

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

**Tuesday, August 23 2005; 4:00 p.m.
Alumni Lounge – Campus Center
University of Massachusetts
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts**

Trustees Present: Chair Karam; Vice Chair White; Trustees Armstrong, Austin, DiBiaggio, Hyppolite, Kennedy, Louis, Makrez, O’Shea, Rainey, Sheridan and Silver

Trustees Absent: Trustees Boyle, Carlin, Cassel, Dubilo, Fey, Longo, McCarthy, Mahoney, and Pearl

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel O’Malley; Senior Vice President Williams; Vice Presidents Chmura, Gray, Julian, Lenhardt and Motley; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare

Faculty Representatives: Professors May and O’Connor, UMASS Amherst; Ms. Gibbs, UMASS Dartmouth; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Guests: Roderick Jensen, Alton Brann Distinguished Professor of Physics, Biology and Mathematics, and Robert Chen, Professor, Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences, UMASS Boston

Chair Karam convened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and thanked Chancellor Collins and his staff for their hospitality. It is a delight to be on the Boston campus and in this Campus Center, which symbolizes the progress we are making on this campus and throughout the five-campus system.

Chair Karam then welcomed the new Trustees: Matthew Carlin; Valerie Louis from the Amherst campus; Fritz Hyppolite from the Boston campus; Brian Silver from the Dartmouth campus; Heather Makrez from the Lowell campus; and Craig Longo from the Worcester campus.

Chair Karam indicated that Chancellor Collins will provide an overview of his reflections of the first months as Chancellor and highlight some of the fine academic and research work taking place at UMASS Boston.

Chancellor Collins then reported on his initial impressions of the Boston campus. He noted that students and faculty at UMASS Boston lead very inspiring lives and announced that his convocation speech on September 20 is entitled ‘Inspiring Minds, Inspiring Lives’.

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Highlights of Chancellor Collins initial impressions of the Boston campus included:

- The student body is richly diverse, and faculty members are committed to scholarship and research and creative activity. Most importantly, the faculty is committed to our students;
- UMASS Boston is a place where many centers and institutes are located providing tremendous insight into both policy and academic issues;
- UMASS Boston is surrounded by an engaged and informed community;
- Given the recent Senate Task Force Report on ‘Investing in the Future’ and the soon-to-be released report from the Boston Foundation on ‘A New Era of Higher Education and Community Partnerships’, it is important to recognize that there is a heightened focus on higher education in Massachusetts;
- The inferiority of much of the physical complex on campus presents tremendous challenges; and the infrastructure needs present a great challenge. Many of our critical systems are reaching or have reached the end of their critical life;
- Negotiations of the funding of personnel contracts have been challenging;
- Fundraising efforts present a challenge. There is a need to improve efforts to identify external sources of funding for the University and development efforts will be improved;
- A Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement has been hired;
- There have been challenges with student enrollment, particularly with part-time graduate students. A number of students are enrolling in the College of Continuing Education and Distance Learning. This situation is being monitored;
- We need to maintain and foster access to higher education in this urban setting. Access to excellence is critical. While maintaining access, we need to improve the attractiveness of UMASS Boston to most competitive students. There is an active effort to improve student retention;
- It is essential to increase retention, to improve research, and to enhance the reputation of the institution. Advising would be the key to retention; infrastructure would be the key to research, and a brand identity with a focus for the quality of our educational offering would be the key to enhancing the University’s reputation;
- It is important to increase the ranks of our faculty. Faculty recruitment is a tremendous opportunity to increase the research profile of the University;
- Athletics as part of our academic endeavors needs to be about excellence.
- Charles Titus has been promoted to Vice Chancellor for Athletics/Recreation & Special Programs.

Chancellor Collins also reported that business processes and administration organization have his attention and are under review. Team building will be an important effort as relationship building continues.

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Chancellor Collins indicated that his summer emersion program was a great opportunity to interact with students and faculty and to visit with colleagues. He then announced that his inauguration ceremony will take place the last weekend of April, 2006.

Chancellor Collins then introduced Professor Roderick Jensen, the Alton Brann Distinguished Professor of Physics, Biology and Mathematics, and Robert Chen, Professor of Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences to highlight their academic and research work at UMASS Boston.

Professor Roderick Jensen holds an A.B. degree in Physics and a Ph.D. in Astrophysical Sciences from Princeton University and has held faculty positions at Yale University, Texas A&M University, and Wesleyan University. Prior to joining UMASS Boston's faculty a year ago, he served as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and at Harvard Medical School, where he was the Director of the Biotechnology Center and Laboratory for Functional Genomics. Professor Jensen directs both the Center for Environmental Health Science and Technology and the Biotechnology Center at UMASS Boston. His research interest over the past 25 years has focused on interdisciplinary problems in nonlinear dynamics, complex systems, and chaos theory.

Professor Robert Chen earned his A.B. degree in Chemistry and Physics from Harvard University and his Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego. He joined the faculty at UMASS Boston in 1993 and teaches graduate courses in Organic Geochemistry and Marine Organic Chemistry. Professor Chen advises master and doctoral candidates and is the Principal Investigator of the Watershed Integrated Science Partnership, a \$1.5 million grant held by the University with the Boston Science Partnership.

Professor Jensen reported on his research in genomics. Genomics is a new area of research in biology which studies gene activity in tissue. His research specializes in a new technology called DNA Microray using the Affymetrix Gene Chip.

Professor Chen reported on the integration of research and education linking sciences and scientific research with educators who are focused on Oceanography.

Chancellor Collins then introduced Darrel Byers, new Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and Kathleen Powers, Chief of Staff.

Chair Karam thanked Professors Jensen and Chen for their presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

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Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate