

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2004; 4:00 p.m.

**Press Room
Omni Parker House Hotel
60 School Street
Boston, Massachusetts**

Trustees Present: Chair Fey; Trustees Austin, Boyle, Brathwaite, Dubilo, Fatemi, Karam, James Mahoney, Robert Mahoney, Marcalo, McCarthy, Moes, Morand, Rainey, Reed, Sheridan and White

Trustees Absent: Trustees Giblin and O'Shea

Conference Call: Trustees Cassel, DiBiaggio and Kennedy

University Administration: General Counsel O'Malley; Chancellor Gora

Faculty Representatives: Professor O'Connor, UMASS Amherst

Chair Fey convened the meeting at 4:15 p.m. The first item on the agenda was the **Chair's Report.** Chair Fey announced that today's special meeting has been called to receive the report of the President's Search Committee and to deliberate and vote on the selection of a president for the University of Massachusetts.

The next item was **Report of the President's Search Committee.** Trustee Moes, Co-Chair of the Search Committee related for the members of the Board the extensive process that led to today's meeting. The first step was to interview five Search firms, which led to the hiring of Korn Ferry International to assist in conducting the search. It was determined that the search process would seek input from the broadest possible cross-sections across the University and the Commonwealth encouraging nominations for the traditional and non-traditional candidates.

A search web site was established that was available through the University's system that included a form that people could fill out to provide input. The first meeting of the Search Committee was held on September 26, 2003 followed by a meeting of the Co-Chairs with Governor Romney.

During the month of October, open forums were held at the five campuses and for the leadership of UMass Memorial Healthcare, Inc. There was also a reception for Legislators held at the State House, a meeting with alumni directors, alumni association

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presidents, a meeting with business community leaders and a meeting with former UMASS Board Chair, Daniel Taylor. The Co-Chairs also met with interim President Wilson and members of the President's Office Senior Staff. All of these meetings occasioned sincere, candid and thoughtful advice from the participants.

In November, the Search Committee held its second meeting and approved a statement of preferred qualifications and attributes for the next UMASS leader. Through October, November and December the Search Committee received nominations for 100 candidates and on December 10th the Search Committee held its third meeting and narrowed the field of candidates. In January and February the Search Committee interviewed several candidates.

Co-Chair Moes reported that today's report to the Board will conclude the business of the Search Committee. At the conclusion of today's meeting, the Search Committee was pleased to recommend to the Board of Trustees, the names Jack Wilson and Alan Solomont as candidates for the position of President of the University of Massachusetts.

Chair Moes added that many members of the Search Committee expressed a strong preference for Jack Wilson.

Chair Fey asks for a motion and it was

MOVED: To appoint Jack Wilson as President of the University.

Chair Fey's motion is seconded.

Trustee McCarthy then asked to submit a motion and it was

MOVED: That the Board of Trustees take no vote for the President of the University of Massachusetts until the candidates are interviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The motion is seconded. Trustee McCarthy then addresses the Board first thanking the Chair, the Committee and the Co-Chairs of the Search Committee for their diligence, dedication and time that they put in to select these candidates for this very important position that will lead this University over the next two decades. This University is made up of five campuses and is an economic engine for the Commonwealth.

Trustee McCarthy reports that his past experiences with searches and the hiring of college presidents has always included an opportunity to interview the candidates and believes it is the responsibility of the Trustees to do so. This is the most important function a Trustee can perform. While offering his support for the two candidates, he

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reiterated his desire to have the Board interview the two candidates to learn their vision for the University and the Commonwealth.

Trustee James Mahoney expressed his view that the University is facing some difficult times; there has been the resignation of President Bulger and the budget cuts to the University. He commended the members of the Search Committee but expressed his disappointment with the outcome. While President Wilson has done a good job as interim president, he believes it would be in the best interest of the University to extend the search for another year.

Trustee Boyle offered his support for President Wilson but would like some information on the other candidate, Mr. Solomont, in order to make an informed decision.

Trustee Marcalo also would prefer some additional information on the candidates.

Chair Fey then asked for a vote on Trustee McCarthy's motion. Following a role call vote, the motion was defeated 8-5.

Biographical information on the two candidates is then distributed to the members of the Board. At 4:30 p.m., Trustee Rainey arrives.

Chair Fey again asks for a motion and it is

MOVED: To appoint Jack Wilson as President of the University.

The motion is seconded. Trustee Austin, co-chair of the Search Committee reports on the process of the search and the common thread from the search committee members expressing extreme satisfaction with the depth and quality of the candidate pool. After meeting with these candidates it was determined that Jack Wilson possessed outstanding credentials serving the University with skill, ingenuity and dedication and stressed his support for his candidacy.

Chair Fey reported that the Search Committee recommended that the candidate for President possess an unshakeable commitment to excellence in teaching, research and public service and possess an interest in students, faculty and staff. Chair Fey voiced her strong support for Jack Wilson and believes he is the strongest candidate for the President.

Trustee Karam also a member of the Search Committee reports on the process and the accomplished membership of the Search Committee. He also reports that information about the candidates was always available for the Board member's review and that he supports Jack Wilson's nomination.

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Trustee Robert Mahoney provides some information about Alan Solomont and considers both Mr. Solomont and Mr. Wilson strong candidates but supports Jack Wilson for the position.

Trustee McCarthy reads aloud the biography of Alan Solomont and reiterated that it was his expectation that the Board would be allowed to interview the finalists.

It was then

VOTED: To appoint Jack M. Wilson as President of the University of Massachusetts effective March 24, 2004. (Doc. T04-025)

Trustee McCarthy abstained and asked to be recorded as not having enough information. Trustees Lawrence Boyle and James Mahoney also abstained from the vote.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Barbara F. DeVico
Secretary to the Board of Trustees