

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Tuesday, November 15, 2005; 1:30 p.m.

Massachusetts Room
3rd Floor – Mullins Center
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair Austin; Vice Chair Cassel; Trustees Armstrong, Carlin; DiBiaggio, Longo, Louis, Makrez, Pearl and Silver; Chair Karam

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Boyle, Kennedy, Sheridan and White

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel O'Malley; Senior Vice President Williams; Associate Vice President Harrington; Vice Presidents Chmura, Gray, Julian and Lenhardt; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Esposito and Wooding; Vice Chancellor Scheid

Faculty Representatives: Professors May and O'Connor, UMASS Amherst; Professors Tirrell, and Ashrafi, UMASS Boston; Ms. Gibbs, UMASS Dartmouth; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Guests: Janice Telfer, UMASS Amherst; Andrea Foulkes, UMASS Amherst; Edmund Beard, UMASS Boston; Isabel Feo Rodrigues, UMASS Dartmouth; Linda Williams, UMASS Lowell; Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga, UMASS Worcester

Chair Austin convened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Austin then asked for a motion to **Consider the Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee.**

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the August 23, 2005 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report.** President Wilson reported that since the last meeting of this Committee the nation has experienced some of the worst natural devastation it has seen in decades. Hurricane Katrina's wrath affected thousands, causing untold damage including the near destruction of the many colleges and universities in that area. The UMASS community came together offering our campuses, our classes, our time and our talents during

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this time of crisis. The campuses enrolled more than 30 students who were displaced by the hurricane for the Fall, 2005 semester.

Students also organized numerous fundraisers and toy drives; Trustee Heather Makrez from the Lowell campus organized a cross campus initiative entitled 'UMASS KAREs' (Katrina Relief). The initiative is a campaign whose goal is to raise \$50,000 and work with Habitat for Humanity to build a house in the affected area. The University's faculty offered their expertise in trauma counseling, assisted with medical services at Otis Air Force Base, and was among the first Disaster Management Teams to arrive on the Gulf Coast to help.

President Wilson reported that at the August 23rd meeting of the Committee representatives from each campus highlighted some of the exciting international opportunities for UMASS students. At that time we were in the process of turning data about all of those opportunities into a web-based interactive site for students, faculty and staff to use. The site was launched yesterday, the beginning of International Week.

President Wilson reported that faculty and students are achieving throughout the University system. 'Enhancing Student Learning' is not just a priority but an imperative heeded by the campuses and often conjoined with another University priority such as strengthening the research enterprise. Highlights included:

UMASS Amherst:

- Professors Allan Feldman and Joseph Berger and Morton Sternheim, Director of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Institute, received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to hold a national conference examining alternative teacher certification for science teachers. The conference organizers will help define policy and practice in the crucial area of preparing science teachers.
- A \$995,000 federal education grant has been awarded to the History Department and partners to enhance the knowledge of local teachers of American history and to improve their teaching. The partners include the Historic Northampton Museum and Education Center, the Springfield Armory, and the Hampshire Educational Collaborative. "From Agrarian Colonies to World Leader: How American Institutions Endure Through Change" will involve 14 school districts in Western Massachusetts. The project will reach 80 teachers for students in grades 5, 8, and 10 through three consecutive summer institutes (2006 to 2008) taught by history faculty.

UMASS Boston:

- Through the efforts of the Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education, (NERCVE), UMASS Boston's Graduate College of Education received two five-year federal grants totaling \$2.75 million to prepare personnel to serve children with visual

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impairments, specifically, Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialists.

- A continued focus on diversity and on access is evidenced in people, programs, and agreements on the Boston campus:
 - Of the 38 new tenure-track and tenured faculty, 37% are people of color and 42% are women;
 - The Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (CWPP) established the Gender Multicultural Leadership project, a national multi-year study of women and people of color in elected office;
 - Corporate Continuing and Distance Education (CCDE) led the UMass System in promoting disabled access to online courses with closed caption streamed video introductions to all courses and twelve Special Education courses that use accessibility features for the visually impaired;
 - Seven community colleges signed articulation agreements with Boston's College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The agreements between the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and these seven two year institutions for a BSRN degree completion program for Associate Degree nurses (Bunker Hill, Cape Cod, Laboure, Mass Bay, Massasoit, Quincy and Roxbury) provide seamless entry into the online baccalaureate nursing program.

UMASS Dartmouth:

- Thirty-two new faculty members on the Dartmouth campus have been hired this fall, completing the restoration of positions lost through budget cuts and early retirements, and thirteen classrooms have been upgraded with new teaching technology, bringing to 40 the number of classrooms that have been fully renovated over the last two years. In addition to improving the aesthetics of these learning environments, the renovations use the "greenest" technologies available to save energy.
- In September, the Dartmouth campus broke ground on a new \$9 million, two-story, 20,000 square foot research building. The facility is critical to the University's strategy to play a central role in the development of the innovation economy in southeastern Massachusetts. The research building is scheduled to open in August, 2006. The catalyst for the construction of the facility is a \$17 million UMass Dartmouth/Tufts University anti-bioterrorism effort focusing on finding cures and treatments for botulism. Professor Bal Ram Singh's efforts for the last 15 years have contributed significantly to the success of the number of grants achieved in this area.
- UMASS Dartmouth's Center for University, School and Community Partnerships received a \$54,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund "Visions of Slavery and Freedom in the Writings of Lydia Maria Child, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville and Harriet Jacobs," Faculty Humanities Workshops for

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teachers from grades 8-12. The workshops will offer a series of interdisciplinary presentations, workshops and field trips to 20 teachers of history, social studies, American literature and English language arts from the public, and private schools in southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

UMASS Lowell:

- UMASS Lowell's Francis College of Engineering won a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), one of only six awarded nationwide out of 57 applicants. The three-year funding will help the college implement project SLICE: Service Learning Integrated throughout a College of Engineering. The plan will incorporate projects into courses throughout the entire curriculum, exposing each engineering student to service learning every semester.
- UMASS Lowell's Continuing Studies and Corporate Education Division received three national awards for its online education programs from the Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C), an association of more than 1,000 institutions and organizations of higher education engaged in online learning. Sloan-C awarded the Division for "Excellence in Institution-Wide Online Teaching and Learning Programming," "Excellence in Faculty Development for Online Teaching," and "Excellence in Online Teaching," which recognized Psychology Professor Joan Cannon. Jacqueline Moloney, Dean of Continuing Studies and Corporate Education, launched UMass Lowell's online program 10 years ago. Programs are offered through the UMassOnline system initiative headed by CEO David Gray.

UMASS Worcester:

- At UMASS Worcester, enhanced learning is joined with improved delivery of IT: A training requirement for WebCT has been instituted for all users by the campus Distance Learning Advisory Committee. The WebCT learning management system allows faculty to adapt their coursework to an online curriculum.
- The Worcester campus continues its pioneering work in addressing the HIV/AIDS virus: A new HIV vaccine approach developed by UMASS Medical School scientists and Advanced BioScience Laboratories, Inc. (ABL), shows promise for generating antibody and T-cell responses in otherwise healthy people, according to the preliminary results from a phase one clinical trial that took place over 12 months beginning April 2004. The trial was designed to test the safety of the vaccine and to monitor its ability to generate immune responses in people.

President Wilson congratulated the campuses for working diligently to enhance student learning, ensuring access and affordability, strengthening the research enterprise, developing first rate infrastructures, and continuing a focus on diversity and a positive climate, among other priorities.

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The next item was the **Vice President's Reports**. Senior Vice President Williams acknowledged and congratulated the 2005-2006 Fulbright Scholars:

Professor Joyce Berkman, Department of History, UMASS Amherst who will lecture and do research on Women and Gender in U.S. History at the Free University of Berlin in Berlin, Germany.

Professor Eduardo Cattani, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UMASS Amherst who will lecture and do research in Toric Residues, Hypergeometric Functions and Mirror Symmetry at the University of Buenos Aires in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Professor William Gerace, Department of Physics and Director of the Scientific Reasoning Research Institute, College of Natural Science and Mathematics, UMASS Amherst who will lecture and do research on Physical Science Instruction; Needs and Barriers Faced by Rural In-Service Teachers at the University of Fort Hare, Alice, South Africa.

Professor Robert Wick, Department of Soil and Insect Sciences, UMASS Amherst who will lecture on Diagnostic Plant pathology at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

Professor Weili Ye, Department of History and Women's Studies, UMASS Boston who will do research on The Missing Generation: Modernity, War and Urban Educated Youth in the Making of the Chinese Revolution – at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, Beijing, China.

Senior Vice President Williams reported that the University of Massachusetts will also be the host site for five Visiting Fulbright Scholars from Morocco, Turkey, Ghana, Uganda, and the Netherlands. She noted that it is fitting to make these announcements during International Week.

Chair Austin also congratulated the Fulbright Scholars.

Chair Austin introduced the informational items: **Fall 2005 Undergraduate Admissions and Enrollment Preliminary Report**, **Periodic Multi-Year Review Report**, and **Academic Quality Assessment Development Report**. Senior Vice President Williams reported that the Academic Quality Assessment Development Report and the Periodic Multi-Year Review Report are accountability reports that are provided annually. The Admissions and Enrollment Preliminary Report is an advisory report on the preliminary figures for the campuses.

The first item was the **Fall 2005 Undergraduate Admissions and Enrollment Preliminary Report**. It was noted that we do not have peer preliminary data; we looked at data from peers from last year's final numbers and made comparisons.

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Chair Karam had a question about whether we are keeping up or falling behind. Chancellor Lombardi reported that we are keeping up but not moving as fast as we should. Competition for high SAT students has gotten highly competitive amongst major public universities. All of our competitors are investing large amounts of money recruiting high scoring SAT students.

Chancellor Lombardi continued by reporting on the Amherst Honors Program that not only provides a special kind of education but it is also a preliminary recruiting device for students with high SAT's and GPA's who prefer to be in a special environment.

The Amherst campus is instituting an early admissions program recruiting those students who think that we are their primary choice. An early admissions program will help you identify those students; we have been losing students in the past because we haven't been recruiting them effectively. One of the major issues is the lack of a recreation center. We have some problems with freshmen retentions which are the reason the Amherst campus is changing the way we manage our residence halls to have all the freshmen together to provide support in their adjustment and integration on campus.

Senior Vice President Williams thought it would be useful to have a full discussion in the Spring when there is the hard data on all of these numbers and provide an opportunity to compare it with our peers.

It was suggested that the Board receive a list of who our peers are. In response to an inquiry about the University's game plan, Senior Vice President Williams responded that each campus has its own plan, trying to find a balance while increasing its numbers and student profile.

There are many factors to take into account: the difference in the community of a state, the immigrant population, reputation, facilities, merit scholarships just to name a few. Senior Vice President Williams reported on the importance of K-12 involvement; all of the campuses are engaged to ensure that access is there and that students have an experience that is full and rich and prepares them to be competitive as graduates of the institution.

The next item was the **Periodic Multi-Year Review Report**. Senior Vice President Williams reported that this review is a means of ensuring that faculty is reviewed in a way that helps them to continue to be vital and if they are not, we have a mechanism whereby their development encourages productivity.

There is a rolling process scale that allows the campuses to review what the faculty member's plans and intentions are every six to seven years. This also provides an opportunity to suggest new directions or offer appropriate emphasis on work load, etc. There was a brief discussion about the role student evaluations play.

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Senior Vice President Williams then reported that today's discussion will focus on **Faculty International Research**. This is a follow-up to the August 23rd meeting of the Committee at which time the Committee heard a discussion on International Relations with a focus on opportunities abroad for UMASS students. Today's discussion will focus on issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga, Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Medicine, and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Immunology, Infectious Diseases, and Rheumatology at UMASS Worcester began by thanking the Trustees, Senior Vice President Williams and President Wilson for the opportunity for faculty to share their research. Professor Luzuriaga then reported on UMASS Worcester's Internal Child HIV Program. Since its inception in 1987 the program has conducted translational research with a focus on the global prevention and treatment of pediatric HIV infection. UMASS Worcester has partnered with the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trial Group to work on antiretroviral therapy in developing countries.

Dr. Linda Williams, Professor of Criminal Justice from UMASS Lowell reported on conducted longitudinal research on violence against women and the consequences of child abuse and violence and their implications for the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Professor Williams attended the Third South African Gender-Based Violence and Health Conference held in October. The conference aim was to raise the profile of gender-based violence as a health issue and present research on the links between gender-based violence and HIV, to build capacity for research, to improve dissemination of research findings and to advocate for research-based policy.

Dr. Janice Telfer, Professor of Veterinary and Animal Sciences from UMASS Amherst reported on research and education in stem cell. The newly formed Institute of Cellular Engineering promotes research and education in stem cell engineering and represents an interdisciplinary collaboration between biologists in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Science and Engineers in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Efforts are underway to find new ways of expanding and differentiation adult stem cells to rejuvenate the immune systems of HIV/AIDS patients. This is also important for other diseases that could be treated by bone marrow transplants, such as cancers.

Dr. Isabel Feo Rodrigues, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology from UMASS Dartmouth reported on research on the undocumented Brazilian migration to the U.S. and access to health care. The main focus of her research is to determine the role of religion in shaping behavior and affecting health outcomes, including HIV/AIDS infections.

Dr. Andrea Foulkes, Professor of Public Health and Health Sciences from UMASS Amherst reported that her research to develop novel statistical methods in HIV/AIDS research. This research uses data collected in national and international HIV/AIDS clinical trials, and aims to

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draw from the vast array of cellular and molecular level information now available to determine the best way to treat individual patients. There is a need for improved global health, and particularly consideration of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the developing world.

Edmund Beard, Dean of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies from UMASS Boston reported that the focus of his research is on creating University Consortium to Combat Aids. The primary reason is to mobilize African universities to use their resources, expertise, credibility and local stature in their communities to join the fight against AIDS, particularly, in public education, providing public education training, voluntary counseling and training, and service provision. African universities are, in this public education and community outreach context, vastly under-utilized in this regard. To this, university-linked multi-function community resource centers are being developed.

Senior Vice President Williams indicated that international research is a multi-disciplinary, multi-function approach and the University has the capacity to address pandemic issues.

Trustees Cassel and Pearl thanked the participants for their impressive presentations. Trustee Cassel asked whether the campuses hold system-wide conferences for graduate students. Senior Vice President Williams reported that the campuses gathered in June, 2005 and discussed HIV/AIDS interests, and there will another conference at the beginning of the year at UMASS Boston.

The first item for action was **Appointments to Named Professorships, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Worcester.**

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Lynne Baker as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

To concur with the President in the appointment of Vincent Rotello to the Charles A. Goessmann Chair in Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

To concur with the President in the appointment of Phillip Zamore as the Gretchen Stone Cook Chair in Biomedical Science at the University of Massachusetts Worcester. (Doc. T05-058)

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Chair Austin announced the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Honorary Degrees, UMASS Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester, Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst and issues related to Collective Bargaining.** The Secretary will call the Roll; Trustees are requested to state yes or no.

The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Honorary Degrees, UMASS Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester, Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst and issues related to Collective Bargaining.**

Chair Austin voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Cassel and Trustees Karam, Armstrong, Carlin, DiBiaggio, Louis and Pearl.

The time was 4:10 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate