

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

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

Wednesday, August 29, 2007; 12:00 noon
Amherst Room
225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair King-Shaw; Trustees Beatrice, DiBiaggio, Endich, Kulenovic, Nath and Pearl; Chair Tocco; Vice Chair Sheridan

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Boyle, Braceras, Carlin, and Thompson

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Williams, Julian, Chmura, Gray and Lenhardt; Chancellors Motley, MacCormack, Meehan and Collins; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Garro and Pierson; Vice Chancellor Ockene; Associate Vice President Harrington; Vice Chancellor Teehan, UMASS Boston, Ms. O'Connor, Director, Center for University School Community Partnerships, UMASS Dartmouth; Professor Peterson, UMASS Worcester

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

Chair King-Shaw convened the meeting at 12:08 p.m. and welcomed the newest members of the Committee: Anthony Beatrice, Student Trustee from UMASS Lowell and Bharath Nath, Student Trustee from UMASS Worcester.

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 June 6, 2007 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report.** President Wilson first reported on the five campus initiatives that continue to advance five key University Trustee Priorities:

- Enhancing the Student Learning Experience
- Strengthening the University's Research Enterprise
- Maintaining Affordability and Access

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
August 29, 2007

- Continuing a Focus on Diversity and Positive Climate
- Positioning the University in the Higher Education Marketplace

These examples highlight collaboration among the University of Massachusetts campuses and among outside academic and community partners—collaboration that amplifies the impact we are able to achieve for our students and the people of the Commonwealth.

On the Dartmouth campus, the Center for University and School Partnerships has received a 5-year, \$1.75 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the SouthCoast Teacher Corps Partnership, a collaboration among UMass Dartmouth, Fall River Public Schools, New Bedford Public Schools, and the South Coast Education Compact that works to improve the teacher workforce in both cities. Better prepared teachers contribute to students better prepared to access the University. This initiative fosters economic and social advancement in the region and beyond.

UMass Lowell is part of a six-institution team involved in a DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Limb Regeneration research project to learn how to regenerate a mammalian digit—a major breakthrough, if it can be achieved. DARPA is committing up to \$15 million over four years.

Also at UMass Lowell, its nanomanufacturing team—represented by faculty from mechanical and plastics engineering, biology, and chemistry—has secured \$2 million in federal support for the nanomanufacturing of multi-functional sensors.

UMass Boston will be enrolling approximately 100 students from the Bridge Program at China's Tsinghua University. This year-long program with Tsinghua, known as the MIT of China, is designed to prepare students interested in pursuing their degrees in the U.S. by familiarizing them with the United States education system and readying them to succeed in courses taught in English.

Mutual understanding between Americans and Chinese about cultural perspectives brings positive social, psychological, and academic benefits to all of our students and professors. This initiative is one of many in our partnership with Tsinghua University. It was designed by the Boston campus and the campus has recently discussed its initiative with the other campuses and offered to assist should they also be interested in engaging the Tsinghua Bridge Program. An added bonus—the economic impact to the Boston area of bringing these international students to our community is \$4 million dollars for each year that they are here.

At UMass Amherst, the Office Student Affairs and Campus Life in conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs has developed *The First Year Experience Program* to provide resources and support that will enhance the learning experience of all first year students by creating the most optimal environment for academic and personal success. The year-long, residentially-based program is designed to ease the first year transition to the University by

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
August 29, 2007

providing first year students with quality academic advising, well-planned course registration, peer tutors and advisors, an interactive summer orientation program, academic theme-based residence halls, internships and co-ops as well as leadership development and career guidance.

Earlier this year, UMass Medical School welcomed the Chancellor of the University of Maryland, Dr. Brit Kirwan, as the keynote speaker at the annual tribute to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his address, Dr. Kirwan's made the compelling case for the essential role of higher education in advancing diversity throughout our society. Emphasizing both Dr. King's inspiring vision as well as his pragmatism, Chancellor Kirwan cited three reasons to support diversity: 1) to uphold the values of justice and fairness; 2) to promote what he called "enlightened self interest" for an America that will need an educated, skilled workforce of all races; and 3) to enhance the quality of education.

The Medical campus leads the other campuses in the percentage of students who have international experiences as part of their medical education—nearly 50% of the student body. Almost all of their international experiences occur in Africa, Asia, and South America. These experiences help them become better prepared as physicians to minister to a population that is increasingly diverse.

There is more information on the progress of the campuses in meeting the University Trustee Priorities in the Annual Reports and in this quarter's Chancellors' Reports to the Board of Trustees.

President Wilson congratulated the Chancellors and the campuses for the success of these initiatives and thanked them for the progress being made to meet the University Trustee Priorities. The strength and excellence of initiatives such as these are not possible without strong cross-functional collaboration among our University stakeholders and beyond them. It is a testament to the leadership of the Chancellors that we continue to demonstrate progress in achieving our goals.

The next item was the **Senior Vice President's Report**. Senior Vice President Williams noted that the Office of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations serves as the quality control for the core of the University, ensuring to the extent possible the highest quality in every dimension and fostering innovation locally and globally in education, research, and outreach.

Today's discussion items address the University Priority of ***continuing a focus on diversity and positive climate***—one of the priorities necessary for our continuous efforts to maintain world-class excellence.

Whether we are talking about a diverse mix of people, educational institutions, businesses, or such other things as age, class, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, learning style, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, etc., when we are intentional and conscious of the potential of this

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
August 29, 2007

array of dimensions of difference in dynamic proximity, this diversity can constitute and enhance a greater and *more perfect union*—to use the phrase from the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

The University of Massachusetts consists of five campuses and UMass Online—each part distinct from the other. In the aggregate, they constitute a whole, enabled and ennobled by the sum of its unique, valuable parts.

Senior Vice President continued her report by noting the University’s mission statement, strategic priorities, and the policy on undergraduate admissions that further articulates this commitment. The admissions policy asserts the institutions commitment to recruit an incoming class that mirrors the demographic of the high school graduating seniors who are 4-year college bound.

In the fall of 1993, former president Derek Bok was on the Board of Trustees of this newly formed 5-campus system. During the 1994 academic year the usual tenure and new program proposals came before the Board. One of those programs was the Ph.D. Program in Afro-American Studies. The Department already had an undergraduate degree program, necessarily interdisciplinary in nature, established in the late 1960s.

The graduate program, with an even more interdisciplinary approach, was initiated in 1996, admitting no more than 5 students per year. As part of its program preparation, the Department had sent over 150 letters to departments of English and History around the country, asking if they would be inclined to hire Ph.D.s newly minted from such a proposed program. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, some even asking if there were already students to fill vacant positions. Since its inception, this Department has often been ranked top in the nation. Of approximately 28 students admitted between 1996 and 2002, 21 have completed their degrees and have positions in a variety of departments at known universities around the country. Its depth and scope of the disciplines that constitute the program and the rigor accomplished at its inception. UMass is the model.

Senior Vice President Williams then acknowledged one of the AASAIR staff members who have just been recruited to become the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education. More than her magna cum laude dual degrees in architecture and German from a highly ranked institution in the U. S. with a complementary experience in Germany and her graduate degrees from Harvard, her scope and variety of other institutional research and policy experiences, her teaching and service, the scope of her professional affiliations acknowledged with honors and awards—constitute her excellence. She has for nearly three years served as our Director for Institutional Research—Dr. Shu-Ling Chen. and International Relations Department.

Chair King-Shaw reviewed the agenda which include one action item, two discussion items and four items for executive session.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
August 29, 2007

Chair King-Shaw introduced the first item for action, **Appointments to Named Professorships, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston.** Provost Seymour presented the qualifications for Dr. George Huber as the Armstrong Professional Development Professor and Dr. John McCarthy as a Distinguished Professor. Provost Fonteyn presented Dr. Edward Tronick as a Distinguished Professor.

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Dr. George Huber as the Armstrong Professional Development Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

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

And further,

To concur with the President in the appointment of Dr. Edward Z. Tronick as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston.
(Doc. T07-061)

Chair King-Shaw then moved to the **Discussion Item: UMassOnline.** David Gray, Vice President for Information Technology and CEO of UMassOnline, presented an update on UMassOnline. He began with a review of the structure and mission of UMassOnline. He outlined the specifics of the UMassOnline Brand and reported on the growth in enrollments, program revenues, programs, and demographics of enrolled students. He defined the new frontiers for UMassOnline as blended learning, international emphasis, and undergraduate degree acceleration.

Ensuring the quality of the UMassOnline offerings and brand was discussed. Vice President Gray indicated that UMassOnline is embedded in the accreditation and program review processes of the campuses; quality is ensured by maintaining faculty control of the courses and programs offered. When asked what was known about the students who choose to enroll in UMassOnline, Vice President Gray responded that typically, the programs are appealing to young working professionals who want the flexibility and convenience of online education. Currently, enrollments are about 2/3 in the undergraduate degree area and 1/3 in the graduate area.

The next item for **Discussion was Promoting a Diverse University.** The second panel discussion focused on examples of activities in which the campuses engage to ensure a focus on diversity and positive climate. Vice President Williams stressed that the examples would give

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
August 29, 2007

just a suggestion of the multitude of activities on each campus. The discussion began with a presentation by Karen O'Connor, Director of the Center for University School Partnerships at UMass Dartmouth, who presented three examples of ways in which UMD works with local schools and districts to ensure that students are well prepared to enter college. She provided information on the "Democratizing access to math" project of the Kaput Center; Upward Bound; and three programs which target support and professional development for teachers entering the profession.

Danna Peterson, Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs/Diversity and Minority Affairs, UMass Worcester, presented a specific initiative focused on increasing the number of faculty of color at the medical school. She pointed out that a diverse faculty was critical in both recruitment and retention of medical students and also had an impact on the quality of care given to diverse patients.

Vice Chair Sheridan asked about programs to recruit students of color. While not part of the panel presentation, the number and scope of programs initiated by the Worcester campus are exemplary; there is a comprehensive K-12 program in place for students to urge their attendance at the University and later at the Medical School. It should be noted that the University can only recruit from Massachusetts; our minority population is not as high as other states.

Kathleen Teehan, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Marketing, UMass Boston, began by stating that many people assume that UMass Boston does not have to work hard at enrolling a diverse population. She stated that the campus does put much effort into ensuring that the diverse population continues, and emphasized a need to reach out to first generation students who might not have knowledge and information regarding college admissions. She stressed that the campus uses a variety of strategies, including a diverse staff and a personalized approach to admissions. Two specific programs developed by the campus include the Parent and Family night and Leadership programs.

Provost Pierson presented several initiatives in place at the Lowell campus to ensure a diverse population: College Prep and Young Scholars programs at Lawrence High School; working with Lawrence teachers in the Educational Administration program; New Horizons at Lowell High School; TEAMS academy; Goler Program to recruit, mentor and support minority students; Boston summer camp on Long Island; Design Camp and a collaboration with Middlesex Community College. He also noted that there is an ongoing focus on increasing diversity among the faculty.

The presentation concluded with information provided by Provost Seymour regarding efforts to recruit a diverse faculty at UMass Amherst. In the past five years, the new hires have included 41% women and 27% minority. For academic year 2006-2007, new hires included 54% women and 42% minorities. She noted that it takes a coordinated approach on the campus to produce these results. The Amherst 250 plan and the Campus Diversity plan are critical elements in setting the direction for the hiring. Increased emphasis has been given to looking at the way in

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
August 29, 2007**

which the search begins, with the formation of the search committee, as a way to ensure that the results will be those desired.

Chair King-Shaw announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider an **Award of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston, Transfer of Tenure, UMASS Boston 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 an **Award of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston, Transfer of Tenure, UMASS Boston and the Honorary Degree Policy.**

Chair King-Shaw voted for the motion as did Trustee Pearl and Vice Chair Sheridan.

The time was 2:01 p.m.

Barbara F. DeVico
Secretary to the Board of Trustees