

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER**

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

**Tuesday, May 23, 2006; 1:30 p.m.**

**Faculty Conference Room  
University of Massachusetts  
Worcester, Massachusetts**

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

**Other Trustees:** Trustees King-Shaw and O'Shea

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustees Boyle and Louis

**University Administration:** President Wilson; Interim General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Chmura, Gray, Julian, Lenhardt and Williams; Associate Vice President Harrington; Mr. O'Riordan, Budget Director; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Esposito and Wooding; Vice Chancellor Scheid; Vice Chancellor Teehan, Enrollment Management, UMASS Boston

**UMASS Amherst School of Nursing:** Dean Eileen Breslin; Dean Ann Cary; Associate Professor Jean DeMartinis; Professor Carol Picard

**Faculty Representatives:** Professors May and O'Connor, UMASS Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMASS Boston; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Chair Austin convened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. and indicated that the Committee had a full agenda and announced that any persons wishing to address the Committee must do so through the Chair.

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 February 14, 2006 meeting of the Committee.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 23, 2006**

The next item was the **President's Report**. President Wilson reported on the indicators of progress in meeting the University's Trustee Priorities: Enhance the Student Learning Experience; Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access; Strengthen the University's Research and Development Enterprise; Continue a Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate; Increase the Endowment; Position the University Effectively in the Higher Education Marketplace; and Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service.

The Learning Commons is the centerpiece of the Library's recent renovation at UMass Amherst. It is a gathering place for study, research, and learning in collaborative, technology-rich settings.

In early April, UMass Dartmouth held a 'Learning Through Civic Engagement' Summit. The week-long summit was sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor's "Building New Bridges" initiative and designed to promote service learning on campus, encourage new links between the University and the community, and between academic disciplines.

A \$200,000 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, will allow the College of Management at UMass Lowell to use UMassOnline's WebCT course management system to link course-level activities to learning outcomes.

UMass Boston is developing a comprehensive strategy to ensure that low-income, first generation and underrepresented students have access to and are successful in post-secondary education, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

UMass Boston's Division of Corporate, Continuing, and Distance Education (CCDE) is now registering students in over 500 courses on campus during the summer. The Division of CCDE also increases access to UMass Boston by offering 250 online courses each calendar year. Online courses have proven to be particularly beneficial to students with sight, hearing, and mobility disabilities.

UMass Dartmouth researchers recently received a \$1 million NSF grant. Two oceanographers have been awarded grants to investigate the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, and to support their three-year investigation of the little understood "near-field" region of a river plume.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding a \$2.1 million effort for researchers at UMass Amherst heading a project they expect will lead to the development of vaccines against biological threats to global food supplies and agricultural economies.

A Graduate Research Fellowship of \$131,500 was awarded by the NSF to a first-year doctoral candidate in the Green Chemistry program at UMass Lowell.

The Medical School held the Tenth Annual Women in Science Conference which exposed

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 23, 2006**

an estimated 150 young women from Worcester middle schools to careers in science. The conference was sponsored by UMass Medical School's Regional Science Resource Center, the EcoTarium and Girls Inc.

The new Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life on the Amherst campus oversees the new Center for Student Development (CSD) which coordinates programs and services aimed at promoting community and multiculturalism across campus. This is an effort established in response to the findings of the Commission on Campus Diversity.

George Langford, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at UMass Amherst accepted a \$1 million gift from alumnus Jerome M. Paros to create the Jerome M. Paros Professorship of Measurement Sciences.

At UMass Worcester, Chancellor Lazare awarded the first Sarah L. Stone, MD, Endowed Fellowship in Medical Education to Melissa A. Fischer, MD, MEd, Assistant Professor of Medicine.

Last fall, UMass Medical School employees and students continued their tradition of giving by contributing generously to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign (COMECC). The \$300,000 goal was surpassed by just over 10%, with a 40% participation rate, and an additional \$7,000—an all time high—was raised by the School of Medicine students' COMECC auction. The students contribute these funds to the Family Health Center of Worcester.

The Center for International Education (CIE) at the School of Education on the Amherst campus has been awarded a five-year, \$8.1 million grant as a subcontractor on a U.S. Agency for International Development project to improve access to quality education in Afghanistan, working with 16 Afghan institutions of higher education to focus on improving their capacity to train secondary school teachers.

Under the **Vice President's Report**, Senior Vice President Williams reported on the University's local impact of the global connections for its students, faculty, the community, and for the general economic development of the Commonwealth. The University's mission continues to be the discovery, dissemination, and application of knowledge throughout the state, nation, and beyond toward the greater development of the Commonwealth and the capability of its citizens. The University is already demonstrating its ability to partner with other governments and educational entities to the mutual benefit of citizens of the Commonwealth and its partners.

The Spanish Ambassador to the U.S. visited the Boston campus' Spanish Resource Center to commend the campus for its work in supporting teachers, professionals, university students and all those interested in the knowledge and promotion of the Spanish language and cultures; the Chinese government has a strong interest in UMass for the 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Confucius Institute (also a

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 23, 2006**

venue for the promotion of language and culture); nearly 50% of the medical students have international experiences ensuring that they will be better prepared doctors for the Commonwealth; the Dartmouth campus has a mutually beneficial relationship with the state of Hessen in Germany involving both students and faculty; the Amherst campus enjoys a relationship with Baden-Württemberg; and the Lowell campus with its newly re-activated International Relations Council will be poised to take the lead for student and faculty engagement with one of our emerging partners in China, Wuhan University.

The University is engaged in discovery, learning, and/or economic activity on six of the seven continents and will continue to strive to advance its priorities and develop, recruit, and graduate increasingly stronger and more competitive students. *The Times of London* identified the University of Massachusetts as one of the top 50 research universities in the world.

Senior Vice President Williams thanked the members of the Academic Affairs Office, and the Chancellors for their preparation of the campus quarterly reports to the Board.

Chair Austin then announced that the Committee will discuss two items addressing Access to Excellence and the Report on the Tabled Motion from the February meeting of the Committee; the Committee will also consider four action items.

Senior Vice President Williams and Associate Vice President Harrington then addressed the topic of **Access to Excellence**. Several reports pertaining to Access and Affordability, Academic Quality, and Student Success were presented. The data presented was drawn from multiple sources, including the 2006 Performance Measurement System Annual Indicator Report, the 2006 Student Profile and the 2006 Financial Aid Report demonstrating the University's accessibility and affordability. The Financial Aid Report is available to Trustees upon request.

The next item for discussion was the **Report on the Tabled Motion from the February meeting of the Committee**. Senior Vice President Williams reported that at the February 14 meeting of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs Trustee Louis presented a motion focused on increasing access and affordability. The motion was tabled and the Committee approved a new motion to appoint a subcommittee to review the tabled motion. The Subcommittee including several Trustees and campus staff met on April 19<sup>th</sup> to review the 12 resolutions contained in the tabled motion, and to review the Policy on Undergraduate Admissions, and the Financial Aid Policy.

There were 12 specific resolutions contained in the motion. Six of the motions were specific to the Amherst campus. Chancellor Lombardi's report to the Committee of the Whole on February 14<sup>th</sup>, *UMass Amherst: A Commitment to Inclusiveness and Diversity*, addresses issues specific to the campus. Two of the resolutions contained language that suggested the establishment of quotas which raised legal questions. In addition, the meaning of one of these resolutions was not clear to subcommittee members. One resolution requested information not available and not able to be collected. The remaining three resolutions refer to actions already

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 23, 2006**

taken by the University and/or the Board.

It was moved, seconded and

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

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~~To re-affirm the University of Massachusetts Policy on Undergraduate Admissions (Doc. T96-034: "...pursue and graduate a student body that reflects the increasing racial and ethnic diversity of the college-eligible population of the Commonwealth...") and the University of Massachusetts Financial Aid Policy (Doc. T98-050: "Qualified undergraduate students shall be admitted to the University of Massachusetts without regard to financial need.").~~ (T06-020, Addendum 1)

The next item for action was **Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree, UMASS Amherst.** Provost Seymour reported that along with other national associations the National Nurses Association has endorsed the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP). She emphasized that the DNP has been discussed nationally and system-wide. Provost Seymour introduced Dean Eileen Breslin from the School of Nursing to report on the DNP program.

Dean Breslin reported that the Doctorate of Nursing Degree is intended to replace the master's degree as the credential for advanced clinical nursing practice. The DNP will be a four year post-baccalaureate program. The major purpose of the degree is to provide an exemplary accredited academic and clinical program for nurses who will practice nursing at the highest level. This degree is necessitated by the growing complexity of health care and the increasing sophistication in technology. The majority of advanced practice nursing programs currently at the master's level will be transitioning to the new DNP degree.

Dean Breslin, Dean Ann Cary, Associate Professor Jean DeMartinis and Professor Carol Picard from the School of Nursing and Chancellor Lombardi then engaged the Committee in discussion.

After a lengthy discussion on the academic requirements, cost, affect on healthcare, and necessity of the DNP degree program, Trustee Pearl expressed concerns with the program and stated her belief that the Board did not have enough information to make a decision on this program and indicated that further discussion was needed. Given the complexity of this issue, Trustee Pearl requested the motion be tabled until further discussion.

It was moved and seconded.

The motion to table was defeated.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 23, 2006**

There being further discussion and support of the DNP degree by President Wilson, Chair Austin asked for a motion to approve the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as contained in Doc. T06-021.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as contained in Doc. T06-021.

Trustees Carlin, Pearl and Sheridan voted against the motion.

The next item for action was **Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, UMASS Lowell.** Provost Wooding reported that the revisions to the Code of Student Conduct reflect changes in the legal terminology, changing the word “judicial” to “discipline” and “guilty” or “not guilty” to “responsible” or “not responsible” to demonstrate the educational and sanctioning nature of the process. The revisions also reflect the changes in the student population given the use in online education and affecting changes technology.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the revisions to the Code of Student Conduct at the University of Massachusetts Lowell as contained in Doc. T94-059, as amended.

The next item for action was **Appointment to Named Professorship, UMASS Amherst.** Provost Seymour reported that candidates go through a very rigorous internal and external review process and briefly reviewed the Amherst campus criteria for Distinguished Professorship. The criteria includes outstanding research and teaching, or a combination of both; an extraordinary level of productivity and impact in the candidates field; a level of productivity and impact that has been demonstrated for an extended period of time; recognition by a professional organization for outstanding contribution; and an individual considered to be a role model.

Dr. Gierasch has an outstanding record of teaching and service and has published over 170 papers in some of the top scientific journals. Her accomplishments have been recognized by some of the most prestigious awards, including an honorary degree from Mount Holyoke College, her alma mater. Further evidence of Dr. Gierasch’s stature can be found in letters from the external reviewers, a group which included two Nobel Prize winners.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 23, 2006**

Provost Seymour then requested that the Committee bestow the honor of Distinguished Professor to Dr. Lila Gierasch at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Lila Gierasch as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.  
(Doc. T06-022)

Chair Austin then announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst** and **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston and UMASS Worcester.**

He indicated that the Committee would not reconvene in open session; the Secretary called the Roll.

It was moved, seconded and

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

Chair Austin voted for the motion as did Trustees Armstrong, Cassel, Carlin, DiBiaggio, Hyppolite, Karam, Kennedy, Pearl and Sheridan.

The time was 4:05 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett  
Staff Associate