

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

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

Wednesday, June 6, 2007; 10:00 a.m.
Amherst Room
225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair King-Shaw; Trustees Boyle, Braceras, Carlin, DiBiaggio, Endich, Kulenovic, Leiblum, Makrez and Pearl; Chairman Tocco; Vice Chair Sheridan

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Williams, Julian, Chmura, Lenhardt and Motley; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack and MacKenzie; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Garro and Wooding; Vice Chancellor Ockene; Associate Vice President Harrington; Jo Anne Vanin, Dean of Students, UMASS Amherst; Laurence Siegel, Dean of Students, UMASS Lowell; John Pakstis, Director of Counseling Services, UMASS Lowell; Ann Marie Ciaraldi, Associate Dean of Students for Residential Life, UMASS Lowell

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

Chair King-Shaw convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. 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 March 1, 2007 meeting of the Committee.

Per the minutes of the March 1, 2007 meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs, Trustee Carlin had requested information about the process of adding/dropping academic programs and had asked that this subject be added to the agenda for future meetings and/or a Board Retreat. Chair King-Shaw and Vice President Williams duly noted his request.

The next item was the **President's Report.** In the back-up materials, there is an extensive update from each of the campuses on their efforts on the Priority to Continue a Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate. We continue to make strong and significant progress on the Priority to Strengthen the Research Enterprise. The latest National Science Foundation research data shows that UMASS collectively ranks 35th in the nation, with more than \$404 million dollars in annual research expenditures. Some of the other efforts in the materials indicates progress on other key priorities.

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•Enhance the Student Learning Experience (in collaboration with the Priority to Develop a First-Rate Infrastructure). In the past few months, the renovations to the University of Massachusetts Amherst W.E.B. Du Bois Library have been featured in *The Boston Globe*, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, *Massachusetts Daily Collegian*, *Library Journal Academic Newswire*, and on *National Public Radio*. The Library has seen a 53% increase in the number of visitors from FY 2005 to FY 2006 and a 100% increase since 2004. The Writing Center in the Learning Commons saw a 67% increase in fall 2006 over fall 2005. In a recent study, 94% of students surveyed visit the Library once a week or more; 85% of those are undergraduates.

•Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service:

The McCormack Graduate School at UMass Boston has led and coordinated a unique Massachusetts executive branch staff training initiative. In March, 85 members of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's staff and senior cabinet officials convened at UMass Boston for a Senior Executives Seminar. Held March 2-3 and titled "The Opportunity We Face: Effective Grassroots Governing," the session was coordinated by the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies. Collaborating in the presentations was the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and the Center for Leadership and Public Life at Northeastern. The sessions were the result of several months of work by Steve Crosby, Dean of the McCormack School, and officials of the Patrick/Murray administration.

•Position the University Effectively in the Higher Education Marketplace:

The UMass Dartmouth Charlton College of Business (CCOB) was featured in the May/June issue of *BizEd*, an authoritative magazine covering international business education. The article, entitled, *The Dimensions of Peace*, highlighted the CCOB International Business Association, which brought 30 students to Brazil to provide pro bono marketing assistance to a charitable organization.

•Develop a First-Rate Infrastructure:

The siting and design of the new nano-biomanufacturing building at the UMass Lowell campus has been a top priority for that campus this year, in synchrony with the state legislature's support and commitment. A design firm has been hired, due diligence has been completed on all four potential sites—with a decision expected this summer. This will be the first new academic and research facility built on that campus in many decades.

•Increase the Endowment:

In its continuing support of biomedical research at the UMass Medical School, the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research (WFBR) has awarded 12 UMMS investigators \$25,000 Annual Research Grants. The grants are supported by the Foundation's Annual Research Fund, which includes gifts from the Hudson Hoagland Society's 200 members. These grants allow researchers to produce preliminary data with which to compete for grant funds from other organizations such as the National Institutes of Health.

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More information on the progress of the campuses in meeting the University Trustee Priorities appears in this quarter's Chancellors' Reports to the Board of Trustees.

President Wilson concluded his report by noting today's important items including two degree programs for UMass Dartmouth, named professorships, tenure decisions and other topics. He indicated his appreciation to this Committee's service to the University's academic mission and our students, which are at the center of all we do.

Following the President's Report, Chair Tocco reported on the formation of a Task Force to study governance and structure issues. A report about the Task Force will be presented to the Board at its June meeting; Richard Freeland, former President of Northeastern University has agreed to chair this Task Force.

Chair King-Shaw thanked Chairman Tocco for his leadership.

Professor May from the Amherst campus spoke briefly about the "management by fait accompli" and the vote of no confidence taken against the process at the Amherst and Boston campuses. Members of the Faculty Council have asked for an independent commission appointed by the Governor to reconsider the process.

The next item was the **Senior Vice President's Report**. Senior Vice President Williams reported on the primary function of the office of Academic and Student Affairs and International Relations: mobilizing resources to ensure quality in faculty, students, programs, research, outreach and student programs. This requires collaborative and cooperative efforts with constituencies across the system and will help us succeed and sustain a world class university.

Vice President Williams continued her report by noting the University honoring 60 new University Scholars last week. The University has endured and thrived because of the faculty. The University is served best when we discharge our own specific responsibilities to the fullest of our abilities.

Chair King-Shaw then moved to the **Discussion Item: Campus Safety and Student Support Services**. Vice President Lenhardt opened up the discussion by reporting on the work of the Public Safety Committee. On the day of the Virginia Tech incident, we contacted each campus to make sure they had activated their emergency operations. President Wilson also had a conference call with all of the campuses to assure everyone that everything was under control. We have enhanced our communication strategy; Vice President Gray is chairing that effort. We have also enhanced our training around emergency operations.

Dean Jo Anne Vanin from the Amherst campus and Dean Laurence Siegel from the Lowell campus stressed the importance of cohesive, collaborative, inter department work. On the Amherst campus there are Monday morning debriefings, planning meetings, enhancement of communication strategies, classroom strategies for faculty, faculty development and support and

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training for TAs. Lowell has developed a model for identifying and dealing with at-risk students. Both campuses emphasized behavior-based approaches (intervention based on what you do, not necessarily on who you have been, gets at privacy issues to some extent).

Vice Chair Sheridan inquired about the requirement for treatment or counseling for a student in need and do you need permission from the student to contact his or her family? Mr. Siegel responded that we do need permission to contact anybody; we do have exceptions to these protocols if a student appears to be at risk to him or her self. If a student is hospitalized due to an overdose, the parents are notified.

Trustee Boyle asked about the problems of alcohol abuse. Mr. Siegel indicated that the students are educated as to what the values of the institution are and what will not be tolerated. Parents of students under twenty-one years of age are notified of any alcohol or drug violations.

Chair King-Shaw indicated that Trustee Carlin has made an important point - that the best practices of this subject be shared among the campuses.

There was then discussion around the approval of two undergraduate programs at UMASS Dartmouth: **B.A. in Crime and Justice Studies** and the **B. A. in Women's Studies**. Chair Tocco applauded the thoughtful and respectable exchange of view points that followed the discussion of these programs from the last meeting of the Committee.

Changes to the programs from the last Committee meeting met with the approval of the Committee members. Trustee Braceras indicated that, as a result of the changes that were made, she would give her support to both programs but noted that she would be setting a high threshold for the approval of new programs in the future. Specifically, Trustee Braceras stated that she is not inclined to vote for new academic programs unless: (1) the program will strengthen the unique "brand" of the campus seeking program approval AND (2) there is a demonstrated demand for the program from employers or researchers OR a demonstrated demand for the program for students or prospective students, such that without the program the campus will lose its ability to remain competitive with similarly-situated institutions. Trustee Braceras emphasized that **brand** and **demand** will be the touchstones of her future decision-making. Trustee Braceras also suggested that Trustees have an earlier and stronger role in academic planning and program development.

Chancellor MacCormack pointed out that the faculty role in program development is well articulated in faculty contracts and collectively bargaining agreements; Trustee involvement in what is essentially the prerogative of the faculty would need to be considered carefully.

Trustee Kulenovic made a case for a liberal arts education that was based on what being educated means versus what being market-driven means. Trustee Leiblum questioned if a trustee template approach was appropriate, given that there are guidelines to be followed. Trustee Braceras responded that Trustees have a fiduciary duty to make independent decisions based

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upon the Board's view of what is best for the system as a whole. Trustee Braceras explained that her remarks were made in an effort to provide transparency and to give the faculty, Chancellors, and administrators of the UMass system a better understanding of the criteria that will guide her votes in the future.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the B.A. in Crime and Justice Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T07-005.

And further,

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

To approve the B.A. in Women's Studies at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T07-004.

Chair King-Shaw summarized the discussion by saying that there needs to be further discussion at a fundamental level for the role of Trustees in program development. The Chair will work with Vice President Williams to set up this kind of discussion.

The next item for action was **Student Government Constitution, UMASS Lowell**. Trustee Makrez reported on the proposed changes to the Student Government Constitution at the Lowell campus. The proposed change in Article IV modifies the number of senators from each college/school and at-large constituencies. The change is proposed because frequently, there are not enough candidates from some colleges while other colleges have too many candidates. Changing the number will allow participation in Senate to be distributed more evenly across student demographics given that students can run for the at-large positions if candidate spots for a particular college/school are filled.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve revisions to the Lowell Student Government Constitution as contained in Doc. T04-007, as amended.

The next item for action was **Appointments to Named Professorships, UMASS Amherst**. Provost Seymour provided a brief report on the outstanding academic qualifications of the two candidates before the Committee. Both candidates have held endowed chairs at other institutions as well as excellent teaching records.

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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. George Langford as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

To concur with the President in the appointment of Dr. Joel Martin as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. (Doc. T07-030)

The next item for action was **Appointment to Chancellor and Dean Emeritus, UMASS Worcester.** President Wilson and Chair King-Shaw wholeheartedly endorsed the status of Chancellor and Dean Emeritus to Aaron Lazare for who has served the University and the Medical School with the utmost integrity.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the award of Emeritus Status to Aaron Lazare, in recognition of his contributions to the University as a whole and, more particularly, his contributions as Chancellor and Dean to the development of the Medical School. (Doc. T07-053)

Chair King-Shaw indicated that the Committee received information on updates on **Campus Plans and Strategies “Continuing a Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate” Update.** This item prompted some involved discussion on the “yield gap” of accepted students of color versus those who enroll. Questions arose with respect to why students don’t attend, and why there are differences among the various categories of students of color.

Other questions included:

- where else do students apply?
- what other schools do they choose to attend and why?
- what do those schools offer that UMASS does not?
- what is the rate at which we win/lose applicants?
- do we lose prospective students because of student climate issues or because of other reasons?
- can data be provided as to eligible minority applicant pool, number of applicants, and yield of actual enrollees?

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- can we compare ourselves to other universities, particularly those in the region?

Provost Seymour indicated that diversity cannot be examined in pieces. We need to look at the entire picture, including the recruitment and retention of minority faculty.

Chair Tocco requested information about the tenure-track faculty; it was advised that this was an issue that would be discussed in Executive Session.

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

Chair King-Shaw voted for the motion as did Trustees Braceras, DiBiaggio, Endich, Makrez, Pearl. Chairman 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