

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021; 10:00 a.m.**

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**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 Bates, Dyer, Epstein, Houle, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Peters, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi; Chairman Manning

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustee Bhandari

**University Administration:** President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; System Chancellor Newman; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Moloney and Collins; Provosts McCarthy, Berger, Goodman (Acting), Hartman and Flotte

**Faculty Representatives:** Professor Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Professor Kim, UMass Boston

**Documents Used:**

- Meeting Minutes: September 29, 2021 (Open & Executive Session)
- MS and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering, UMass Amherst, Doc. T21-060
- Appointment to Endowed Chair, UMass Chan Medical School, Doc. T21-064
- Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) Report, Doc. T21-066
- Periodic Multi-Year Annual Review (PMYR) Report, Doc. T21-067

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and stated that the Board continues to meet remotely under the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020. All necessary and required Action Items for Board vote in open session, and where required, in Executive Session will be addressed.

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 this Board 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.

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that he granted a request by System Chancellor Newman to record the discussion portion of the meeting. The participants consented to be recorded.

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Chair Paris Jeffries 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 29, 2021 meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Chair Paris Jeffries announced the meeting's agenda: a discussion item, two action items, two information items, three items for action in Executive Session, and reports from President Meehan and System Chancellor Newman.

**President's Report**

President Meehan acknowledged UMass students for their voting turnout record during the 2020 election. He noted the voter turnout increase among college students from 52% to 66% nationally, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, the turnout increase on the UMass campuses, and UMass Amherst having won a gold star from the All In Campus Democracy Challenge.

President Meehan reported that a series of summit meetings, designed to connect industry with the UMass research enterprise, were held last week. The summit, organized by System Chancellor Newman and Executive Director of Industry Engagement and Business Development Carl Rust, focused on the University's core facilities.

President Meehan provided highlights of campus achievements. The Fine Arts Center building at UMass Amherst was renamed after Randolph Bromery, the University's first Black chancellor, and the Bromery Center Concert Hall was renamed after the late Frederick Tillis, a composer, poet, music educator, and an arts administrator at the campus. UMass Boston held a Black Lives Matter Day of activism, learning, and reflection, designed to represent the University's commitment to honoring black lives and eliminating anti-black racism at the systemic, institutional, and interpersonal levels. Trustee Paris Jeffries was among the participants. President Meehan congratulated and thanked Chancellor Suárez-Orozco for his leadership on those issues.

UMass Dartmouth secured \$1.2 million from the state and private industry for a new laboratory that will help address the problem of plastic waste polluting the ocean. Governor Baker announced a \$740,000 grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for the project and said "*This investment in new research infrastructure at UMass Dartmouth will further strengthen Massachusetts' Blue Tech sector, working collaboratively with the private sector to create innovative products and grow jobs here in the Commonwealth.*" President Meehan congratulated Chancellor Fuller, his team, and the UMass Dartmouth faculty for their transformative work in this area.

Researchers at UMass Lowell in collaboration with scientists at UConn and Merck are working to develop a manufacturing method that would allow COVID-19 vaccines to be transported and stored at room temperature. The study is funded through a one-year, \$979,000 grant from the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals.

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The Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System and the UMass Chan Medical School held a ribbon-cutting for a new 48,000 sq. ft. community-based outpatient clinic for veterans located on the Medical School campus. U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough attended the event and stated that the nation's *"most sacred obligation is to prepare and equip the troops we send into harm's way, and to care for them and their families when they return home. Opening this extraordinary new facility helps us do just that."* President Meehan acknowledged Chancellor Collins and Congressman Jim McGovern for their work.

President Meehan reported that an event was held to honor former UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack for gifts totaling \$350,000 to enhance the UMass School of Law Atrium, and to honor the late Mardee Xifaras—Both unyielding champions of the idea that Massachusetts should have a public law school that increases access to high quality legal education. He also noted that the class entering the Law School this fall increased the school's enrollment, and had the highest median LSAT scores and undergraduate GPAs in the school's history. The school continues to build on innovative programs to make affordable legal services available to underserved communities.

President Meehan noted that System Chancellor Newman would lead a faculty presentation on Computing for the Common Good, and provided an update on enrollment as part of her report. He thanked the Chairman and his wife, Donna, for their \$18 million gift that will endow the newly named Robert and Donna Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences at UMass Amherst. The gift is part of the Manning's historical \$50 million gift, which also includes a \$10 million gift to the Manning School of Business at UMass Lowell, and a \$15 million gift to endow the nursing program at UMass Boston.

Chair Paris Jeffries thanked the President for his leadership and Chairman Manning for his gifts.

**Discussion Item: Data Science for the Common Good**

Chair Paris Jeffries noted the topic of the discussion, Data Science for the Common Good. He stated that System Chancellor Newman would introduce the discussion item, and the Provosts, the faculty that would highlight ways that everything from better government, public administration, to health and science, to aging are impacted by advances in data science. He reminded the Committee of the recorded session.

System Chancellor Newman introduced and provided the context for the discussion on Data Science for the Common Good. She noted that faculty would present examples of their research in data science and its contributions to the common good. She acknowledged Chairman Manning and his wife, Donna for recognizing the critical importance of this field and thanked them for their generosity which endowed the College of Information and Computer Science at UMass Amherst.

Provost McCarthy introduced and provided the background for Laura Haas, Dean of the Robert and Donna Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences at UMass Amherst. Dean Haas provided an historical overview of the Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences, which is now ranked #20 across all public and private computer sciences programs in the U.S., and highlighted the college's vision of computing for the common good which focuses

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on excellence, research, and education to enhance everyone's well-being.

Dean Haas introduced and provided the background for Andrew McCallum, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Data Science. Professor McCallum presented on data science that helps with making good decisions, backed by data which includes new cutting edge research in data gathering, data management, data analysis, and discovery and decisions.

Professor McCallum introduced and provided the background for Erik Learned-Miller, Professor, and Associate Chair for Faculty Development. Professor Learned-Miller highlighted the project Dark Ecology: Unraveling Mysteries of Bird Migration using Weather Radar, Machine Learning, and Computer Vision by Dan Sheldon and Subhransu Maji. Professor Learned-Miller highlighted his work with face recognition and the contributions UMass is making in science, technology, and ethics.

Professor Learned-Miller introduced and provided the background for Andrew Lan, whose research focuses on the development of artificial intelligence methods to enable scalable and effective personalized learning and education. Professor Lan provided an overview of the research on data science techniques for educational applications.

Provost Berger introduced and provided the background for Dr. Özgün Babur, Assistant Professor of Network Data Science in the College of Science and Mathematics at UMass Boston. Professor Babur presented on the Network Biology Lab which studies the interactions of molecular agents in a living cell.

Acting Provost Goodman introduced and provided the background for Dr. Gavin Fay, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries Oceanography, School of Marine Science and Technology at UMass Dartmouth. Professor Fay presented on research focused on quantitative fisheries and ecosystems science and how data science and statistical models can help better decision-making focused on fisheries and the oceans.

Provost Hartman introduced and provided the background for Dr. Holly Yanco, Distinguished University Professor of Computer Science, and Director of the New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center (NERVE Center) at UMass Lowell. Professor Yanco presented on the NSF funded AI Institute for Collaborative Assistance and Responsive Interaction Networked Groups (AI CARING), which focuses on longitudinal collaborative artificial intelligence with a focus on designing interactive and intelligent systems that are embedded with their users over extended periods of time.

Provost Flotte introduced and provided the background for Dr. David McManus, Founding Director of the Program in Digital Medicine at the UMass Chan Medical School. Dr. McManus, presented on the program in Digital Medicine, to improve patient care through development, evaluation, and deployment of innovations in health technology.

System Chancellor Newman acknowledged and thanked the faculty for their presentations.

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**System Chancellor for Academic Programs Report**

System Chancellor Newman introduced and provided the context for an update on the Preliminary Enrollment and Admissions Report. She provided a follow up to Nathan Grawe's predications at a system-wide conference on the impact of demographic change on universities in the region noting the unforeseen impact of COVID-19. She then introduced Ismael Carreras to present the information on national, regional and local comparisons in applications, acceptances and yields.

Chief Data Strategist and Director for Academic Affairs and Economic Development Ismael Carreras provided an overview of the Preliminary Enrollment and Admissions Report. Mr. Carreras summarized national metrics for admissions and enrollment trends since the pandemic and reviewed the results for the UMass system and the campuses.

System Chancellor Newman reviewed strategic opportunities to address UMass' enrollment needs. Enrollment management strategies include work on the return of international students, enlarging masters programs; growing the online program; working on early college enrollment; and creating and pursuing new articulation agreements with community colleges in other regions.

Trustee Scheibel expressed an interest in the early college enrollment and articulation agreements and asked that the Committee be updated on those strategies at a future meeting.

Trustee Epstein commented on the financial impact on the University in reducing admissions and expressed an interest in seeing an admissions system across the campuses. System Chancellor Newman commented and noted that there is not a united system across campuses and more collaboration is possible, which has been raised with the enrollment officers. President Meehan noted the work with UMass Dartmouth and asked Chancellor Fuller to comment. Chancellor Fuller commented on the collaboration between UMass Dartmouth and UMass Amherst, noting the communications efforts which increased the applications from Amherst.

Chair Paris Jeffries thanked the faculty and Provosts for their presentations.

**Action Item # 1: MS and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering, UMass Amherst, Doc. T21-060**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the MS and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at UMass Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the MS and PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provost McCarthy provided the background information for the two degree program proposal.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. There being none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice

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Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Peters, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi; and Chairman Manning. Trustee Houle was not present for the vote.

**Action Item # 2: Appointment to Endowed Chair, UMass Chan Medical School, Doc. T21-064**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointment to an Endowed Chair at the UMass Chan Medical School. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Chairman Manning.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Michelle A. Kelliher to the Our Danny Cancer Fund Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

Provost Flotte provided the background information for Professor Kelliher, the inaugural holder of the Danny Cancer Fund Chair in Biomedical Research.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. There being none, the Secretary 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, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser; and Chairman Manning. Trustees Houle, Peters and Ramos Gagliardi were not present for the vote.

**Information Items: Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) Report, Doc. T21-066; Periodic Multi-Year Annual Review (PMYR) Report, Doc. T21-067**

Chair Paris Jeffries informed the Committee that the information items, the annual AQAD and PMYR reports were posted to Boardvantage for their review. He asked the Committee to contact Candyce Carragher in the Office of Academic Programs and Economic Development with any questions.

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place Action Items #s 1&2 on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. There being none, the Secretary 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, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser; and Chairman Manning. Trustees Houle, Peters and Ramos Gagliardi were not present for the vote.

**Executive Session Announcement**

Chair Paris Jeffries 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 Lowell; Awards of Tenure, UMass Chan Medical School; and

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Honorary Degrees, UMass Lowell. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

The Secretary 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, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser; and Chairman Manning. Trustees Houle, Peters and Ramos Gagliardi were not present for the vote.

Chair Paris Jeffries 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 11:55 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees