

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•MEDICAL•LAW•ONLINE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020; 10:00 a.m.

Remote Meeting

**Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting
Law, G.L. c.30A, §20 dated March 12, 2020**

Committee Members Present: Chair Paris Jeffries; Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Johnson, Lewis, Peyser, Patel, Peters, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona

Other Trustees Present: Trustee Burns

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Okwara and Osterhaus-Houle

University Administration: President Meehan; System Chancellor Newman; General Counsel Leone; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Preble, Moloney and Collins

Faculty Representatives: Professor Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Professor Lublin, UMass Boston; Professor O'Rielly, UMass Dartmouth; Professor Koren, UMass Lowell

Documents Used:

- September 15, 2020 (Open & Executive Session)
- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Urban Public Health, UMass Boston Doc. T20-054
- Appointment to Named Professorship, UMass Amherst, Doc. T20-055
- 2019-2020 AQAD Report (Academic Quality Assessment and Development), Doc. T20-004
- PMYR Report (Periodic Multi-Year Annual Review), Doc. T20-046
- UMass Lowell Applied Research Corporation, Doc. T20-056

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and stated that as a public body, the UMass Board of Trustees could meet remotely under the Governor of Massachusetts' executive order issued on March 12, 2020, which was effective immediately, and will remain in place until it is rescinded or the state of emergency that was declared is terminated.

Under the Emergency Order, All members of the Board may participate by remote virtual means, without affording public access to the physical meeting locations, as long as they engage with adequate and alternative means of access available. any member of the public wishing to address the Board regarding an agenda item or issue related to the agenda, or to make an audio or video recording of the open public session of the Board meeting, was provided notice by the Secretary of the Board through a posting indicating that such written requests needed to be received no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Under the law, the Chair has complete discretion in granting or denying the request to speak, and may limit the duration that the public has to address the Board.

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The Chair stated that he received no requests to speak, make an audio or videotape of the meeting. He then provided instructions for the Zoom meeting.

Consideration of Minutes of the prior meeting of the Committee

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that the Committee was provided with the draft minutes of the September 15th meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Meehan commented about the record number of UMass students and young people around the country who voted in last Tuesday's election. He acknowledged and thanked the Student Trustees and their peers for their work on the UMass Votes Campaign which encouraged UMass students to register and vote.

President Meehan highlighted activities on the campuses. At UMass Amherst, the Public Health Promotion Center staffed with more than 350 students from the College of Nursing and the School of Public Health and Health Sciences conducted more than 120,000 asymptomatic COVID-19 tests since August 6. The campus deployed "It's Hard But It Helps" and "It's Weird But It Works" public health messaging campaign.

At UMass Boston a coordinated, collaborative readmit campaign helped welcome back 712 students, a 9% increase from last year; and with travel restrictions barriers for international students, a new Shorelight ACL initiative brought 400 non-degree students to the campus this fall. UMass Boston enrollment grew 1.7% this year while enrollment at Massachusetts public higher education institutions declined 7%.

UMass Dartmouth was awarded its second \$4 million Office of Naval Research grant which creates new opportunities for regional marine tech collaborations across academia, industry, and the military; was named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity by the NSA and Department of Homeland Security; the College of Engineering was ranked, by the American Society for Engineering Education, in the top 20 out of 422 engineering schools in the percentage of Ph.D.'s awarded to women. Professor Sigal was named an Association for Women in Mathematics Fellow for promoting the success of women in mathematical and computational sciences.

UMass Lowell saw record-high enrollment this fall with nearly 18,450 students, a slight increase over last year's record thanks to innovative retention and graduate student recruitment efforts; recently received nearly \$12 million in new federal research funding; two dozen projects are being conducted through UMass Lowell's HEROES collaborative, which works with the U.S. Army. Additionally, research will be conducted with the U.S. Navy and America East partner Stony Brook University on energy resilience including renewable energy, energy storage and micro-grids. UMass Lowell's sustainability initiatives ranked No. 16 nationally on the Sierra Club's annual Cool Schools list.

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At the Medical School, first quarter report of research grants and contracts shows a 78% increase in NIH grant funding and a 50% increase in total funding over the same period last year—this has been driven a \$123 million NIH-funded RADx grant to advance fast, accessible COVID-19 testing. The school’s \$300M in NIH funding now places the institution among the Top 20 U.S. medical schools for NIH funding.

The President noted that System Chancellor Newman and the Chancellors would be discussing campus diversity initiatives later in the meeting. He commented on the need to be intentional, strategic, creative, and bold in addressing COVID-19, economic dislocation, and racism. He also spoke to the work underway in the centralized procurement operation to break down barriers at the system level, and noted the UMass Building Authority’s commitment to diversifying the portfolio of firms hired to work on UMass construction projects.

System Chancellor for Academic Programs Report

System Chancellor Newman commented on the system’s economic development mission to build out robust capacities to assist the faculty and leadership on the five campuses to attract support for their research from government agencies, the private sector, non-profit organizations and foundations. She highlighted the effort underway to define a set of system-wide strengths in the applied sciences to be discussed at the first CASA meeting of 2021.

She noted the six research “brain trusts” formed in various applied science fields in collaboration with roughly thirty scientists across the system. Presentations focusing on the challenges in applied life science, climate resilience, advanced manufacturing, precision medicine and medical device development, data science/artificial intelligence/and robotics, and defense related work in space and naval engineering will be held in early December via Zoom for interested industry leaders and business associations. An effort well received by the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, the Mass Tech Leadership Collaborative, the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership, the New England Council, the Office of Secretary Keneally, and many other groups eager to hear about the research agenda of the UMass system.

She reported that the newly launched Intercampus Course Exchange (ICX), discussed at the last CASA meeting is up and running, making virtually accessible courses from all of the campuses available to all UMass students. She also applauded the efforts of the faculty and staff to promote engagement in the classroom and to care for the students whose lives have been so profoundly impacted by the pandemic. She recognized the work of the undergraduates and graduate students during this time, the campus health centers and mental health professionals for supporting the students, and acknowledged and thanked the students on all of the campuses who participated in the get-out-the-vote campaign this month.

Public Speakers

Professor Robert Lublin, Chair of the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC), spoke to the concerns of faculty throughout the UMass system regarding the lack of transparency with the acquisition of Brandman University in the process to expand UMassOnline and faculty not being included in the planning. The IFC fears that the absence of UMass faculty from negotiations pursuant to the acquisition of Brandman University threatens to undermine the legitimacy of UMass Global as a

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component of the University of Massachusetts. The IFC urges President Meehan to meet with faculty at each campus to clarify questions regarding the acquisition of Brandman University and the creation of UMass Global. The faculty welcome the opportunity to fulfill its obligation.

Action Item #1: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Urban Public Health, UMass Boston Doc. T20-054

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Urban Public Health at UMass Boston. He indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. The motion was moved by Trustee Patel and seconded by Trustee Peters.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Urban Public Health at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Chancellor Suárez-Orozco spoke to the proposal for the new program in Urban Public Health which aligns with the mission of the University and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Trustee Scheibel noted her concerns with the cost of the program and asked about the CEPH accreditation process costs for the first few year, whether the existing faculty to be used to teach the courses would be taken away from their current commitments or responsibilities, and what the feeling on campus was for bringing forward new programs and if there was a consensus given the economic climate. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco stated that the cost associated with the accreditation was \$5,000 per year which accounts for a total cost of \$15,000 for the first 3 years of the accreditation. Provost McDermott spoke to outside departments donating faculty time to teach the courses and costs associated with budgeting for the program. She stated that the campus is unanimously behind moving forward with the program.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Lewis, Patel, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

Action Item #2: Appointment to Named Professorship, UMass Amherst, Doc. T20-055

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointment to Named Professorship at UMass Amherst. He indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. The motion was moved by Trustee Peters and seconded by Trustee Lewis.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Samuel Hazen to the Dr. Constantine J. Gilgut Professorship in Plant Biology in the Department of Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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Provosts McCarthy spoke to the appointment.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Lewis, Patel, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi. Trustee Epstein was not present for the vote.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked for a motion to place the Action Items 1 & 2 on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on December 10. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Lewis, Patel, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

Information Items: 2019-2020 AQAD Report (Academic Quality Assessment and Development), Doc. T20-004; PMYR Report (Periodic Multi-Year Annual Review), Doc. T20-046; UMass Lowell Applied Research Corporation (UML ARC), Doc. T20-056

Chair Paris Jeffries indicated that three information items were included in the meeting materials posted on Boardvantage. He noted that Senior Vice President Gamache was available to answer any trustee questions on AQAD and PMYR reports. General Counsel Leone, Vice Chancellor Chen, and System Chancellor Newman would speak to the third item, the UMass Lowell Applied Research Corporation (UML ARC).

General Counsel Leone provided an update on the UML ARC, an initiative which has been in place for 2 ½ years to look at the formation of an entity that would be able to compete in the government contract space for research. With the Board's delegation, the General Counsel has created the UML ARC and initiated its operation, ratified/cast appointments to the UML ARC board, confirmed Chancellor Newman's appointment to the board, and transitioned his delegated authority by the UMass Board to Chancellor Newman. He noted the relationship between the UML ARC and the UMass Board of Trustees—the University acts through the Board of Trustees as the sole member of the ARC which means that the Board has the general oversight authority over the ARC, and the specific authority to approve and remove directors, approve expenditures, dispose of assets, and revise and dissolve the UMass Lowell ARC.

Julie Chen, Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, and Chair of the UMass Lowell ARC Board of Directors spoke to the establishment of the UMass Lowell ARC to provide certain research activities on behalf of and in cooperation with UMass Lowell and the importance of working with industry and government.

System Chancellor Newman expressed her excited to represent the Board through the UML ARC board. She commented on the ARC being an example of the kind of innovation that needs to spread across the system and will enable all kinds of activities from the Lowell campus and for UMass in the region.

Discussion Item: Diversity Initiatives

System Chancellor Newman introduced the item and commented on the President's and the Chancellors commitment to address inequalities. She reviewed data on national, regional, and the University's progress in undergraduate and graduate Student Diversity. Chief Data Strategist Ismael Carreras reviewed diversity metrics of the past 5 years for UMass and some key regional peers including Massachusetts state universities and key private peer universities. He reviewed the metrics on black and Hispanic student enrollment, enrollment of Pell grant eligible students, graduation rates by race/ethnicity by campus, graduation of students of color at the Law School, and the diversity of students at the Medical School.

Trustee Cruz-Gordillo spoke to his experience as a student and the opportunities that schools including the UMass Medical School and the UMass system provide when they invest in students of different backgrounds. He spoke to the importance of having students from different backgrounds and different perspectives in order to address inequities and systemic issues with racism.

Chair Paris Jeffries thanked and acknowledged Trustee Cruz-Gordillo and commented that the discussion was the first of more conversations around equity for the University.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked the Committee for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 75, Section 4, for the purpose of considering Appointments with Tenure, UMass Amherst and Lowell. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Lewis, Patel, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi. Trustee Peters was not present for the vote.

Chair Paris Jeffries then announced that the Zoom meeting will be closed by the host and instructed those participating in the Executive Session to join that Zoom meeting with the specific link that was provided.

The time was 11:40 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees