

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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

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

**Tuesday, November 7, 2006; 1:30 p.m.  
Board Room, Cumnock Hall  
North Campus, One University Avenue  
University of Massachusetts  
Lowell, Massachusetts**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair King-Shaw; Vice Chair Armstrong; Trustees Albano, Braceras, Carlin, DiBiaggio, Endich, Kulenovic, Leiblum, Makrez, Pearl (arrived late) and Rego Weathers; Chair Tocco (arrived late); Vice Chair Sheridan (arrived late)

**Other Trustees:** Trustees O'Shea and White

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustee Cassel

**University Administration:** President Wilson; General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Williams, Julian, Chmura and Lenhardt; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, MacKenzie and Lazare; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Garro and Wooding; Vice Chancellor Ockene; Associate Vice President Harrington

**Faculty Representatives:** Professors Kinney and May, UMASS Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMASS Boston; Ms. Gibbs, Librarian, UMASS Dartmouth

**Guests:** Michael Malone, Engineering Dean, UMASS Amherst; Donna Kuizenga, Liberal Arts Dean, UMASS Boston; Andrea Klimt, Sociology and Anthropology Chair, UMASS Dartmouth; Mark Hines, Biology Chair, UMASS Lowell; John Cunningham, Interim Dean, Public Health, UMASS Amherst

Chair King-Shaw convened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and indicated that the Committee had a full agenda. Any members of the Committee or others who wish to speak must do so through the Chair, and all speakers will be limited to three minutes.

Chair King-Shaw 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 22, 2006 meeting of the Committee.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**November 7, 2006**

The next item was the **President's Report**. President Wilson reported on the recent STEM Summit III. The STEM Summit brought together an unprecedented 600 participants including educators (from preschool-12 and higher education), business and agency people and legislators. The summit addressed matters of policy, resources, pipeline and curriculum. Speakers included out-going Massachusetts Commissioner of Education David Driscoll; Higher Education Chancellor Pat Plummer; Christopher Anderson, member of the State Board of Education and head of the Massachusetts High Technology Council; Ellen Ferraro, Deputy Director, Systems Validation for Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems; and Kerri L. Brigg, Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, United States Department of Education. President Wilson thanked Dr. Isa Zimmerman, Senior Fellow in the President's Office, for her exceptional planning and oversight of the Summit.

President Wilson then reported on a few of the campus' initiatives that have forwarded the agenda of the University Trustee Priorities. Highlights included:

**Enhance the Student Learning Experience:**

- This past summer at UMASS Amherst, 400 students, an all time high, were placed in pre-professional placements all over the country. Some of the top employers included ABC Television, Arnold Worldwide, Millipore, IBM, as well as *The Boston Globe*. Some of the firms from Massachusetts included Fidelity Investments, Raytheon, The Federal Reserve Bank, General Electric Air Craft Engines, Genzyme, and Reebok. This program is providing our students a distinct competitive edge, which allows them to compete with students from private colleges, for top positions upon graduation.
- Nine UMASS Dartmouth nursing students are working with the Council on Aging on the development of "Files for Life" for senior citizens. These are medical histories that are readily available for EMTs when they arrive at a senior citizen's home to handle an emergency. Other nursing students will be working with Dartmouth school nurses.
- The Lowell campus, under an agreement with Anystream, Inc., is offering free downloading of certain classes for students to hear and, in some cases, view from their computers or portable music devices, such as iPods. The campus has an ongoing relationship with the company, and the software and licensing necessary for the pilot project is offered free of charge.

**Maintain and Improve Affordability and Access; Continue a Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate:**

- At UMASS Amherst, the Department of Nutrition has received a \$90,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund the Nutrition Multicultural Scholarship Program, which provides \$6,000 scholarships for five undergraduate students for three years of study leading to a bachelor's of science degree in Nutrition. The program is designed to recruit, retain, provide mentors and train high-quality undergraduate multicultural scholars in nutrition.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**November 7, 2006**

- The National Institutes of Health awarded UMASS Boston a three-year, \$648,000 grant for the project *Bridges to the Baccalaureate*. Bunker Hill Community College, Roxbury Community College, and UMASS Boston will use the funds to support a new enrichment and training collaborative to increase the number of minority students, who are underrepresented in the biomedical science research enterprise, to successfully transfer to UMASS Boston and other baccalaureate institutions with biomedical-related degree programs.
- Starting this semester a new pilot program will bring some of the area's brightest high school math and science students to UMASS Lowell. The Technology, Engineering and Math-Science Academy (TEAMS) will allow academically accelerated high school sophomores to participate in a series of sessions on campus taught jointly by University and high school faculty.

**Strengthen the Research Enterprise:**

- UMASS Lowell's Submillimeter-Wave Technology Lab has been notified of a five-year, \$27 million appropriation for research activity – the largest five-year grant ever received. The lab which is co-directed by Professors Jerry Waldman and Robert Giles is the only center in the country that works at terahertz frequency to collect radar signature data, build radar signature systems and develop algorithms for object recognition and identification.
- The nanomanufacturing team at UMASS Lowell which is represented by faculty from mechanical and plastics engineering, biology and chemistry has secured \$2 million in the federal budget for the nanomanufacturing of multi-functional sensors. U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and U. S. Representative Marty Meehan visited the campus in mid-October to publicize the funding and to learn more about nanomanufacturing and other advanced manufacturing efforts on campus.
- A recently identified priority of the National Institutes of Health and UMASS Medical School has established the Department of Clinical and Translational Science (DCTS) within the School of Medicine. The new department will foster collaboration among existing clinical and basic science departments, institutes, centers and UMASS Memorial, as well as accelerate the development of preventive and therapeutic strategies and enhance the translation of emerging technologies. A pilot program will be initiated this year with grants of \$100,000 to encourage teams of clinical and basic science investigators to launch clinical and translational research projects.

**Develop a First-Rate Infrastructure:**

- At UMASS Dartmouth there are several infrastructure initiatives for 2006-2007 underway, including a 20,000 square foot research building designed to promote inter-disciplinary discovery. The research building is planned to open during the spring semester; Strategic planning has begun for a \$10 million bio-manufacturing facility approved by the Legislature and Governor; The campus is in the final phase of equipping the remaining lecture halls

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**November 7, 2006**

with multi-media tools for faculty to use (the final phase of a three year classroom upgrade project); Infrastructure improvements also include student life improvements, with a new and bigger health center, a modern dining commons built into the recently built residence halls, and “web food” program that allows students to order their meals online.

- Scopes of work and project designs are in development for UMASS Amherst for summer 2007 totaling \$9 million in residence halls and family housing apartments, including the funding of sprinkler installations in three residence halls housing 780 residents. Other work will include electrical upgrades, re-roofing, masonry improvements, fire alarm system improvements, flooring replacements, interior door and hardware replacement, exterior painting, interiors improvements at first-year student facilities and furniture and equipment replacement.

**Position the University Effectively in the Higher Education Marketplace:**

- The recent Nobel Prize has positioned the University in the higher education marketplace. Tomorrow there will be further discussion about Professor Craig Mello’s most notable achievement.
- Science Watch* ranked UMASS Amherst Food Science Professors Julian McClements (8th) and Eric Decker (24<sup>th</sup>) in the top 25 most highly cited authors in Agricultural Research in the world.
- Lila Gierasch, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is one of 11 recipients nationwide of a \$2.5 million 2006 NIH Director’s Pioneer Award.
- UMass Boston graduate Tim Menz ’06, a pre-med student determined to champion children’s rights, was recently awarded a Fulbright grant to work alongside doctors seeking to reverse the high infant mortality rate in India. In the last six years, UMASS Boston’s Honors Program has also produced a Marshall Scholar, two Marshall finalists, two Rhodes Scholarship semifinalists, and four Fulbright finalists, two of whom were also designated alternates.
- At UMASS Dartmouth students and faculty from the College of Engineering are partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth in the construction a solar-powered house. The house will be the first solar-powered Habitat for Humanity house built in Massachusetts. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on October 14.
- A UMASS Lowell start-up company has been recognized by the *Wall Street Journal* through its 2006 Technology Innovation Awards, now in its sixth year. Polnox Corporation of Lowell was named first runner-up in the category of “Materials” – out of 600 nominees that included Sun Microsystems, Siemens and Pfizer – for the invention of antioxidants that extend the life of organic materials by slowing the degradation process.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**November 7, 2006**

Further details on the progress of the campuses in meeting the University Trustee Priorities appear in this quarter's Chancellors' Reports to the Board of Trustees.

The next item was the **Senior Vice President's Reports**. Senior Vice President Williams indicated that the Office of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and International Relations looks forward to working toward an ever better university for the students, faculty, staff, and partners both locally and globally. Its mission is mobilizing resources to ensure quality in every dimension and to foster innovation locally and globally in education, research, and outreach.

Today's agenda is a good sampling of the kinds of data we collect, topics we engage in, and measures of accountability used routinely. Often agenda items that come before the Committee provide an opportunity to engage the Provosts, Student Affairs Vice Chancellors, Research Vice Provosts, International Studies and Programs Officers, Institutional Research Directors, and Enrollment Management. The new program coming before the Committee today has been in the planning and review process for nearly five years. In addition to the questions what do we do? why do we do it? what do we do well? and how do we know?, two crucial questions are also posed in ongoing planning and review exercises—what can we do differently? and what can we do without?

Senior Vice President Williams indicated that she would like to review a variety of issues that come before the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs with the members of the Committee. She also announced that the Secretary of the Board of Trustees is in the process of scheduling a meeting to discuss Tenure issues with new and incumbent Trustees.

Over the last academic year a discussion began regarding the variety of pipeline activities that each of the campuses planned to strengthen the students so that they may be able to attend the University, persist, and graduate. Reference was made to the recently established searchable database of international opportunities for students as a possible model for campus databases for pipeline activities. This year a searchable database for faculty international research will also be announced. A sample of some of the positive things in progress on the campuses that positively affect the life of others may make for a future panel discussion. We strive to be guided by principles of collaboration and cooperation.

Chair King-Shaw introduced the first item for discussion, **Academic Assessment and Accountability**. Senior Vice President Williams, Provosts and campus personnel will discuss both the Periodic Multi-Year Review (PMYR) and Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) policy.

Trustee Carlin recognized Interim Chancellor David MacKenzie for his work. He commented that Chancellor MacKenzie has made a significant impact on the Lowell campus. In a short period of time he has created an open-door policy, connecting with students, professors, and the community.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**November 7, 2006**

Senior Vice President Williams then introduced the panel to facilitate the Academic Assessment and Accountability discussion: Michael Malone, Engineering Dean, UMASS Amherst; Donna Kuizenga, Liberal Arts Dean, UMASS Boston; Andrea Klimt, Sociology and Anthropology Chair, UMASS Dartmouth; and Mark Hines, Biology Chair, UMASS Lowell.

The panel participants along with the Provosts addressed how the information generated from both the PMYR and AQAD processes is used in strategic planning and resource allocations. They discussed the following:

- How departments use the results of AQAD and PMYR reviews to change curriculum and pedagogy, alter faculty workload and roles within a department, and further their mission;
- How Provosts and Deans use the information from PMYR and AQAD in strategic planning;
- The relationship between PMYR and AQAD results and how departments and colleges use the results of PMYR and AQAD in resource allocation decisions; and
- How teaching and research are balanced in the PMYR process.

Chair King-Shaw then thanked the participants for the informative discussion.

The next item was **Effect of Student Fee Structures on University Quality and Access.** Trustee Leiblum briefed the Committee on undergraduate and graduate student costs and fees and the impact that they are having on the students. She indicated that a referendum on the University's affordability was passed by the entire student body urging the Trustees to freeze fees. The fees have increased since 2001-2002 affecting students' borrowing habits, work habits and study habits. Freezing the fees may help to alleviate the stress that is placed on the students and their families.

Trustee Leiblum asked the Board members for assistance in gathering data on student access and affordability. Chair Tocco indicated that such data already exists from a two-year study that was conducted by the Board of Higher Education on access, affordability, and quality. This is a state-wide issue and a serious matter for the Commonwealth.

Trustee Leiblum also made some observations about the faculty increasingly responding to student financial duress by lowering academic standards.

After further discussion and a number of comments on the fees structure Chair King-Shaw indicated that this issue was previously discussed at the meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance and asked that the Committee move forward to the next agenda item because of time constraints.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**November 7, 2006**

The next item for action was **B.S. in Public Health, UMASS Amherst**. John Cunningham, Interim Dean for Public Health, briefly reviewed the process of the degree proposal. The preliminary proposal is reviewed by the department chair and dean, the Provost, Faculty Senate and the President's Office. After a proposal group has been established the preliminary proposal is then moved for approval. The proposal is up to date, it has been approved by the National Association of Public Health Task Force, and faculty members are enthused about the program.

The program is designed with an interdisciplinary focus and its purpose is to provide excellent academic preparation for undergraduates in the field of public health leading to a B.S. in Public Health Sciences. Evidence for student demand and career opportunities comes from both informal and formal sources.

Trustee Carlin indicated that he would like information on degree programs that have been dropped over the past 3-5 years. Senior Vice President Williams indicated that the information will be provided this week.

After further comments and support for the program, it was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the B.S. in Public Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as contained in Doc. T06-064.

Chair King-Shaw announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Honorary Degrees, UMASS Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell, Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Boston, Dartmouth and Worcester and Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst and Worcester**. The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session, and the Secretary will call the Roll.

It was moved, seconded and

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

Chair King-Shaw voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Armstrong and Trustees Braceras, DiBiaggio, Endich, Makrez, Pearl, Rego Weathers. Chair Tocco and Vice Chair Sheridan also voted for the motion.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs  
November 7, 2006**

The time was 3:45 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett  
Assistant Secretary to the Board