

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Thursday, March 1, 2007; 8:00 a.m.

Amherst Room

225 Franklin Street – 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Armstrong; Trustees Lawton, O’Shea (via conference call), and Pearl

**Committee Members Absent:** Vice Chair Cassel; Trustee Manning

**University Administration:** President Wilson; General Counsel Bench; Vice Presidents Williams, Julian, Chmura and Lenhardt; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack, MacKenzie and Deputy Chancellor Stanton; Provosts Fonteyn, Garro and Wooding; Associate Vice Presidents Brancato, Harrington and Schlesinger; Dr. George Langford, Dan of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, UMASS Amherst; Dr. Robert Finberg, Chair of Medicine, UMASS Worcester

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

Chair Armstrong convened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

The first item was the **Chair’s Report.** Chair Armstrong outlined the principal elements of the Agenda – the President’s report on the state of R&D and future opportunities and challenges at UMASS, a report on a system-wide strategy for advancing stem cell research and regenerative medicine at UMASS, and a report on enhancing industry relations at UMASS. The latter two reports were developed in response to a request from a Trustee Task Force on Science and Technology that preceded the formation of this Trustee Committee.

The next item was the **President’s Report: The University of Massachusetts’ Research and Development Enterprise: Performance, Opportunities and Challenges.** President Wilson described the unique research mission of the University and explained how it helped support the education and public service elements of the overall mission. He also reviewed recently compiled data on the University’s R&D expenditures performance in FY 2006, noting that total R&D spending had reached almost \$404 M. Sixty % was in the life sciences and 62 % came from the Federal Government.

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The President highlighted the role of the President's Office in supporting R&D at the campuses – advocacy for state and federal funding, provision of seed funding, promotion of multi-campus collaboration, and agency/corporate relationship management. He then identified four areas of potential growth – the life sciences, clean energy, advanced materials and IT/communications. He closed with a set of issues that will be critical to growing R&D at the University.

The next item was the **Vice President's Report**. Vice President for Economic Development Chmura reviewed the creation of the first-ever system-wide Research Council as a new vehicle to help promote the R&D agenda of UMASS and strengthen the R&D enterprise at the campuses. He highlighted the strong faculty response to the recent issuance of RFPs for the President's \$1 M S&T Initiatives Fund and \$250 K Creative Economy Fund, including an encouraging number of multi-campus proposals. And, he highlighted the special opportunities for the University in clean energy and announced plans to organize a system-wide working group for that purpose.

The first item for action was **A Strategy for Advancing Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine** at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Robert Finberg, Chair of Medicine at Worcester, and Dr. George Langford, Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Amherst, outlined the strategy on behalf of a system-wide working group that Dr. Finberg chaired.

They described the opportunity for the University in this area of research, highlighted the massive investments being made in other states, and then outlined a proposed \$66.4 M state investment to build on existing strengths and enable the University to move forward in this area. The strategy includes four elements – academic program development through recruitment of new faculty (primarily at Worcester and Amherst, but at all campuses); development of ten shared core facilities at Worcester and Amherst (but available to all campuses as well as industry), a grant program to spur research and collaboration (available to all campuses) and a program of facility construction at Worcester and renovation at Amherst.

Chair Armstrong and other Trustees complimented the Worcester and Amherst campuses for their leadership and collaboration on this initiative.

It was then moved, seconded and

**VOTED:** To recommend that the Board accept the following report – “A Strategy for Advancing Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine at the University of Massachusetts” – as prepared by the Stem Cell R&D Working Group at the request of the Trustee Task Force on Science and Technology;

And further,

To affirm that stem cell research and regenerative medicine are important fields of research with great potential to benefit the Commonwealth, the nation and humanity;

To assert that the University of Massachusetts, as the Commonwealth's public research university, has a critical role to play in these areas;

To endorse the proposed Institute for Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine as a mechanism for expanding the University's research enterprise, enabling campus collaboration, promoting industry partnerships, and supporting economic growth in the Commonwealth;

To commend the members of the Stem Cell R&D Working Group – Dr. Robert Finberg of the Medical School (chair), Dr. Sam Black (Amherst), Mr. Robert Jenal (Medical School), Dr. Paul Kostecki (Amherst), Dr. George Langford (Amherst), Dr. Gary Stein (Medical School), and Dr. John Sullivan (Medical School) – for their thoughtful, collaborative and far-sighted report; and

To urge the President and Chancellors to take all necessary actions to follow through on the actions recommended in the report and to use the report to make the case for University's role in this area with the Governor, Legislature and other relevant parties. (Doc. T07-022)

The final item was **A Report on Enhancing Industry Relations at the University of Massachusetts.** Vice President Chmura reviewed the findings and recommendations of the study. UMASS was found to have a respectable but not top-tier record in industry relations. While there are strong pockets of activity across the system, there is a lack of a strong culture for, commitment to and strategy for industry partnerships across the system (as compared to leading-edge institutions benchmarked in the study). Certain practices and structures that may inhibit industry engagement were also identified.

Key recommendations from the study focused on four key stakeholders. Trustees were urged to adopt a supportive resolution and demand more extensive metrics. The President's Office was called upon to continue its roles of advocacy, relationship management and promoting cross-campus collaboration, but also to develop new guidelines for university-business relationships and expand service and outreach efforts. Campuses were urged to develop campus-specific plans for industry relations. And, the new Research Council is expected to serve as an ongoing forum to help promote industry relations at the University.

Following a discussion of the importance of industry relations to the University, the Committee then moved, seconded and:

**VOTED:** To recommend that the Board accept the following report – “A Report on Enhancing Industry Relations at the University of Massachusetts” – as prepared by Act IV Consulting, Inc. at the request of the Trustee Task Force on Science and Technology;

And further,

To affirm that collaborations with industry are one of the characteristics of leading public research universities and that they enhance the research, education and service mission of academic institutions;

To assert that the University of Massachusetts, as the Commonwealth’s public research university, should expand its portfolio of relations with industry in ways that are supportive of the University’s mission, consistent with core academic values, and in compliance with all its fiduciary obligations;

To urge the President and Chancellors to take all necessary actions to follow through on the actions recommended in the report for improving university-industry relations at both the system-wide and campus levels, particularly through the development of new performance metrics, guidelines for business relationships, outreach to strategic corporate partners and industry associations, and campus-specific strategies for industry relations; and To utilize the newly-created University Research Council as an ongoing forum and vehicle for promoting industry collaborations across the system. (Doc. T07-023)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Thomas J. Chmura  
Vice President for Economic Development