

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Thursday, February 16, 2023; 9:00 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 and Extended to March 31, 2023**

Trustees Present: Chairman Karam; Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Berry, Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Keches, Kelleher, Lam, Lechowicz, O'Brien, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Tolman, Tutwiler, White and Wu

Trustees Absent: Trustees Dooley, Lewis, Okwara and Paris Jeffries

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Chen and Collins

Chairman Karam convened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. and reminded everyone that the Governor has allowed for meetings to be held remotely. He then reminded the Trustees to unmute themselves for the Roll Call vote, and asked that they state their name when they move and second the motion for vote.

Consideration of Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Chancellor Search Committee

Chairman Karam stated that the Board was provided with the draft minutes of the February 1, 2023 Search Committee meeting's open and executive sessions and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Chairman Karam stated that pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 30A and under the Office of The MA Attorney General, Open Meeting Law Guide and Educational Materials, General Counsel Leone, under the delegation of the UMass Board of Trustees, has determined that the Executive Session minutes will not be released at this time, and should remain confidential because publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.

Chair's Remarks

Chairman Karam noted the significant decision before the Board and announced the meeting's agenda: a report from Victor Woolridge, the Chair of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Chancellor Search Committee, followed by President Meehan's recommendation on the Appointment of the Chancellor of UMass Amherst.

Chairman Karam thanked Trustee Woolridge, a graduate of UMass Amherst, former Chair of the UMass Board of Trustees and the UMass Building Authority, for leading the Search Committee. He also thanked Trustees Mary Burns, Rick Kelleher and Steve Tolman for serving on the Search Committee. He extended its gratitude to the Search Committee members on behalf of the Board

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for volunteering their time and commented on the Committee's task to identify individuals capable of continuing Chancellor Subbaswamy's trajectory, and that leader having been identified.

Report of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Chancellor Search Committee

Trustee Woolridge, Chair of the Search Committee thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the UMass Amherst Chancellor Search Committee. He stated that as a UMass Amherst graduate, he was proud to have been asked to lead the distinguished and diverse Search Committee. He stated that future of the flagship campus is vital not just for the University of Massachusetts system but also for the entire Commonwealth.

Trustee Woolridge reported on the 21-member Committee whose purpose was focused on advancing UMass Amherst's mission. The Committee met 8 times over a seven-month period, hosted 11 listening sessions involving hundreds of constituents from all aspects of campus life. Isaacson Miller, the search firm communicated with 108 prospective candidates, interviewed 26 candidates, and presented the credentials of those candidates to the group. The Committee interviewed 12 candidates in three days of Zoom sessions, which led to the announcement of two chancellor finalists on February 1st. Trustee Woolridge and several committee members participated in the Amherst campus visits held with the two finalists. The visits gave students, faculty, staff, alumni and community leaders the opportunity to hear from candidates about their vision.

Trustee Woolridge commented on the Committee's directive from the President and the Board of Trustees Chair to bring forward individuals who have demonstrated leadership, have a real track record of success, and who will be committed to UMass Amherst and the Commonwealth it serves. He then thanked the Committee for taking its charge seriously and expressed his confidence in the process and in those who participated in it.

President's Recommendation on the Appointment of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst

President Meehan welcomed Trustee Tutwiler, the new Secretary of Education to his first on the UMass Board of Trustees.

President Meehan spoke to the important moment in the University's history to select a new leader for the flagship campus who could build on Chancellor Subbaswamy's success. He noted that UMass Amherst soared in the national rankings, expanded enrollment while becoming more diverse, dramatically enhanced campus facilities, expanded its research enterprise, and worked tirelessly to foster an inclusive and welcoming campus climate during Chancellor Subbaswamy's tenure. President Meehan expressed his gratitude to Chancellor Subbaswamy for his stellar service to the University.

President Meehan thanked Trustee Woolridge for chairing the Search Committee, and UMass Amherst Dean Laura Haas for serving as Vice Chair. He thanked Trustees Burns, Kelleher and Tolman, and the other Search Committee members for their work. He also thanked Isaacson, Miller, the executive search firm for assisting the Committee, and noted the UMass Amherst visits by the two finalists who met with students, faculty, staff, alumni and community stakeholders, of which he received hundreds of comments from university stakeholders.

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President Meehan stated that Dr. Javier Reyes is the right person to become the next Chancellor of UMass Amherst, and proudly and enthusiastically recommended Dr. Reyes to the Board of Trustees as the next Chancellor of UMass Amherst. He then provided the background for Dr. Reyes, who began his career in higher education in 2003, when he joined the University of Arkansas economics faculty after earning his PhD in economics from Texas A&M University, and currently serves as interim Chancellor of the University of Illinois Chicago.

Appointment of the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Doc. T23-002

Chairman Karam asked for a motion to appoint Dr. Javier Reyes as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst; and further to authorize the President to enter into a contract with Dr. Reyes for the Position of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst in accordance with the most recent recommendation from the Compensation Committee. He reminded the Trustees to unmute themselves for the Roll Call vote and state their name when they move and second the motion.

The motion was moved by Vice Chair Burns and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

Chairman Karam then asked for comments on the motion.

Trustee Scheibel commended Trustee Woolridge and the Search Committee for an excellent process and President Meehan for his comments and recommendation. She commented on Dr. Reyes being a terrific person to succeed Chancellor Subbaswamy and thanked everyone involved in the process. Trustee Delgado echoed Trustee Scheibel's comments and stated that the selection of Dr. Reyes was historic and noted the buzz and excitement from the feedback he received since the press release on Dr. Reyes' nomination was issued. He looks forward to enthusiastically voting on the appointment, and thanked Chancellor Subbaswamy for all of the work that he has done.

Chancellor Subbaswamy spoke in support of President Meehan's nomination of Dr. Reyes as the next Chancellor of UMass Amherst and noted his impressions of Dr. Reyes. He understands the University's teaching and research mission, and its relationship with the state and public that it serves with his background in two land grant flagship universities (West Virginia and Arkansas). He is highly regarded as a creative, collaborative, and humble servant leader. Chancellor Subbaswamy stated that he enthusiastically supports Dr. Reyes' nomination

Vice Chair Burns, Trustees Kelleher, Colella, Tolman and Wu commended Chancellor Subbaswamy for his work at UMass Amherst and the Search Committee for its work and expressed their support of Dr. Reyes. Trustee Woolridge spoke to the Committee's challenge of finding a candidate that embodied similar qualities of Chancellor Subbaswamy. He noted that the Committee found those qualities in Dr. Reyes.

The Secretary called the roll. Chairman Karam voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Berry, Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Keches, Kelleher, Lechowicz, O'Brien, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Tolman, Tutwiler and Wu

VOTED: To appoint Dr. Javier A. Reyes as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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And further,

To authorize the President to enter into a contract with Dr. Javier A. Reyes for the Position of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst in accordance with the most recent recommendation of the Compensation Committee.

Dr. Reyes joined the meeting and Chairman Karam congratulated him on behalf of the Board for unanimously being elected the next Chancellor of UMass Amherst.

Dr. Reyes expressed his gratitude for the appointment and thanked Chairman Karam, the Board, President Meehan, and the Search Committee and the UMass community. He noted his impression of UMass Amherst and expressed his respect and thanked Chancellor Subbaswamy for his work. He spoke to his commitment to work and continue to sustain the upward trajectory set by Chancellor Subbaswamy. Dr. Reyes thanked everyone for the vote of confidence. He also thanked Hispanic community for its support.

Chairman Karam and President Meehan again congratulated Dr. Reyes. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco welcomed Dr. Reyes to Massachusetts. Vice Chair Burns and Trustees Wu and Ramos Gagliardi welcomed Dr. Reyes.

Chairman Karam thanked the Board for attending the meeting. There being no further business, he adjourned the meeting.

The time was 9:35 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees