



# MANS&C

*The Massachusetts Association of Nonprofit Schools and Colleges*

## Senator Has Lingering Concerns over Mt. Ida Campus Sale

Looking back at the controversial sale of the Mount Ida College campus to UMass Amherst last year, State Sen. Nick Collins urged MANS&C at its Annual Meeting to reach out to financially struggling nonprofit colleges and speak out for the important role that they play.

The senator, who is considered a rising star on Beacon Hill, made his remarks at the May 29 event at the Hampshire House Hotel in Boston.

Mt. Ida may have had a chance to survive by partnering with another institution, Sen. Collins said. Instead, UMass made the struggling college an offer it couldn't refuse in light of its debt obligations.

The sale of the campus gave rise to a lot of talk about other small colleges that are facing financial difficulties, the senator said, and speculation that UMass was already positioning itself to "gobble them up."

"I'm concerned about UMass's power in that dynamic," he said.

Sen. Collins, who represents South Boston, urged MANS&C and other organizations that represent nonprofit educational institutions to share best practices with one another and to "be loud in protecting your turf."

"Many of the benefits we see in Massachusetts are from private institutions," the Senator added. "Private institutions have educated some of the finest minds in the state and we want to see that continue for years to come."

In response to a question about UMass's plans for the Mt. Ida campus, Sen. Collins said he remains concerned that course offerings there may be in competition with UMass Boston, which is in his Senate district. He noted that some of the suggested uses for the Mt. Ida campus – including public health or labor relations programs – are already offered at UMass Boston.



*Guest Speaker, State Sen. Nick Collins*

Sen. Collins spent eight years in the House of Representatives before winning his senate seat in a special election last year. He was born, raised and currently lives in South Boston with his wife and young daughter. He is a graduate of Boston Latin and Babson College.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER *Defending Our Members' Independence and Security*



The guest speaker at the MANS&C Annual Meeting in May offered members and guests new and important insight into the closing last year of financially troubled Mt. Ida College and sale of its campus to UMass Amherst.

State Sen. Nick Collins urged MANS&C to defend the independence of nonprofit schools, colleges and universities, and encouraged our institutions to share best practices with one another.

In fact, defending nonprofit schools, colleges and universities in Massachusetts has been MANS&C's purpose since our founding in 1952. Through the years MANS&C has consistently worked to turn back countless bills on Beacon Hill that threatened the economic security and historic independence of our member institutions.

We also impress upon our members the importance of creating a Community Impact Statement (CIS) and sharing it with neighbors, town officials and local organizations, as well as state legislators. These documents are the single best tool we have in detailing the valuable services our institutions provide to their communities.

MANS&C also offers our members tips on how to create a Community Impact Statement. Some fine examples are posted on our website, [www.mansac.org](http://www.mansac.org), including an impressive new CIS from Thayer Academy.

A new legislative session opened in January on Beacon Hill, bringing with it scores of new bills, including measures that would open the door to PILOTs, tax our endowments and threaten the Dover Amendment. MANS&C is on duty at the State House once again, standing up for our members' independence and safeguarding our economic security.

Best Regards,

Gwen Pojasek, MANS&C President



*MANS&C Legislative Counsel John J. Spillane and Sen. Collins*

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### ***Troublesome Bills on Beacon Hill***

The impact from the sudden closing of Mt. Ida College and sale of its campus last year is still being felt on Beacon Hill.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker has filed Senate Bill 2183, which would expedite the state's new effort to prevent similar disruptive closings from occurring again. The State Board of Education is currently working on regulations that would require financially struggling nonprofit colleges and universities to submit financial records and contingency plans should a closing be imminent.

Among the other 6,000 or so bills that have been filed since the legislative session opened in January are many that pose threats to the economic security and historic independence of nonprofit schools and colleges.

A number of bills focus on the Dover Amendment, including one measure that would completely eliminate it. Other measures would:

- › Take away the Dover Amendment protections for nonprofit schools, colleges and universities in communities that are less than 2½ square miles in size
- › Restrict Dover Amendment protections to buildings that are used primarily for educational, rather than recreational, purposes

A number of bills would impose payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) on nonprofit educational institutions, including:

- › Requiring PILOTs equal to 25 percent of the property taxes an institution would have paid if it were not tax-exempt
- › Imposing PILOTs on nonprofit educational institutions whose officers, directors, trustees or key employees earn more than \$2.5 million in total compensation
- › Preventing PILOT payments from decreasing unless acreage decreases

One bill would impose a 2.5 percent excise tax on nonprofit universities whose endowments are more than \$1 billion.

MANS&C will continue to monitor bills and inform our members about issues of concern as the session progresses.

## ***MANS&C Elects Officers and Board Members***

Members elected the following officers and board members for the 2019-20 year at the Annual Meeting on May 29 at the Hampshire House in Boston:

### OFFICERS

President – Gwen Pojasek, CFO at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School

Vice President – Jeanne Finlayson, Vice President for Finance and Treasurer at Stonehill College

Treasurer – Dean Sidell, Acting Head of School and CFO at Tower School

Clerk – James Curley, Director of State Relations at Boston University

### BOARD MEMBERS

Kathleen Chery – CFO at the Cambridge School of Weston

Julaine McInnis – CFO and COO at Thayer Academy

Jane Segale – CFO at Walnut Hill School for the Arts

Jonathan Wasserman – Director of Finance and Operations, and Assistant Treasurer at the Rivers School





*Rick Rummel of Thayer Academy and Robert Kramer of Lawrence Academy*



*MANS&C Board Members Kathleen Chery of the Cambridge School of Weston and Jane Segale of Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and MANS&C President Gwen Pojasek of Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall*



*Former MANS&C President Julaine McInnis of Thayer Academy and Betsy Amsbury, formerly of Walnut Hill School for the Arts*

## ***MANS&C Holds 2019 Annual Meeting and Legislative Luncheon***

MANS&C institutional and sponsorship members, and guests gathered on May 29 at the Hampshire House in Boston for the organization's Annual Meeting. The meeting featured an address by State Sen. Nick Collins of Boston and the election of new board members.

*All photos are identified from left to right.*



*Leslie Kaye of Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall*



*MANS&C Clerk Jim Curley of Boston University, Brad Freeman of AICUM, and Kristin Grazioso, Molly Garvin and Cecilia Nardi, all of Boston University*

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