

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

**Thursday, March 1, 2007; 10:00 a.m.
Amherst Room
225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts**

Committee Members Present: Chair King-Shaw; Vice Chair Armstrong; Trustees Boyle, Braceras, Carlin, DiBiaggio (conference call), Endich, Kulenovic, Leiblum, Makrez, Pearl; Chair Tocco; Vice Chairs Manning and Sheridan

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Albano and Cassel

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor May, UMASS Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMASS Boston; Ms. Gibbs, Librarian, UMASS Dartmouth; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Chair King-Shaw convened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. and indicated that due to the full agenda and the need to keep the meeting moving forward in a constructive manner, any members of the Committee or others who wish to speak must do so through the Chair.

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 November 7, 2006 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report.** President Wilson reported on Chancellor MacCormack's state of the campus address "Stewards of our Place: The State of the Campus and our Power to Lead." Chancellor MacCormack spoke of the renewal of the faculty with over 120 new tenure-track faculty members whose efforts shine in the classroom, the labs, and in the community. The full text of the Chancellor's address can be found on the Dartmouth website.

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President Wilson also reported on the following:

- UMASS Lowell will be implementing with UMass Online the \$650,000 grant by the Sloan Foundation. The funds will help expand access to the UMass system through a model that combines classroom and online learning. Each of the five campuses will develop or expand two programs as part of the grant;

- The Lowell campus is the recipient of an NSF award; this will further the initiative of growing research, enhancing student learning, access and affordability, and exercising leadership in the community;

- The Freshman Year Experience on the Amherst campus: First year students will select their freshmen residence hall based on an academic theme for Fall, 2007: global perspectives, wellness, pop culture, enterprise and action, media, culture and the arts, writing and literature, science and discovery; society and leadership;

- The Boston campus Honors Program enters the second year. Students are being prepared to be leaders and change agents in a global community;

- For the last seven years, a group of four UMASS Medical School faculties have been involved in teaching four laboratory exercises for an Advanced Placement Biology Course at North High School, a rewarding experience for all participating faculty;

- Over the past four years, the University has proposed a student charge increase that is lower than the local inflation rate; some of the revenue raised by the increase would be used to provide additional aid for those students with the greatest financial need;

- Dr. Mello's Nobel Prize has strengthened the Research Enterprise and has added focus on mRNA (or messenger RNA). After the discovery of DNA, scientific tenets held that the most important steps influencing gene expression occurred during the process by which DNA's genetic message is copied to RNA. Professor and Chair of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Allan Jacobson studied this post-transcriptional activity; three decades later his efforts have been recognized with an award from the National Institutes of Health;

- Professor Julie Brigham-Grette of the Geosciences Department at the Amherst campus will lead an international team of scientists on an \$8M NSF funded expedition to a Siberian polar lake;

- In 2006 the NSF joined with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan to sponsor the Japan-US Young Researchers Exchange Program on Nanotechnology. Professors Daniel Schmidt and Marina Ruths from the Lowell campus were selected as part of the 2006 U.S. contingent;

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- Professors Arthur Eisenkraft, Hannah Sevia, and graduate student Kristen Cacciatore from the Boston campus have led the development of a new curriculum and textbook called Active Chemistry that promotes real life problem solving using chemistry;

- Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education and Associate Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health Michele Pugnaire, M.D. will address the issue of female faculty members underrepresented within top administrative ranks in the academic medical field;

- Ellen Hume, Director of the Center on Media and Society at UMASS Boston announced a new ethnic wire service and student internship titled NEWz which will feature the best stories every week from the region's ethnic media and will offer community forums with local ethnic editors;

- The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences has initiated a College Online Fellows Program designed to engage faculty in the development of new online General Education courses;

- The Boston campus is one of only 76 U.S. colleges recently selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to receive their new Community Engagement Classification.

The next item was the **Senior Vice President's Report**. Senior Vice President Williams at the last meeting, reported on the primary function of the Office of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations: mobilizing resources to ensure quality in every dimension, faculty, students, programs, research, outreach, students programs to foster innovation locally and globally in education, research and outreach.

Today we will review our function as the Committee is being asked to review several new programs. The following questions are important in any review: What do we do? Why do we do it? What do we do well? How do we know? What can we do differently? What can we do without? These questions can assure better measures of accountability and the highest quality of faculty, students, programs, research and outreach.

Chair King-Shaw then announced that the Committee would hear a discussion on **Program Review and Approval** and asked Chair Tocco to begin the discussion. Chair Tocco first indicated that today's discussion was not a reflection on either the Dartmouth campus or the programs being brought before the Committee or on the work of Vice President Williams and the staff. Rather the purpose of this discussion was to expand the review process and include more financial planning and to better understand the mission on each campus and how each new program fits into the mission of that campus.

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A discussion ensued that included several points:

- the timing of this discussion: several Trustees were not aware of this subject being brought up at today's meeting;
- newer members on the Board are unclear of the program approval process;
- Trustees should not be expected to rubber stamp approval of new programs;
- new program review should be a topic for the upcoming Retreat;
- the University must be in tune with the future work force in Massachusetts; are we establishing programs that will provide jobs to our students?
- Trustees must be made aware of the University's mission; a detailed cost analysis for each new program should be part of the review.

Trustee Carlin would like some more information about the music courses eliminated on the Dartmouth campus. He also expressed the desire to discuss the process of adding and dropping programs.

Chair King-Shaw stated that one of the most important duties we have as Committee and Board members is to approve academic programs and the amount of time and information that this Committee would need to make on these programs is worth the investment in time and resources. The Committee will not be able to responsibly approve programs going forward in the absence of an understanding of the mission, the plan, the purpose and the strategy.

While there may be years of planning behind these programs, Chair King-Shaw again stressed that there are new members on the Board that have not had the benefit of knowing the plan behind these new programs. Understanding the strategy behind the structure of the programs, how it might affect tenure, how it may fit into the development mission or community relations on the campus.

Following the discussion, Chair Tocco offered to work with the Board of Higher Education about calling a special meeting should the program approvals today be delayed.

Trustee Bracerias raised concerns about the limits of program expansion and asked whether a campus can continually add new programs without sacrificing quality and focus. Trustee Bracerias stated that the materials in support of the new programs at UMASS Dartmouth contained neither detailed cost estimates nor market analysis of the demand for such programs and the job prospects of students who obtain such degrees. She echoed Trustee King-Shaw's statement that approval of academic programs is one of the Board's most important roles and added that the Board is not a "rubber-stamp" that will automatically approve new programs without due diligence. Trustees must satisfy themselves that each new program will enhance the mission of the campus and the University overall, while being cost-effective.

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Trustee Leiblum questioned the issue of control: does the Board and Administration have control over campus priorities such as fiscal responsibilities or is it the students and faculty who bring the priorities to the Board for support? There is nothing more important than the issue of academic programs.

Chancellor MacCormack reported her appreciation for the Trustees' request to organize the background information for new program proposals in a different way. She affirmed that the Dartmouth campus is focused on addressing the needs of the South East with limited revenue. The new programs being offered today respond to the campus strategic plan that also includes the growth of students on the Dartmouth campus.

In regards to the proposed Nursing Program, there is currently a critical shortage of nurses that needs to be addressed. A delay in the Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies Program would have a negative impact on the cycle of this program. Chancellor MacCormack pointed out that the Dartmouth campus is not asking for anyone else's resources to fund these programs.

Following this discussion, several Trustees expressed their support for moving forward with the additional Ph.D. Program in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies and Theory and it was moved and seconded.

Trustee Pearl then expressed her support for the Nursing Program due to the nursing shortage as did several Committee members and the motion was amended to include the Nursing Program.

Trustee Sheridan commended Chancellor MacCormack for her patience and understanding with this issue.

It was then

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

To approve the Ph.D. in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies and Theory at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T07-006.

And further,

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

To approve the Ph.D. in Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T07-007.

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President Wilson noted that the programs presented today were well prepared; he also recognizes it is the Board's right and responsibility to examine the process and we will work with the Board in preparing guidelines to further this process along.

The next item was **Appointment to Named Professorships, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston**. Provost Seymour provided some background information for the candidates from the Amherst campus noting Professor Clarkson's reputation as a world-renowned leader in her field and Professor's Muschinski's leadership skills.

Provost Fonteyn reported on the candidate from the Boston campus and offered his support for Dr. Gill as Commonwealth Professor.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Dr. Priscilla Clarkson as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Dr. Andreas Muschinski as the Jerome Paros Professor of Measurement Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Dr. Judith I. Gill as a Commonwealth Professor at the Graduate College of Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston. (Doc. T07-008)

The next item was **Resolution on Student Civic Engagement and Advocacy**. Trustee Kulenovich provided some background information on the Resolution including the need to have students more involved in the issues of access and affordability throughout the University and that we need to make a strong statement of support for the University by engaging in civic advocacy.

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Trustee Leiblum pointed out that the resolution has been amended from the one mailed in the Committee packet and strongly stressed participation of all University supporters and constituents in a scheduled lobby day (April 25, 2007). She also asked to re-raise the issues of diversity and access at the next meeting of this Committee.

Chair Tocco voiced his support for the motion and would like the campuses to make it known to the faculty the Board's position on student engagement. Trustee DiBiaggio also asked to go on record with his support for this resolution.

It was moved, seconded and

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

WHEREAS, the University of Massachusetts is committed to informed civic engagement in a democratic society;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to encourage multiple opportunities for students to participate in and learn from civic engagement and advocacy;

WHEREAS, local, state and national public policies have multiple, direct and significant impacts on University of Massachusetts students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees encourages the University system at large to make all suitable allowances for broad-based participation in civic engagement, including but not limited to such activities and events as: a lobby day for public higher education advocacy; an increase in voter-registration drives; an increase in registered-student voter participation; campus-based colloquia and symposia on issues of access and affordability; invitations to legislators to such events; issues papers on the access imperative, affordability strategies, effective retention strategies; peer strategies to encourage positive media for student activities; etc., thereby fostering a public higher education policy debate and advocacy by all constituents in the University system, including students, staff, faculty and administrators. (Doc. T07-021)

Chair King-Shaw announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Worcester, Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst, Transfer of Tenure, UMASS Lowell and Honorary Degrees.**

The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session, and the Secretary will call the Roll.

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It was moved, seconded and

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

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

The time was 12:00 noon

Barbara F. DeVico
Secretary to the Board of Trustees