop to 962.
- Transfer-in students increased from 461 to 904, nearly doubling.

*Degree Seeking Enrollment Trends, 2016 through 2026 (by unduplicated headcount)

- Degree-seeking enrollment followed the overall trend and were 640 students higher in Academic Year 2026 than in Academic Year 2016, an increase of about 12%.
- Guest enrollment (i.e., enrollment of non-degree-seeking students) was 403 students lower in Academic Year 2026 than in Academic Year 2016, a decrease of about 15%, but remained above the Academic Year 2022 low point. Guests cannot take advantage of free community college.

*Comparison of Top Academic Programs, 2016 vs. 2026 (ranked by unduplicated headcount)

- General Studies (AS) remained the top academic plan while enrollment declined in Liberal Arts (AA) and General Studies (AA).
- Cyber Security, which was not offered in 2016, ranked seventh in 2026.

President Podell is on the statewide Early Education Advisory Committee and noted that there are fewer requirements for the Early Childhood Education certificate in response to the high demand for childcare workers.

*Detailed View of Pre-Health Students in General Studies (AS), 2016 and 2026 (ranked by unduplicated headcount within subplan)

- Students interested in selective health sciences programs often begin in General Studies while completing prerequisites.
- Pre-nursing remained the largest pre-health group and increased by 115 students, about 20%, since 2016.
- Pre-Radiologic Technology was the second-largest group, growing from 177 students in AY 2016 to 370 in AY 2026, an increase of 110%.

Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) is not listed among the top programs as there are only 30 students per cohort in this program. The program's size is limited by the availability of clinical placement sites and recruitment of faculty to teach in the program. The Associates in Nursing program has doubled in size.

*Degree Level Comparison, Academic Year 2016 and Academic Year 2026 (by unduplicated headcount and percent)

- The share of students seeking an associate degree increased from 60% to 63%.
- The share enrolled in certificate programs increased from 7% to 11%.
- The number and percentage of guest students not seeking a degree or certificate declined.

*Enrollment Status Comparison, Fall 2015 and Fall 2025 (by unduplicated headcount and percent, by term)

Among degree-seeking students, the data show a four-percentage-point shift toward part-time enrollment.

*Age Group Comparison, Fall 2015 and Fall 2025 (by unduplicated headcount and percent)

- Enrollment increased by 35% for students under 18 and by 17% for students age 25 or older.
- Enrollment among students ages 18–24 declined by 6%.

*Dual Enrollment Trends by Term, Academic Year 2016 through Academic Year 2026 (by term and unduplicated headcount)

- Sixty-seven percent of dual enrollment students took one or more courses in a spring term.
- Spring enrollment in dual enrollment classes grew from 79 students in Spring 2016 to 207 in Spring 2026, an increase of 128 students, or 62%.
- Just over 2,000 unique students have participated in dual enrollment overall.

*Enrollment Comparison by Race/Ethnicity, Academic Year 2016 and Academic Year 2026 (by percent of unduplicated headcount)

- The Hispanic or Latino student population increased from 1,172 students, or 15% of enrollment, to 1,957, or 24%.
- This represents 785 more Hispanic or Latino students and 67% growth.

- The Black or African American student population increased from 992 students, or 13% of enrollment, to 1,143, or 14%.
- This represents 151 more Black or African American students and 15% growth.

*Enrollment by Sex, Academic Year 2016 and Academic Year 2026 (by percent of unduplicated headcount)

- Female enrollment increased by 614 students, or 14%.
- Male enrollment decreased by 329 students, or about 10%.
- Students with unknown sex represented about 2% of enrollment in both years.

Enrollment by First Generation Status, Academic Year 2016 and Academic Year 2026 (by percent of unduplicated headcount)

- MassBay continues to enroll many students who are the first in their family to attend college.
- The application question used to collect this information now includes more response options based on student feedback, so the definition and change in collection should be noted.
- The reported first-generation share increased from 13% to 36%, nearly tripling.

Enrollment Comparison by Pell Grant, Academic Year 2016 and AY 2026 (by percent of unduplicated headcount)

- Federal Pell Grants support students with demonstrated financial need and do not require repayment. Students must apply for Pell grants to take advantage of free community college.
- Award eligibility is determined through the FAFSA process using factors including income and family size. MassBay has a contract with UAspire for students to receive help completing the FAFSA.
- Pell funds are applied before MassReconnect and MassEducate funds. The share of degree-seeking students receiving a Pell Grant during the academic year increased from 29% to 41%.

It was suggested that the College look at outcomes data in addition to enrollment data.

AI AND THE CURRICULUM

Vice President Jackson introduced Dean Richard Williams, who gave a presentation entitled AI and the Curriculum, focusing on how MassBay is preparing students to utilize AI upon graduation and the impact of AI to enhance teaching.

At the beginning of last academic year, Dean Williams convened a faculty committee to discuss the impact of AI on the curriculum. Achieving the Dream's "AI Agility for College Learners" helped the committee identify three priorities: practical AI tools and prompt design, collaborative AI partnerships, and development of interpersonal, creative, and critical thinking capabilities.

The committee decided to conduct a survey of the faculty's comfort with and use of AI. Dean Williams shared the survey findings, noting that over a third of faculty reported being very comfortable with AI, while 42% reported being somewhat comfortable. Over half (57%) of faculty reported they had incorporated AI into their courses while 29% had not and 14% reported they planned to do so.

*Changes to the Curriculum

Dean Williams shared examples of how faculty are adapting the curriculum to include AI. One example was recent changes to CS100 Computers and Technology, a course which introduces students to computers and technology. All students are required to take the course unless they test out of it through a challenge exam. The course description has been updated with the addition of "leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and online collaboration tools" to what students learn, ensuring that students have exposure to AI.

Another example of how faculty are incorporating AI into the curriculum is BU104 Introduction to Business Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence. In this new course, students are asked to analyze data and create a visual, one created by themselves and another by AI, and then to compare the two. Students needed to collaborate, partner, verify, and use judgement. It was noted that there were both limitations and positives to the AI versions.

*AI Colloquium - AI Impact on Curriculum and Pedagogy

During this past June, an AI Colloquium was held for faculty. The focus was on AI Impact on Curriculum and Pedagogy, on what and how they teach. The framework provides a basis for considering both curriculum content and instructional methods. Content, program outcomes, and teaching methodology will change for some courses more than others.

One of the tools shared with faculty during the colloquium was the AI Experience Map, a tool for examining assignments according to their complexity and level of AI involvement. This framework can help faculty intentionally design or evaluate AI-related learning experiences.

*Degree/Certificate Programs

MassBay has not yet determined if there is value of degrees specifically in Artificial Intelligence, given that AI is more of a tool than a credential. There is only one community college that offers both an associate's degree and a certificate.

*AI Faculty Expo

At a recent Faculty Expo during Professional Day, ten faculty shared how they are using AI in their courses to enhance their teaching, including creating podcasts from their syllabi. Dean Williams introduced Professor Sue Hamilton from STEM, who is also the Faculty Coordinator in the Center for Teaching and Learning. Professor Hamilton presented how she used AI to create a textbook for one of her Math courses.

*AI Math Textbook

Professor Hamilton used AI to summarize an existing open educational resource (OER) pre-Calculus textbook. OERs are free materials developed by faculty that replace traditional (and expensive) textbooks. She built early prototypes and soon realized the summaries expanded beyond what the format could hold. She wanted a text that supported diverse student backgrounds, provided active learning experiences, presented visually appealing content in a consistent layout. In addition, she wanted a text that provided spiral check-ins with ample and useful practice opportunities. The final textbook produced exceeded expectations.

MassBay can tell if AI is improving students' learning through its annual assessment of student learning process as well as program reviews. The College is preparing students for careers and therefore needs to understand what industry partners require workers to know about AI. At a recent STEMatch event hosted by MassBay, industry leaders engaged in discussions with Computer Science faculty across several community colleges about what skills businesses need graduate to possess. Going forward, this model can be replicated for other programs. Adjunct faculty are also an excellent resource for providing employer perspective as many of adjuncts are actively working in their fields.

Technology is a part of daily life and changing quickly. Suggestions were made to share a condensed version of this presentation to the full Board and also make AI a standing item on the monthly agenda with periodic faculty presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Trustee Povich motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Trustee Choate seconded.

The motion passed via the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – YES; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 am.



11/9/26

Rebecca Negreli, Chair Date
Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee