

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

**Tuesday, August 22, 2006; 4:00 p.m.
Massachusetts Room, Mullins Center
University of Massachusetts
Worcester, Massachusetts**

Trustees Present: Chair Karam; Vice Chair White; Trustees Armstrong, Austin, Carlin, Cassel, DiBiaggio, Endich, Kennedy, King-Shaw, Kulenovic, Leiblum, Makrez, O'Shea, Pearl and Sheridan

Trustees Absent: Trustees Albano, Boyle, Dubilo, McCarthy and Mahoney

University Administration: President Wilson; Interim General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Chmura, Gray, Julian, Lenhardt, Motley and Williams; Associate Vice President Harrington; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare; Ms. Griesemer, Executive Director, Donahue Institute

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

Chair Karam convened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and turned to President Wilson for his presentation.

President Wilson provided an overview on the **Future Students at the University of Massachusetts: A Discussion of Issues in the Pipeline** addressing questions such as Who are the students, will they be prepared to compete in a changing global and local economy, what are we doing to improve the K-12 pipeline and prepare Massachusetts students for the next decades?

Highlights included:

- As the environment becomes very competitive the campuses must be proactive in ensuring that opportunities are created for students earlier in their lives before they attend the University;
- Higher education pays and new jobs will require more education;
- The percentage of high school students who...graduate on time in Massachusetts is 76% vs. 68% in the nation, 52% enroll in college; 40% are still enrolled in the sophomore year, and only 29% graduate from college on time;
- Students will face increasing global competition in the areas of cost, market access, infrastructure and business climate;

Committee of the Whole
August 22, 2006

- In terms of our accomplishments, our students' performance is not measuring up on world standards;
- We are going through a dramatic transformation of the New England workforce. Massachusetts and Connecticut will suffer the largest drops in the percentage of young workers holding a Bachelor's degree or higher;
- The Nellie Mae Education Foundation forecasts that there will be marked declines in the size of the working-age population in Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, with insignificant gains forecast for Vermont and New Hampshire. All six states will witness dramatic increases in the percentage of their workforces composed of minorities. For example, 28% of the Massachusetts working-age population will be minority by the year 2020 (up from 15% in 2000). This is going to be a challenge for us;
- There are huge disparities in educational attainment based upon the minority groups in the U.S. of young workforce (age 25-34);
- Affordable housing will affect the migration rate of students.

President Wilson reported that the University's involvement in National Pipeline Programs include: participation in the Alliance for Science Technology Research in America (ASTRA) – State STEM Ed Report Cards; U.S. Council on Competitiveness – Innovation Summit; New England Innovation Summit on Thursday, November 16, 2006 at MIT; Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR) – The University-Industry Partnership under NAS/NRC; U.S. Department of Education – Academic Competitiveness Grant Program; Education Commission of the States (ECS) and “Rising Above a Gathering Storm,” National Academy of Science.

The University's involvement in Regional Collaborations include: Great Schools Initiative – the Massachusetts Great Schools Campaign S&T Task Force Co-chaired by President Wilson with Blenda Wilson of Nellie Mae; Global Mass 2015 – Co-chaired by President Wilson, MassInsight and others focusing on Global Issues; College Ready New England Initiative – New England Board of Higher Education; Goddard Institute – Formed by Legislature; the National Governors Association Grant (NGA) – Obtained through the Governors Office in partnership with the Board of Higher Education and others.

Involvement in Regional Pipeline Programs on the campuses includes:

- Boston Science Partnership – A \$12.5 Million partnership between UMB and the Boston Public Schools to enhance opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the minority-majority schools;
- CITI Project – Lead by Amherst and the UMass Donahue Institute that has transformed information technology education across all of the public higher education institutions and begun to infuse technology into the K-12 curriculum;
- STEM Pipeline – MA Board of Higher Education – all campuses are involved as lead campus or part of every regional stem pipeline, and the University is leading planning for STEM Summit III;

Committee of the Whole
August 22, 2006

- SouthCoast Teacher Corps Partnership – A collaboration among UMass Dartmouth, Fall River Public Schools, New Bedford Public Schools, and the SouthCoast Education Compact, five-year \$1.75 million grant under the Transition to Teaching Program of the Department of Education and also Jim Kaput Center projects.

There was then further discussion on benchmarking and issues in the pipeline. A request was made for a timeline on the review of pipeline programs on the campuses. Senior Vice President Williams indicated that a review of the pipeline programs by campus can be completed and provided to the Board by the November meeting. She also indicated that over the course of this academic year discussions on some element of the pipeline programs will be forthcoming at future meetings of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs.

The request was also made for a Board of Trustees Retreat in January/February 2007 to review and assess the University's mission, strategic priorities, clearly define benchmarks and the process to clarify assumptions, and create a plan for the future.

President Wilson indicated that the Committee of the Whole will continue to inform the Board on the pipeline inventory, admissions, financial aid, issues with the undergraduate experience and strategies that the Chancellors are using.

Chair Karam thanked President Wilson and Senior Vice President Williams for the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Assistant Secretary to the Board