

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy **NO.:** FAAP 06-26
COMMITTEE DATE: June 8, 2006
BOARD DATE: June 15, 2006

APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH A MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY LIBRARY RENOVATION STUDY

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby gives Massachusetts Maritime Academy approval to proceed with a library renovation study. This approval is given with the understanding that Massachusetts Maritime Academy is responsible for all costs related to the study and that it will not proceed with design and/or construction until the Board of Higher Education gives its approval to proceed.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9
Contact: Kurt T. Steinberg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Policy

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On May 18, 2006, President Richard Gurnon of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA) met with Deputy Chancellor David McCauley and representatives from the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) to raise the critical issues of the physical and programmatic condition of the library. In that meeting, representatives from DCAM, MMA, and BHE agreed to make the renovation of the library the new number one priority for MMA.

The Academy endeavors to meet NEASC accreditation requirements related to the library, academic resource services and academic computing support. The library, built in 1972 for 225 students, now serves a growing campus population with learning and teaching needs that cannot be fully met within the existing facility. This 35-year old building's inefficient HVAC and mechanical systems are contributing to mold and air quality concerns.

Current library spaces, furnishings and lighting are dated, damaged and dark and do not provide inviting conditions for study. Today's libraries are open, with much more natural light. The shared vision for academic excellence at the Academy includes establishment of an Information Commons to offer adaptable, multi-purpose teaching and learning spaces. These spaces may include:

- New multi-purpose Information Commons that will integrate traditional library resources and services with the technology needed for training in the maritime industry
- SMART classrooms that accommodate streaming video/audio, distance education, Web-based seminars, and online conferencing
- IT Help Desk and academic computing support services and CAD/MATLAB laboratories.

It is the opinion of DCAM and BHE staff that a feasibility study should be performed to determine the best course of action for MMA and the Commonwealth to pursue with respect to the library.