

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Tuesday, October 19, 2004; 8:00 a.m.

**Knapp Room
One Beacon Street - 26th Floor
University of Massachusetts
Boston, Massachusetts**

Committee Members Present: Chair Austin; Vice Chair Cassel (via conference call); Trustees Boyle, DiBiaggio, LaBrecque, Moseley, Murphy, Pham and White; Chair Karam

Other Trustees: Trustee Moes

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Giblin, Kennedy, Mahoney and Sheridan

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel O'Malley; Associate Vice President Harrington; Executive Vice President Julian; Chancellors Lombardi, Motley and MacCormack; Provosts Fonteyn, Esposito and Wooding; Vice Chancellor Scheid; Mr. Cunningham, Associate Provost

Faculty Representatives: Professor Kinney, UMASS Amherst; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Chair Austin convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m. and indicated that the Trustees have identified certain issues they want to discuss in the future to maintain an open dialogue with the campuses.

The first item on the agenda was **Consideration of the Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee.**

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the July 20, 2004 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report.** President Wilson welcomed Trustee Austin as the new Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, and announced that the Public Service Awards which honors faculty members from across the UMASS system will take place today.

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President Wilson then provided an update on current academic events. He reported that UMASS Boston was awarded a \$12.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation; UMASS Dartmouth celebrated the opening of the Earl P. Charlton College of Business created from a \$3 million gift from the Charlton Family Trust; UMASS Boston hosted the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award Ceremony for Campus-Community Collaboration; UMASS Lowell in partnership with Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire received a \$12.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish a Center for Nanomanufacturing; UMASS Amherst hosted a nanotechnology conference; the National Science Foundation recently ranked UMASS Amherst 7th among U.S. universities receiving nanotechnology related research grants; the Amherst School of Nursing received a \$957,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services; a series of television ads are promoting the University as ‘making the world a better place’; the Medical School announced a sponsored research licensing agreement.

President Wilson updated the Committee on the search process for a Vice President for Academic Affairs.

President Wilson then reported that a number of issues have been addressed on the campuses in light of recent press reports about the racial climate on the campuses. He indicated that the University is committed to its goal of a positive climate on the campuses.

President Wilson reported that the next item is a discussion of the proposed **UMASS/Southern New England School of Law (SNSL) Merger**. Chancellor MacCormack will brief the Committee on the process. President Wilson provided a brief history on the law school and indicated that it is important to proceed in a professional manner and present information to the Board of Trustees in a timely fashion. Today’s discussion will focus on academic issues related to the merger. Financial and administrative issues will be discussed at Thursday’s Administration and Finance meeting.

Chair Karam reported that the due diligence process has been thorough. Getting the law school to a state of excellence from where it is today is a main concern. Chancellor MacCormack, President Wilson and his staff have been asked to report in November on the business plan, and the cost and risks of getting the law school fully accredited.

Chair Karam hopes that the Board can move forward with the law school merger based on the basic consideration of what it means for the University’s mission, the campuses, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Chancellor MacCormack then briefed the Committee on the initial law school proposal and the due diligence process. Admissions standards and adequate faculty support remain critical academic issues for SNSL. Thirty-six percent of the students are students of color, a concern as we look at our mission of access.

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Chancellor MacCormack reported that public interest law is a focus of the law school. We want to create a resource for the Commonwealth which would allow an opportunity for qualified working-class students who want to pursue a law education. There is a need, and that need is consistent with the University's mission to serve the Commonwealth.

Trustee Boyle indicated that he had electronically mailed a memo to Board members opposing the timing of a vote on the law school in November. He requested the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to further review the proposed merger. Chair Karam indicated that there is no scheduled vote to go before the Board in November.

After further discussion Trustee Boyle asked if it was possible to review the American Bar Association Accreditation Reports. Chancellor MacCormack reported that it is possible but only at the facility.

Chair Austin announced that the Committee would break for a 20-25 minute recess for the Public Service Awards. The time was 9:34 a.m.

The Committee reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Associate Vice President Harrington congratulated President Wilson who was inducted in the United States System Learning Association Hall of Fame on October 12th.

Chair Austin requested a brief update on the recent racial and ethnic conflict on the Amherst campus. Chancellor Lombardi has appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission to work on campus diversity issues. The Committee is expected to report its findings and recommendations in February 2005.

Associate Vice President Harrington then presented information on the **Fall 2004 Undergraduate Admissions Enrollment Preliminary Report; Periodic Multi-Year Review Report (PMYR); and Academic Quality Assessment and Development Report (AQAD)**. She informed the Committee that the final preliminary enrollment figures will be available in December. Enrollment is strong across the system. Enrollment of first-year students and transfers was stable with minor changes. The number of applications for first-year students increased across the system, although the yield rate remains steady at 39%. Minority student enrollment and enrollment of out-of-state students were also stable.

Associate Vice President Harrington reported that this is the fifth year of Periodic Multi-Year Review implementation. One hundred and sixty-five faculty members were notified of a PMYR review. Twenty-three percent or 38 of those notified had their reviews waived due to impending retirements. An additional thirty-one (19%) were waived for other reasons. Ninety-six faculty completed PMYR, and of those reviewed, 95 were rated in the category of "statement accepted" (Amherst, Boston, and Lowell) or "Excellent/Satisfactory" (Dartmouth). Only one was categorized as "statement revised/needs improvement."

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Associate Vice President Harrington reported that Academic Quality and Development is a part of the Performance Measurement System. AQAD is the program's review process. Every department must be reviewed on a 7-year cycle, with the exception of UMASS Dartmouth on a 5-year cycle. AQAD is an ongoing system that occurs at the program level. AQAD is intended to assess the four academic functions of teaching and learning, research scholarship, creative activity, and public service. It was established in 1997-1998. There were 30 programs reviewed in 2003-2004. There were strengths and areas of concern found in every review. The three common areas of concern in the reviews were: a concern about the declining number of faculty in many departments, the need to upgrade facilities, and the need to plan strategically for the future.

The first item for action was **Appointment to Named Professorship, UMASS Amherst**. Associate Provost Cunningham reported that Dr. James Kurose joined the University in 1984. President Wilson noted that he is an outstanding teacher and researcher. Associate Vice President Harrington noted that Dr. Kurose is a former recipient of the Public Service Awards.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of James F. Kurose as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. (Doc. T04-068)

Chair Austin then announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Boston and UMASS Dartmouth** and **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst**. He indicated that the Committee would not reconvene in open session.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of considering **Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Boston and UMASS Dartmouth** and **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst**.

Chair Austin voted for the motion as did Trustees DiBiaggio, and LaBrecque. The time was 11:25 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate