

TRANSITIONS

Chancellor's Leaving Tops a Season of Executive Turnover

Brett M. Rhyne, Perspective editor

Patricia F. Plummer was named interim chancellor of the Board of Higher Education Aug. 15. Plummer's tenure began Sept. 1 and will last one year; she's made it clear she has no interest in the job permanently. A search committee for a new chancellor will be convened once Governor-elect **Deval Patrick** takes office.

Plummer, 59, has served as the board's deputy chancellor for policy and planning since 2001. Before working for BHE, she was a tenured professor of nutrition and later associate vice president for academic affairs at Framingham State.

Plummer replaces **Judith Gill**, who announced in June 2006 she was resigning the post to become a professor in UMass-Boston's higher education doctoral program. By the end of her six years as chancellor, Gill had an increasingly contentious relationship with then-BHE Chairman **Stephen P. Tocco**, according to the *Boston Globe*.

BHE oversees state and community college systems, all these segments have a combined budget of \$1 billion and a quarter-million students.

Framingham State

Timothy J. Flanagan assumed the presidency of Framingham State Aug. 1. He came from the State University of New York College at Brockport, where he was provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1998 to 2006, and a criminal justice professor.

Flanagan was chosen from a pool of over 100 candidates; of the four finalists, none worked in Massachusetts. The three other finalists, all women, held upper management positions in Mississippi, Maine and Vermont. Flanagan may have had the inside track because he worked as a consultant for the BHE, according to the *Boston Globe*.

Flanagan replaced **Helen Heineman**, who retired in December 2005 after six years as president. Heineman started in Framingham in 1974 as a part-time English instructor; she moved up to become English department chair, academic vice president and finally president in 1999.

Salem State

President **Nancy D. Harrington**, whose association with Salem State spanned over 50 years, announced her retirement Sept. 26, effective in June. Harrington, 67, served as president for 17 years, making hers the third-longest tenure in the college's 152-year history.

Entering Salem State at age 16, Harrington earned her bachelor's and master's degrees there. After receiving her doctorate in education from Boston University in 1970, Harrington returned to Salem to work as director of elementary education student teaching, principal of the Horace Mann School, dean of the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education, and associate and acting vice president of academic affairs, before being named president in 1990.

A presidential search committee, headed by trustee **Richard Bane**, held its first meeting in mid-November. Other notable search committee members include \$2.5 million donor **Henry Bertolon** (class of 1974) and Salem Mayor **Kim Driscoll** (class of 1989), and union members geology professor **James Cullen** and accounting and finance chairman, and former local president, **Paul McGee**.

The committee hopes to find a replacement by the time Harrington leaves office at the end of June 2007.

Westfield State

At the other end of the spectrum is Westfield State's former President **Vicky L. Carwein**, who resigned last summer to return to the Pacific Northwest. Carwein served at Westfield a scant two years, between postings as chancellor of the University of Washington, Tacoma and her new job as chancellor of Washington State University, Tri-Cities.

While a committee searches for Carwein's replacement, Vice President for Advancement and College Relations **Barry Maloney** is serving as interim president, a position he held for five months prior to Carwein's arrival in July 2004. MSCA members serving on the search committee comprise **Corrine Ebbs**, **William Lopes**, **Gerald Tetrault** and **Kim Tobin**.