



Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee

Board of Trustees

Massachusetts Bay Community College

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

by WebEx

MINUTES

Trustees Present: Lili Silva, Chair; Alfonso Hidalgo; Rebecca Negreli; Ilissa Povich; Reyad Shah

Trustee Reyad Shah arrived at 8:06 am.

Trustees Not Present: Pranshu Shah

Guests Present: Professors Katie McGrath and Kara Lucciola

Staff Members Present: Karen Britton, Executive Director and Board Liaison; Liz Blumberg, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Catherine Gildae, Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness; Courtney Jackson, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost; Nina Keery, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Henry Lopez, Director of End User Services; Mike Lyons, Chief Information Officer; Sue Maggioni, Assistant Provost; David Podell, President; David Protano, Dean of Automotive Technology and Dean of STEM; Lisa Slavin, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Halye Sugarman, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; Venusa Toomey, Assistant Dean of Health Sciences and Framingham Administrator; Richard Williams, Dean for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

Trustee Shah departed at 9:30 am.

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

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

November 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Trustee Povich moved to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2025, meeting, and Trustee Negreli seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote: Trustee Choate – ABSTAINED; Trustee Hidalgo – YES; Trustee Negreli – YES; Trustee Povich – YES; Trustee Shah – YES; Trustee Silva – ABSTAINED.

Vice President Courtney Jackson welcomed two faculty members who will be giving presentations on projects carried out during their recent sabbaticals. She explained that faculty are eligible every six years to apply for sabbaticals to benefit their professional development and the College's interests. Proposals

are sent to the Department Chair, Dean, President, and Trustees for approval.

Vice President Jackson introduced Katie McGrath, Professor of English, who presented *Increasing Student Access, Engagement, and Success in Online Literature and Film Courses*. Professor McGrath has been teaching at MassBay for 19 years, co-chaired the Retention Committee for the strategic plan, and consistently engages in professional development and scholarship. In 2023, her *Introduction to Film* class was recognized as a Course of Distinction by Massachusetts Colleges Online.

Professor McGrath's presentation included an overview of her online teaching at MassBay (British Literature I and II, Film and Literature, and Introduction to Film). Professor McGrath addressed the importance of improving online classes. The percentage of students enrolled on at least one online course has increased from 14% pre-pandemic to 40% in 2024. While enrollment in online classes has increased, completion rates in online courses are lower than in face-to-face classes (71% versus 78%). Withdrawal rates are higher in online courses (16.5%) compared to face-to-face courses (5.5%).

During her sabbatical, Professor McGrath created or revised 32 presentations, researched and updated curriculum and assessments, and shared with faculty. Professor McGrath shared five principles to increase student success in online classes:

1. Make course active with voice through instructor presentations and student discussions.
2. Ask big questions, such as What is Poetry?
3. Connect to today. Examples were given on women's rights and women in sports.
4. Tap into curiosity. Twelve films were watched and discussed in Introduction to Film and Literature.
5. Make it meaningful. Professor McGrath shared examples of how she achieved this by using pandemic literature by Zadie Smith and Nick Laird in British Literature II.

Professor McGrath has shared her teaching methods with other faculty. The English Department has a site on Teams where faculty members can upload and access each other's materials.

Online courses offer the flexibility students need to manage multiple priorities. "Chunking", breaking course content and assignments into small units, is also helpful in this regard. Professor McGrath explained that she prompts responses in the asynchronous discussion board, encouraging students to engage and adds comments if necessary. Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents new challenges and is being addressed in various ways. In Professor McGrath's course, students must incorporate items from the course into their assignments. In general, faculty need to specify how students are allowed to use AI (if at all) in their syllabi.

Professor McGrath presented her research on Mary Wollstonecraft at Work at the American Studies for 18th Century Studies Conference in April.

Dean Sugarman next introduced Kara Lucciola, Professor of Legal Studies and Criminal Justice, who presented *Cybercrime, Cyber Law, and the Impact of Artificial Intelligence*. Professor Lucciola has contributed to MassBay's academic and strategic initiatives, in part by serving on the NECHE self-study Steering Committee, the Admissions and Curriculum Committee, and other faculty learning committees (FLCs) such as the FLC reviewing AI in Online Education. Professor Lucciola is a former Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General, Bristol County Special Victims Prosecutor, and is the recipient of the MassBay Distinguished Faculty Scholarship Award and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. She also serves as faculty in the Center for Cybersecurity Education and is a member of MassCyberCenter's Cybersecurity Training and Education Working Group. Professor Lucciola holds Certificates in Cybersecurity Strategy and Data Privacy Law, both from Boston College Continuing Education in collaboration with Boston College Law School and the Woods College of Advancing

Studies. She plays a key role in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence education and research at MassBay.

Professor Lucciola's presentation began with an overview of MassBay Cybersecurity Programs developed by Professor Shamsi Moussavi. Professor Lucciola developed a Cybercrime law-based course for this program. MassBay offers an Associate in Science degree, and two certificates in Cybersecurity.

MassBay's Cybersecurity program is the third community college in New England, and the first in Massachusetts to be designated a Center of Academic Excellence in CyberDefense by the National Security Agency, one of only 20 higher education institutions in New England. In addition, the College has received numerous grants, including one from MassTech, to support Cybersecurity initiatives, including the development of a cyber range.

Professor Lucciola used her Spring 2022 Sabbatical to research the status of cybercrime, cyber law/data privacy issues, and potential impact of artificial intelligence (AI). The results of her sabbatical work were added to class materials. Since her sabbatical, Professor Lucciola has studied the impact of increased cybercrimes on individuals, businesses, and institutions, advances in data privacy laws, and the current impact of AI show ongoing need for consistent scholarly research for course materials. The cybercrime field is quickly evolving, given new technology. In 2025, cybercrime costs will exceed more than \$10.5 trillion. In 2026, there are approximately 514,359 unfilled cybersecurity related positions. The global cybersecurity defense market will reach \$1 trillion annually by 2031.

Professor Lucciola provided an overview of common types of cybercrimes, such as phishing (using emails), smishing (using texts), vishing (using calls), pharming (redirecting to fake website), identity theft, and ransomware attacks. Cybercriminals use social engineering to manipulate or deceive someone to steal personal and financial information. The FBI Internet Complaint Center shows these types of crimes are significantly increasing. People can protect themselves by being observant, protecting devices with two-factor authentication, avoiding suspicious downloads, receiving an annual credit report, enabling fraud alerts, not disclosing personal information in an unknown email, and never sending money to a non-authenticated source.

Professor Lucciola discussed the impacts of AI: generative AI, chatbots, work skills, niometrics, and the internet of things. In addition, she forecasted future cyber-related research, noting how important it is for students to be familiar with growth of generative and agentic AI, deep fakes, and future technology like quantum computing in course materials.

Vice President Lyons reported that MassBay does yearly training for all employees, and new hires need to complete training within their first 30 days. The Office of Institutional Technology also does role-based training based on data access as well as monthly phishing campaigns. The College has a 24-hour monitor and response team partnership with Arctic Wolf.

MassBay is developing a college-wide policy regarding the use of AI. The administration is respectful of academic freedom for the faculty in terms of course content and requirements. Unauthorized use of AI to complete course requirements is a form of academic dishonesty, and consequences are addressed in the student handbook. All faculty are encouraged to include a statement in their syllabi about how students may use AI.

Trustee Hidalgo reported that he was recently at a Blackhawk conference with Sam Altman and many others in the field. It is not clear if the value of AI is being overestimated, or if its risk is being underestimated. No one knows where it will take us, as technology is moving so fast.

Trustee Negreli stated that everyone is using AI. It can be a productive tool, but concerns about critical thinking also need to be addressed. It is important to meet students with a variety of backgrounds and lives “where they are.” AI impacts how faculty teach and how students learn. Colleges must be responsive to workplace needs, teaching students how to use the technology they will be expected to use on the job.

AI will continue to evolve. Dean Williams is chairing an AI Committee that has met over the past year to discuss how to incorporate AI into the curriculum. He is organizing a day-long meeting in June for faculty to work together to explore how program and course-level outcomes need to be changed to include AI.

Chair Povich reported that Trustee Silva’s term technically ended in March. Trustee Silva is continuing to serve on the Board until her successor approved. Today is her last meeting as chair of the committee, and Trustee Negreli will take over as chair at the June meeting. Trustee Silva has been a fantastic chair. Trustee Silva is excited for committee and to hand over the chair to Trustee Negreli. Committee members thanked Trustee Silva for her leadership.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.



Rebecca Negreli, Chair
Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee