

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Tuesday, May 4, 2004; 4:00 p.m.
Massachusetts Room – Mullins Center
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts**

Trustees Present: Chair Fey; Vice Chair Giblin; Trustees DiBiaggio, Fatemi, Karam, Marcalo, Moes, O’Shea, Reed and White

Trustees Absent: Trustees Austin, Boyle, Brathwaite, Cassel, Dubilo, Kennedy, McCarthy, James Mahoney, Robert Mahoney, Morand, Rainey and Sheridan

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel O’Malley; Vice Presidents Chmura, Gray, Julian, and Lenhardt; Ms. Harrington; Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Chancellors Lombardi, Gora, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare

Faculty Representatives: Professor O’Connor, UMASS Amherst; Professor May, UMASS Amherst; Professor Buzawa, UMASS Lowell; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Guests: Richard Rogers, Faculty Advisor to the Provost, UMASS Amherst; Peter Langer, Associate Provost, UMASS Boston; Professor Polly Welsh, UMASS Boston; Professor Teddy Chocos, UMASS Boston; Professor Richard Upchurch, UMASS Dartmouth; Professor Susan Gallagher, UMASS Lowell; Mitchell Shuldman, Librarian, UMASS Lowell

Chair Fey convened the meeting at 4:20 p.m. and thanked Chancellor Lombardi and his staff for their hospitality. She noted that Chancellor Lombardi is working hard to move the Amherst campus forward during these challenging times.

Chair Fey welcomed President Jack Wilson to his first meeting as President of the University of Massachusetts. She then indicated that today’s discussion will focus on innovation that is improving the undergraduate experience at the University of Massachusetts.

Under the **President’s Report**, President Wilson reported that today’s discussion will focus on the teaching, learning, and engagement process through various facets of the students’ experience. National trends of teaching and learning include the development of a more interactive and engaging classroom experience; getting more real experiences such as undergraduate research participation; service learning opportunities for students such as activities involvement within the community; and honors programs. He reported that one of the issues that universities wrestle with is the use of technology to create engagement and communities of learners.

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President Wilson reported that he recently participated in the UMASS Commonwealth Scholars Undergraduate Research Symposium.

President Wilson then introduced Richard Rogers, Advisor to the Provost, UMASS Amherst; Peter Langer, Associate Provost, UMASS Boston; Professor Polly Welsh, UMASS Boston; Professor Teddy Chocos, UMASS Boston; Professor Richard Upchurch, UMASS Dartmouth; Professor Susan Gallagher, UMASS Lowell; Mitchell Shuldman, Librarian, UMASS Lowell and David Gray, Interim CEO, UMassOnline to discuss **Innovation in Undergraduate Education**.

Richard Rogers from the Amherst campus reported on “Teaching a Class of 200 as if it were only 20” and how technology assists in making large classes more personable. He discussed the Personal Response System (PRS), which promotes active learning and Online Web-based Learning (OWL). The Trustees participated in a PRS demonstration.

Peter Langer from the Boston campus reported on the challenges of creating a freshmen learning community at a commuter campus and the creation of integrative multidisciplinary freshmen seminars, which are linked to other courses to build a community of learners.

Professors Polly Welsh and Teddy Chocos from the Boston campus reported on their experiences in teaching linked courses.

Professor Richard Upchurch from the Dartmouth campus reported on the “E-Portfolio,” an electronic record of a student’s academic career.

David Gray, CEO of UMassOnline reported on the educational opportunities available Online and the ability of UMassOnline to reach students beyond time and space constraints. He then introduced Professor Susan Gallagher and Mitchell Shuldman from the Lowell campus to report on the use of UMassOnline technology to enhance traditional face-to-face classrooms.

Professor Susan Gallagher from the Lowell campus reported on the use of instructional technology to enhance learning in the classroom.

Mitchell Shuldman, Librarian from the Lowell campus reported on the challenge of information literacy in an era of easy access to, and overwhelming amounts of, information.

David Gray then presented a testimonial video of Christopher Scholarman, a student who completed his B.S. degree in Information Technology offered through UMassOnline.

There was then a brief discussion on integrating information technology within the University’s five-campus system.

Chair Fey then thanked the participants for their presentations.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate