

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARMOOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH**

Wednesday, June 6, 2007; 8:00 a.m.

Amherst Room

225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Manning; Trustees Lawton, O’Shea (via conference call) and Pearl; Chairman Tocco

Other Trustees: Vice Chair Sheridan; Trustee Leiblum

University Administration: President Wilson; Vice Presidents Chmura, Julian, Lenhardt, Motley and Smith; Senior Vice President Williams; Chancellors Lombardi, Collins, MacCormack and MacKenzie; Deputy Chancellor Stanton; Provosts Fonteyn, Garro, Ockene and Wooding; Associate Vice Presidents Brancato, Griesemer, Harrington and Schlesinger; Members of the Stem Cell Working Group -- Dr. Robert Finberg, Chair of Medicine, UMASS Worcester; Dr. George Langford, Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, UMASS Amherst; Samuel Black, UMASS Amherst; Gary Stein, UMASS Worcester; Robert Jenal, UMASS Worcester; Members of the Renewable Energy Working Group – Vice Provost Paul Kostecki, UMASS Amherst, and Professor Craig Armiento, UMASS Lowell.

Guests: Daniel O’Connell, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development; Stan McGee, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Economic Development

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

Vice Chair Manning convened the meeting at 8:09 a.m. and 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.

Under the **Chair’s Report**, Vice Chair Manning indicated that he appreciates the opportunity to chair this new Committee which is taking on a whole new importance with the state’s interest in support of Science and Technology matters as evidenced by the Governor’s Life Sciences Initiative. He thanked the committee members for their service, noting that much of what we will hear today is a result of earlier work undertaken by the Committee.

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Vice Chair Manning then indicated that today's agenda will include a presentation by President Wilson about progress made since the March meeting of the Committee and presentations by Vice Presidents Chmura and Williams about the President's Special Initiatives Fund. The highlight of the agenda will be a briefing on the Governor's Life Sciences Initiative and potential roles for the University by Housing and Economic Development Secretary Daniel O'Connell. In addition, there will be an update on efforts to strengthen University-Industry Relations by Associate Vice President Jeff Brancato and a report on a new system-wide working group on Renewable Energy by Amherst Vice Provost Paul KostECKI and Lowell Profess Craig Armiento.

The next item was the **President's Report**. President Wilson thanked all members of the Committee for their work to date that has helped strengthen the University's position as a leading research university. He then highlighted four important areas of progress since the last committee meeting:

- The Governor's announcement of a \$1 B Life Sciences Initiative with a prominent role for UMASS, notably a Stem Cell Bank and RNAi Center at Worcester, and regional innovation centers around the Commonwealth.
- The release of \$35 M of state funds by the Governor for the development of the Nano-Bio Manufacturing Facility at Lowell and the launch of the state-wide Bio-Manufacturing Center involving collaboration among Lowell, Dartmouth and the Mass Biotechnology Council.
- The collaboration of UMASS Amherst with state agencies in competing for a National Wind Energy Blade Testing Facility that could help position the state as a leader in renewable energy.
- A record-breaking performance by the Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property, with over \$40 M in license income and stock sales through the first three quarters of the year, and the creation of two new start-up companies – RXi in Worcester and SunEthanol in Amherst.

The next item was the **Vice Presidents Report**. Vice Chair Manning indicated that Vice Presidents Chmura and Williams will provide updates on a unique system-wide program called the President's Initiatives Fund. This is a fund established by President Wilson that provides seed funding to campus and multi-campus projects in order to support the growth of research and scholarship at the University.

Vice President Chmura reported on the results of the first three years of the Science and Technology Fund. Some 24 projects (5 multi-campus) were funded at a total investment of \$3 M (\$1 M per year). To date, campuses have documented over \$70 M in funding from these investments – most notably, \$35 M for the Nano-Bio Manufacturing Initiative at Lowell and \$25 M for the Nanotechnology Initiative at Amherst. The President's Office is currently reviewing

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17 proposals (including 8 multi-campus) for this year's fund. Decisions will be made by the President by June 30.

Senior Vice President Williams reported on the creation of a new \$250 K companion fund for the Creative Economy. The President's Office is reviewing 8 proposals for \$350 K and decisions on awards are also expected by June 30.

Vice Chair Manning then introduced the first item for discussion -- the **Massachusetts Life Sciences Initiative**. Daniel O'Connell, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided an overview of the Governor's recently announced \$1 billion Life Sciences Initiative, highlighting the central role envisioned for the at the University of Massachusetts in carrying out the initiative.

The Secretary outlined the key elements of the Initiative, including the Stem Cell Bank and RNAi Center proposed for UMASS Worcester, regional innovation centers, fellowship grants, and workforce initiatives. He indicated that "collaboration" – among government, business and academia – would be the watchword for this initiative. He noted, for example, that the stem cell bank was a state-wide effort in which other members of the state's academic and biomedical research community would participate.

The Secretary was extremely complementary of the work of the University and the assistance provided to the Governor in developing this initiative and in other economic development activities. He noted that the Governor holds the University in high regard and seeks to help UMASS become one of the "leading universities" in the world. The Secretary urged the University to take advantage of this "unique opportunity" with the Patrick Administration.

President Wilson noted the work of a University-wide Stem Cell Working Group, most of whom were in attendance for this committee meeting. The Group was chaired by Dr. Robert Finberg of UMASS Medical School. It developed a system-wide strategy for positioning UMASS as a leader in this field. Dr. Finberg and Dean George Langford of UMASS Amherst presented the results of their group's work to the Committee in March. Since then, they have met with the Governor and provided critical input into the planning for the Life Sciences Initiative.

Vice Chair Sheridan noted how the Life Science Initiative represented an excellent example of collaboration and how the campuses could benefit by effectively leveraging their resources.

The next item was an **Update on Efforts to Strengthen Industry Relations**. Vice Chair Manning introduced Associate Vice President for Economic Development Jeff Brancato to provide this update. This was a topic identified last year by the Trustees and was the subject of a major consulting study last Fall and Winter.

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Associate Vice President Brancato reported on the findings and recommendations of a University-wide study of industry relations that were presented to the Committee in March and the actions taken since then. The Trustees passed a resolution in March that affirmed the importance and appropriateness of strong university-industry collaborations at UMASS and urged the President and Chancellors to follow-up on the recommendations for strengthening such relations in the future.

A University-wide Research Council met in April to review the study and recommendations. A working group was organized to identify a broader array of metrics to measure the effectiveness of the University's interactions with industry. The Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property focused its annual system-wide retreat in May on a discussion of new guidelines for university-business relationships in research and intellectual property.

The President's Office has continued development of strategic links with state-wide industry groups (e.g., Massachusetts Biotechnology Council) and firms (e.g., Genzyme, Cisco). In addition, each of the campuses will develop a strategic plan for their approach to industry relations in the coming months.

The last item was an **Update on University-wide Working Group for Renewable Energy**. Vice Chair Manning reported that the Committee called for the development of a system-wide strategy on renewable energy. A working group has been organized to position the University as a leader in helping Massachusetts develop as a global center for renewable energy. This covers fields such as solar, fuel cells and batteries, biofuels and wind energy.

Paul Kostecki, Vice Provost for Research at UMASS Amherst, is chair of the group. He, along with UMASS Lowell engineering faculty member Craig Armiento, provided an overview of the working group's purpose, current activities in renewable energy across the system, and an outline of future plans. They profiled the strengths of renewable energy activities in areas such as solar, fuel cells and batteries, biofuels and wind energy at the various UMASS campuses. They also highlighted efforts to link with business and industry, the state and federal government. Ian Bowles, Secretary of Energy and Environment, is scheduled to meet with the Working Group and visit Amherst research centers in July.

Vice Chair Manning thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Thomas J. Chmura
Vice President for Economic Development