

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Tuesday, February 14, 2006; 1:00 p.m.
Woodland Commons Facility
Room One
University of Massachusetts
North Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair Austin; Trustees Armstrong, Carlin, DiBiaggio, Hyppolite, Kennedy, Louis, Makrez, Pearl (arrived late), Sheridan and Silver; Chair Karam

Other Trustees: Trustees King-Shaw and O'Shea

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Cassel; Trustees Boyle and Longo

University Administration: President Wilson; Interim General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Chmura, Gray, and Williams; Associate Vice President Harrington; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Esposito and Wooding; Vice Chancellor Scheid

Faculty Representatives: Professors O'Connor (arrived late), UMASS Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMASS Boston; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Guests: Michael Goodman, Economic Research Director, Donahue Institute; Alan Clayton-Matthews, Professor of Public Policy, UMASS Boston; Kevin Stokesbury, Professor of Marine Science, UMASS Dartmouth; Jaymant Kumar, Professor of Physics, UMASS Lowell; Louis Petrovic, Director of External Funding, Technology Transfer and Partnering, UMASS Lowell; Judith Ockene, Professor of Medicine and Chief of Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, UMASS Worcester; Joseph Goldstein, Professor of Engineering, UMASS Amherst; Lynn Griesemer, Executive Director, Donahue Institute; Donna Kuizenga, Dean of Liberal Arts, UMASS Boston; Professor Joyce Peseroff, UMASS Boston; Emily McDermott, Dean of Science and Mathematics, UMASS Boston; Nate Kupel, Alana Caucus Internal Chair, UMASS Amherst; Eduardo Bustamante, Former SGA President, UMASS Amherst

Chair Austin convened the meeting at 1:03 p.m. and thanked Chancellor MacCormack and her staff for their hospitality.

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Chair Austin indicated that the Committee had a full agenda, which included seven action items and a proposal from Trustee Valerie Louis. The Committee will also hear a discussion on Faculty Research and its Impact on Local and Global Economic Developments. Chair Austin announced that any persons wishing to address the Committee must do so through the Chair. He also asked all participants to be mindful of the time.

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

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the November 15, 2005 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report.** President Wilson indicated that with each new year the University reflects on the activities and events of the past year and approaches the new year with the knowledge of past strengths, a readiness to meet new challenges, a preparation for emerging opportunities, and the expectation achieving goals and accomplishing new heights.

Last year the nation was in the throes of the most challenging hurricane season in memory. At the last meeting of the Committee we reported some of the initiatives taken by the University. The University of Massachusetts responded in ways that demonstrated that UMass cares.

President Wilson then reported on activities taking place across the campuses. Highlights included:

UMass Amherst

Wayne Reed, Professor of Physics at Tulane University and 20-year New Orleans resident, was about to launch a new academic institute when Hurricane Katrina hit: the Tulane Center for Excellence in Polymerization Monitoring. A call to his friend and colleague, Professor David A. Hoagland from the Polymer Science and Engineering Department at UMass Amherst, was the catalyst for an intriguing offer. Shaw Ling Hsu, Department Head of the Polymer Science and Engineering Department invited Professor Reed to bring his family and his whole work group to UMass Amherst. The move took place in September 2005. Professor Reed's group's knowledge of instrumentation and monitoring immediately filled a gap in the University's polymer research effort. The team has collaborated with at least half a dozen UMass Amherst researchers. Hurricane Katrina disrupted many lives and professional activities (and the effects of the devastation are still very present), but it has also forged a valuable professional link that might otherwise not have been created.

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UMASS Boston

An Honors Program Colloquium in International Epidemics offered a Student Learning Experience to South Africa. The Honors Program launched an intellectually stimulating new year-long academic experience which included a two-semester engagement studying International Epidemics. From January 8 to January 18, seven students from the International Epidemics Colloquium and Honors Program Director, Professor Rajini Srikanth traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to learn of the challenges of healthcare delivery, specifically to learn about the efforts to treat AIDS in the township of Khayelitsha, a shanty town of 500,000 residents. Pdraig O'Malley, Senior Fellow of the UMass Boston McCormack School of Graduate Studies coordinated the activities for the group. Students volunteered at the clinics of the Treatment Action Campaign, one of the most active AIDS treatment organizations in South Africa.

President Wilson announced that a delegation from the University will be traveling to South Africa next week to sign 3 'Memorandums of Understanding' and to take part in a number of events.

UMASS Dartmouth

The *Jazz for Success* Program which is geared to first-year students to help ensure their retention and success on the campus received national recognition. The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators named it "Program of the Year" for both the state of Massachusetts and New England. The program created and produced by Dr. Norman Barber provides an educational CD with important strategies, timely information, and creative ideas to encourage first-year students with making a successful transition into the University. During the 2004-2005 academic year, *Jazz for Success* was distributed to over 1,100 first-year students. Professor Barber says "One of the most appealing features of *Jazz for Success* is the introduction of outstanding members of the faculty and administration – individuals who seek to challenge students in using self-awareness and critical thinking to examine the values, dreams, and expectations they bring to the campus environment."

UMASS Lowell

Efforts are underway in Biotechnology Manufacturing to strengthen its research enterprise. The Applied Research Program in Biotechnology Manufacturing directed by Dr. Carl Lawton recently received a \$150,000 Development Grant from the Mass Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute. Under the proposal, UMass Lowell will partner with UMass Dartmouth, Tufts University and Worcester Polytechnic Institute to address the needs of emerging and established biotechnology companies in growing biomanufacturing in Massachusetts. The grant will support two pilot programs focusing on technology transfer and process development, applying state-of-the-art technologies to a company's specific product. The grant will also provide professional education courses. This is the second award from the Innovation Institute Fund to UMass Lowell; a \$5 million grant for a Nanomanufacturing Center of Excellence was granted in late 2004.

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UMASS Worcester

When UMASS Medical School Professor of Pediatrics Robert Thomas retired from the work he loved in 1999 as his Parkinson's disease progressed, he left behind a rich teaching legacy that influences UMASS Medical School students to this day. Dr. Thomas' legacy was honored on November 4 with a ceremony led by Marianne Felice, Professor and Chair of Pediatrics. The Inaugural of Dr. Robert Thomas Teaching Award was presented to Pediatrics Chief Resident Dr. Michael Dedekian. The award will be given annually to the Pediatrics Resident who best exemplifies Dr. Thomas's dedication and skills as a teacher. This award is unique because the recipient is chosen solely by other residents.

President Wilson then congratulated all of the individuals on the campuses working diligently to enhance student learning, ensure access and affordability, and strengthen the research enterprise, among other priorities. Dimensions of difference and collaborative efforts are the hallmark of the University's excellence.

Under the **Vice President's Report**, Senior Vice President Williams reported that just over 14 months ago the *Times of London: Higher Education Supplement* identified the University of Massachusetts as one of the Top 50 Research Universities in the World. Only 20 universities were located in the United States.

One of the hallmarks for research universities is the overall added value that accrues to faculty, staff, and students engaged in research, teaching and learning. At the last two meetings of the Committee we learned about research from both the faculty and the students' perspective. The value that research universities afford to students enhances their learning experience. Today we will hear a discussion on further research and what its implications are for our students.

Chair Austin introduced the first item for discussion, **Faculty Research/Impact on Local and Global Economic Developments**. Today's participants include: Michael Goodman, Economic Research Director, Donahue Institute; Alan Clayton-Matthews, Professor of Public Policy, UMASS Boston; Kevin Stokesbury, Professor of Marine Science, UMASS Dartmouth; Jaymant Kumar, Professor of Physics, UMASS Lowell; Louis Petrovic, Director of External Funding, Technology Transfer and Partnering, UMASS Lowell; Judith Ockene, Professor of Medicine and Chief of Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine, UMASS Worcester; Joseph Goldstein, Professor of Engineering, UMASS Amherst.

Senior Vice President Williams thanked Vice President Chmura and his staff for preparing the presentation.

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Vice President Chmura indicated that today's discussion will focus on the impact of teaching and research on a broad range of areas including economic development, public policy, workforce development, the environment and healthcare, and the impact that the University has to go beyond its classrooms and laboratories. Last year another British publication, *The Economist* reviewed a new world of nanotechnology picking 10 companies in the world they thought would really make a difference; one of the companies was Konarka, a spin-off of UMASS Lowell. Today we'll hear about the impact of Konarka in the City of Lowell.

CITI, a project called the Commonwealth Information Technology Initiative is a response regarding very serious concerns from the industry communities in Massachusetts. The industries are concerned about the inadequacy of student preparation in information technology, not only for the computer industry and software, but for healthcare and financial services industries as well as others. Under the leadership of Professor Joe Goldstein and personnel from the Computer Science Department, the Amherst campus developed a very unique state-wide initiative that is now working with the Donahue Institute to expand the initiative including K-12 education and state and community colleges.

Vice President Chmura reported that because of the work of Michael Goodman and a network of faculty, UMASS has become the 'go to' place for economic analysis and policy insight across the Commonwealth. The *Boston Globe* contacts Alan Clayton-Matthews from UMASS Boston when looking for a comment on changes in the economy.

In the healthcare field, Dr. Judith Ockene has been involved in a very important initiative called the Women's Health Initiative. As a result of her work and that of her colleagues, the Women's Health Initiative has had a dramatic impact on the practice of medicine on the approaches used for different women's health issues.

Professor Kevin Stokesbury and his students have been engaged in wonderful research to help local fishermen make their case to keep the fishing industry alive in New Bedford. The fishing industry is in jeopardy of being closed because of federal regulations. A unique partnership between UMASS science and the fishing industry has been developed to keep the industry alive.

Louis Petrovic, Director of External Funding, Technology Transfer and Partnering and Jaymant Kumar, Professor of Physics from UMASS Lowell then reported on the Local Impacts and Global Possibilities of Konarka, a spin-out company of UMASS Lowell which was founded in 2001 with the potential of becoming a global leader in renewable electricity offering affordable clean energy to the third world. The city of Lowell is very appreciative of having the company located in Lowell. Global impact include alternative to fossil fuel and enabling technology for distributed generation.

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Joseph Goldstein, Professor of Engineering from UMASS Amherst and Lynn Griesemer, Executive Director of the Donahue Institute reported on CITI (the Commonwealth Information Technology Initiative). CITI is a UMASS-led strategy for building an Information Technology-fluent workforce in Massachusetts focusing on challenges in four areas: developing curriculum enhancement, faculty development, regional collaboration, and developing information technology programs across the curriculum. This past fall UMASS Amherst was named the first-in-the-nation Microsoft Information Technology Showcase School.

Michael Goodman, Economic Research Director of the Donahue Institute and Alan Clayton-Matthews, Professor of Public Policy from UMASS Boston reported on system-wide economic and public policy research efforts. They reiterated that UMASS has become the 'go to' place for economic analysis and policy insight across the Commonwealth. Robert Nakosteen from the Amherst campus; John Mullin, Alan Clayton-Matthews and David Terkla from the Boston campus; Clyde Barrow from the Dartmouth campus; and Robert Forrant from the Lowell campus serve as regional analysts for *MassBenchmarks* and their work has been exemplary over the years and supported by the Economic Public Policy Research Program. *MassBenchmarks* which was founded in 1997 is the current and leading economic indices providing a monthly proxy for the growth of the state economy. *MassBenchmarks* is also regularly cited by the *Boston Globe*, and is utilized by the Legislature as a resource for planning.

Judith Ockene, Professor of Medicine and Chief of Division of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine from UMASS Worcester reported on the Women's Health Initiative. The Women's Health Initiative was created in 1993 and funded by the National Institute of Health. There are 40 clinical centers across the country. From a national and international perspective, the study on hormone therapy on menopausal women has demonstrated the importance of science in medical research and the importance of randomized clinical trials; has changed the practice of medicine; puts a greater emphasis on new research for women's health; and has provided strength in women's health at the University locally and nationally; the network of collaboration has increased; and there is an increased focus on women academically, as leaders, and as patients.

Kevin Stokesbury, Professor of Marine Science from UMASS Dartmouth reported on the Scallop Industry and Business Program developed from the research. The Fishing Industry contacted Professor Brian Rothschild of the College of Marine Science and Technology to conduct the Sea Scallop Sampling: Dredge Survey along with the Marine Fisheries Services. The Fishing Industry is worth over a billion dollars to the New England economy and New Bedford became the number one fishing port in 1999. The University has received \$1.5 million in donations from the fishing industry; \$2.1 million in research grants; and \$10.8 million in state and federal congressional funding. Programs have been developed in ground fish, lobsters scallops and marine ecosystems. Professor Stokesbury ended his presentation by showing a University of Massachusetts commercial showcasing our work and collaboration within the fishing industry.

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Chair Austin thanked the participants for their presentations.

The next item for action was **M.F.A. Degree in Creative Writing, UMASS Boston**. Donna Kuizenga, Dean of Liberal Arts and Professor Joyce Peseroff reported on the M.F.A. degree at UMASS Boston. The M.F.A. degree would fulfill the University's "urban mission" by providing students with access to opportunities available at comparable institutions elsewhere in the country. The program is designed to serve students who have already achieved a high level of mastery in the craft of fiction or poetry, as demonstrated in the body of their creative work, and who wish to develop their craft further. The program is also designed to give students both an overview of a life in letters, as well as the practical experience that will enable them to pursue it. Provost Fonteyn indicated that the M.F.A. program has been in progress for two years.

Trustee King-Shaw requested a list of published works from faculty and students. Trustee Hyppolite then indicated that this is a great resource for students.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the M.F.A. Degree in Creative Writing at the University of Massachusetts as contained in Doc. T06-006.

The next item was **Ph.D. Degree in Biology, UMASS Boston**. Emily McDermott, Dean of Science and Mathematics from UMASS Boston presented the proposal. The campus presently offers a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with tracks in Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences; Environmental Biology; Molecular, Cellular and Organismal Biology; and Green Chemistry. It has become clear over time that inclusion under the rubric "Environmental Sciences" obscures the disciplinary focus and rigor of the two biology-based tracks in the program and has detracted from the department's ability to recruit competitively. Accordingly, the faculty of the Ph.D. Program in Environmental Sciences has determined that their students will be better served if the degree is divided to reflect a more traditional disciplinary taxonomy. The proposal before the Committee requests that UMASS Boston be authorized to grant an independent Ph.D. in Biology, with tracks in Environmental Biology and Molecular, Cellular and Organismal Biology. The Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences will continue as a separate entity, comprising the present tracks in Environmental, Coastal and Ocean Sciences and Green Chemistry, which are both based primarily in physical science, as opposed to life science.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the Ph.D. Degree in Biology at the University of Massachusetts Boston as contained in Doc. T06-007.

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The next item for action was Appointments to Named Professorships, UMASS Amherst. Provost Seymour reported that the Dwight W. Allen Professorship was established in August 2001 to be awarded to a scholar with a national reputation in the area of education policy and reform. Dr. Sharon Rallis clearly meets the criteria. She is frequently invited to present at conferences and to contribute to leading journals. She has been chosen as the President of one of the most important National Association in Educational Policy and Reform, the American Evaluation Association.

The Silvio O. Conte Distinguished Professorship was established to honor a faculty member in the Polymer Science and Engineering Department who has attained the highest level of achievement. Dr. Thomas Russell is a world-renowned leader in the field of polymer science. His work has been included in the premier publication of the field. He has received numerous awards. He served as lead organizer of the campus' nanoscience/nanotechnology initiative and was instrumental in obtaining NSF funding to support the program.

After a brief discussion it was then clarified that Distinguished Professorships are usually awarded internally on a campus without a specific monetary endowment, and Endowed Chairs are usually funded by external dollars to provide the salary and additional support for a faculty member to support graduate students and to initiate research programs.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Sharon Rallis to the Dwight W. Allen Professorship of Education Policy and Reform at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

To concur with the President in the appointment of Thomas Russell as the Silvio O. Conte Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (Doc. T06-009)

The next item for action was the Accessibility Proposal. Trustee Valerie Louis, Nate Kupel, Alana Caucus Internal Chair and Eduardo Bustamante, Former SGA President from UMASS Amherst presented information regarding the recent history of the Amherst campus with respect to costs, support programs and admissions practices. The presentation pointed out differences in data supplied by President Wilson, differences which arise when data is reported on underrepresented students of color only rather than all students of color.

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There was a lengthy discussion and a number of comments and questions following the presentation. Committee members and the President stressed the need to present data disaggregated by race/ethnicity and separating underrepresented students. The Committee also spoke regarding the need to continue to ensure both access and affordability but noted that two of the issues need to be separated for discussion. Given the complexity of the resolution presented by Trustee Louis, several of the Committee members indicated that it was difficult to vote on the resolution. Some of the specific resolution items were directed at the Amherst campus while others were more generally directed at the University system.

Chair Austin suggested that the Committee either consider tabling the motion until the next meeting of the Committee when a fuller discussion could occur providing the availability of more detailed data and background information, or that the Committee request that a subcommittee be formed to examine the issues raised in the resolution and report back to the Committee. Trustee Louis was amenable to the formation of a subcommittee and did not move the resolution for a vote.

The Committee then moved, and seconded a motion that a subcommittee be formed to respond to the issues raised in Trustee Louis' resolution. Chair Karam, President Wilson and Senior Vice President Williams will work together to appoint interested Board members and others to the subcommittee. Trustee Hyppolite expressed interest in becoming a member of the subcommittee.

Chair Austin then announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston** and **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Worcester** and **Honorary Degrees, UMASS Boston, UMASS Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts**. The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session, and the Secretary will call the Roll; Trustees are requested to state yes or no.

It was moved, seconded and

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

Chair Austin voted for the motion as did Trustees Armstrong, Carlin, DiBiaggio, Hyppolite, Karam, Kennedy, Louis, Pearl and Sheridan. The time was 3:49 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate