

Guide to the Office of the President Records

Bunker Hill Community College Archives
N-318
250 Rutherford Ave, Boston, MA 02129

Collection Overview

Title: Office of the President

Record Group Number: RG002

Creator: Office of the President

Date: 1972-2015

Extent: 1 box (0.417 linear feet)

Language: Materials are in English

Administrative Information

Access and Restriction Information: This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation:

[Item title/description here]. [Date here]. [Record Group here], Box #, Folder #.
Office of the President records. Bunker Hill Community College Archives, Boston, Massachusetts.

Scope and Contents

The Office of the President records include communications, reports, news articles, presentations, speeches, invitations, agendas, and other administrative documents

from Bunker Hill Community College's presidents, interim presidents, and executive staff. The records span from 1972 to 2015, and there is an absence of documents from Pam Eddinger's presidency post-2015. The bulk of the collection is from Harold Shively, Mon O'Shea, and Mary Fifield's presidencies, and a large portion of the records are memos, emails, and letters from presidents to the college community with administrative updates, organizational goals and planning, and information on academic and social events. These records also document BHCC's connections with other public and educational institutions, including various Massachusetts community colleges and high schools throughout Boston. All of BHCC's presidents and interim presidents are represented in these records, in addition to records from Executive Staff members. The Executive Staff records include the records of Bill Hart, an assistant to three presidents and the director and vice president of Public Affairs and Communications, in addition to minutes and agendas from Executive Staff meetings.

The records from Harold Shively's presidency focus on the early years of the college's operations from 1973 to 1988, including the hiring of deans and professors, the establishment of academic programs, the creation of a governance system, the accreditation of the college, and the construction around campus. Records from Piedad Robertson and Kathleen Assar's presidencies center on continued improvements to the college from 1988 to 1992. The records of Charles E. "Scully" Stikes, from 1992 to 1995, highlight the college's transforming mission and goals, along with major projects that improved campus life. Maurice "Mon" F. O'Shea's interim presidency records from 1995 to 1997 cover a more difficult time in BHCC history following President Stike's resignation and ongoing union negotiations. The records of Mary Fifield begin in 1997 and last until 2013, with the focus of these documents being the significant organizational restructuring of the college in the Future Search event, participation in the Community College Survey for Student Engagement (CCSSE), and the many events BHCC participated in. The records of the current president, Pam Eddinger, relate to improvements to academic programs, course offerings, and college funding. The records of executive staff member Bill Hart supplement the presidencies of President Stikes, President Mon O'Shea, and President Fifield as they describe college events, communications with other organizations, and marketing to potential students.

Biographical Note

Bunker Hill Community College was established in 1973 in Boston, Massachusetts, and Harold Shively, the former president of North Shore

Community College, was named as the first president of the college. President Shively remained in his position at BHCC from 1973 to 1988, when he left the college to focus on educational consulting. During his 15 years as president, President Shively expanded the faculty and staff of the college, helped establish a governance system, made connections with other educational institutions, created student assistance and outreach programs, and advocated for an academic environment that valued international education and perspectives. After President Shively's retirement in 1988, Piedad Robertson was named the second president of the college. President Robertson's 3 years at the college were characterized by an administrative restructuring process due to a decreased operating budget, leading to the establishment of task forces to aid in this process. President Robertson also oversaw the expansion of classroom space on campus, revisions to campus testing practices, and attempts to foster stronger relationships with dual enrolled Fenway high school students. President Robertson left BHCC in 1991 after being named as the Secretary of Education for Massachusetts, causing the Board of Trustees to name Kathleen Assar as interim president.

Interim President Assar was formerly the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, and she served as president while the Board of Trustees began the search process for the next president. She continued with the administrative restructuring started by Piedad Robertson as the college continued to face statewide budget cuts. This included increasing full-time faculty numbers, centralizing enrollment services, and hiring new administrative staff. Interim President Assar was also involved in the search process for the next president, Charles E. "Scully" Stikes. President Stikes assumed his position in 1992 and was the first African American president of the college. During his presidency, President Stikes aimed to establish greater connections with both the Boston area and other national/global institutions. He led the MOVIE project to develop a sound stage on campus that could serve as both a parking garage and a commercial movie production studio. He advocated for the North American Free Trade Agreement at the White House, and he planned a professional development trip to Ghana with faculty. President Stikes also improved programs to better suit the needs of all students, including distance learning opportunities and the Weekend College. President Stikes resigned in 1995, an event that was controversial. Prior to his resignation, President Stikes was accused of misusing business travel funds, which was an accusation he denied. He resigned during a board meeting on September 27, 1995, but President Stikes claimed he was pressured to resign and filed a lawsuit. Maurice "Mon" F. O'Shea, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, was named as interim president the following day.

During his tenure, Interim President O'Shea aided in the presidential search process, advocated for improvements to the Chelsea satellite campus, updated administrative procedures, and contributed to the Technology Plan to update technology on campus. Interim President Mon O'Shea was also involved in the salary negotiations with the Massachusetts Community College Council, and an agreement was reached during his term. In 1997, the presidential search process completed, and Mary Fifield was named as the next president of BHCC. President Fifield began her 16-year tenure by initiating a multi-phase reorganization process at the college, which included creating a new office for public relations and communications, planning for updates on both the Charlestown and Chelsea campuses, and increasing donor and grant funds. This reorganization process involved eliminating positions at the college, causing a large group of faculty and staff to criticize the president's handling of these dismissals. The Future Search event also occurred during the beginning of President Fifield's presidency, which was a large-scale planning event that aimed to create a new vision for the college. President Fifield continued hosting the Days of Dialogue, an event started by President Stikes to provide spaces for campus-wide conversations around diversity and inclusion. In the later years of her presidency, President Fifield led the establishment of midnight classes to provide students with alternative class times to fit their schedules, making BHCC the first college in the United States to do so. Additionally, updates to the Charlestown campus occurred during her presidency, which included the construction of the G building. President Fifield retired in 2013, and the Board of Trustees nominated the next president of the college: Pam Eddinger.

President Eddinger is the current president of Bunker Hill Community College, and she has prioritized increasing student success, assessing and improving programs, fostering connections with other institutions, and undertaking campus renovation projects. To strengthen existing academic programs and create new ones for in-demand fields, President Eddinger worked with SLOAP task forces to evaluate programs and increase funding. President Eddinger continued to work with the Community Colleges Survey of Student Engagement to gain insight into the social and academic climate on campus. In addition to the survey, President Eddinger also connects with the college community in Virtual Chats with the President, allowing anyone to raise issues or talk informally with her online. Major campus construction projects have also occurred in President Eddinger's tenure, such as the updates to the E building and the opening of the N building.

The Office of the President also includes other executive staff members who support the college's operations. This collection includes the records of one of

these staff members, Bill Hart. Bill Hart was appointed as a Staff Associate in the Planning and Economic Development department in 1993 by President Stikes, where he handled space reservations, event planning, and relations with other institutions. A year later, he was elevated to the role of Vice President within this department. Within the same year, Bill Hart became the Director of Public Affairs, where he communicated with individuals and organizations on behalf of BHCC. Hart remained in this position until he was appointed to Assistant to the President in 1995 by President Stikes. He maintained this role under interim President Mon O'Shea and President Fifield. In 1997, Hart became Vice President of Communications, where he continued his work with the public.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 3 series: BHCC Presidents, Other Executive Staff, and Executive Staff Meetings.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: BHCC Presidents (RG002.01)

The first series includes the records of all of Bunker Hill Community College's presidents and interim presidents from 1972 to 2015, with the bulk of the records from Harold Shively, Mon O'Shea, and Mary Fifield's presidencies. These records include communications, meeting materials, speeches, reports, and other institutional documents. Each folder is arranged chronologically.

- Folder 1: Harold Shively (1972-1984)
- Folder 2: Harold Shively cont. (1985-1988)
- Folder 3: BHCC the First Twenty Years
- Folder 4: Piedad Robertson (1988-1991)
- Folder 5: Kathleen Assar (interim) (1991-1992)
- Folder 6: Kathleen Assar (interim) (1991-1992) - Reports
- Folder 7: President Stikes (1992-1995)
- Folder 8: President Mon O'Shea (interim) (1995-1997)
- Folder 9: President Mon O'Shea (interim) cont. (1995-1997)
- Folder 10: Peat Marwick Report on BHCC
- Folder 11: Presidential Search 1996
- Folder 12: Presidential Shively Obituary and Memorial
- Folder 13: Mary Fifield (1997-2013) (1)

- Folder 14: Mary Fifield (1997-2013) (2)
- Folder 15: Mary Fifield News and Publications
- Folder 16: President Speeches – Fifield
- Folder 17: Pam Eddinger (2013-present)

Series 2: Other Executive Staff (RG002.02)

The second series contains the records of executive staff member Bill Hart from 1993 to 1998. These records span the multiple positions Hart held in these 5 years, including positions in the Planning and Economic Development department, his role as Assistant to the President for President Stikes, President O'Shea, and President Fifield, his position as Director of Public Affairs, and his role as Vice President of Communications. These records are predominantly communications and other administrative documents. Each folder is arranged chronologically.

- Folder 1: Bill Hart, 1993-1995
- Folder 2: Bill Hart, 1997-1998

Series 3: Executive Staff Meetings (RG002.03)

The third series is the records of executive staff meetings from 1993 to 2020. These meetings involved the presidents and other executive staff members, and these records include meeting minutes, agendas, and other related documents. The folder is arranged chronologically.

- Folder 1: Executive Staff Meetings

Related Finding Aids