

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

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

**Wednesday, February 4, 2009; 12:00 noon**  
**Amherst Room**  
**225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Thomas; Vice Chair DiBiaggio; Trustees Braceras, Carlin, Endich, Gerson, Koffman, Kulenovic, McCluskey and Osterhaus-Houle, Pearl and Tocco

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustee King-Shaw

**University Administration:** General Counsel Heatwole; Executive Vice President Julian; Senior Vice Presidents Williams and Gray; Vice President Chmura; Chancellors Holub, Motley, MacCormack, Meehan and Collins; Provosts Langley and Garro; Executive Deputy Chancellor/Provost Terence Flotte; Associate Vice President Harrington; Deputy Chief Operating Officer Lenhardt

**Faculty Representatives:** Professor O'Connor; Professor May, UMass Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMass Boston; Ms. Gibbs, UMass Dartmouth; Professor Carter, UMass Lowell

**Guests:** Megan Kolb (student), UMass Amherst; Peter Kovach (student/King-Shaw Fellow), UMass Boston; Nancy Riordan (student), UMass Boston; Professor Rajini Srikanth, UMass Boston; Bart Walsh (student), UMass Dartmouth; Professor Guillermo Paz-y-Mino, UMass Dartmouth; Carolina Barreto (student) and Ann Laraia (student), UMass Lowell; Professor John Duffy, UMass Lowell; Dean Robert Gamache, UMass Lowell; Ejiro Onos (student/King-Shaw Fellow), UMass Worcester; Michele Pugnaire, Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs, UMass Worcester

Chair Thomas convened the meeting at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed the student panelists who are presenting today. He also introduced General Counsel Deidre Heatwole who has replaced Larry Bench.

He then provided an overview of the agenda which includes one action item, a discussion item, and tenure appointments.

Chair Thomas asked for a motion to **Consider the Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee.**

It was moved, seconded and

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**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2008 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report**. Senior Vice President Williams reported that President Wilson is traveling in the West Coast with Governor Patrick and asked that she present his report and focus on three University Priorities: Enhance the Student Learning Experience; Strengthen the University's Research Enterprise, and Develop a Leadership Role in Public Service. Each of the initiatives also illustrates a growing culture of collaboration.

From **Amherst**: The College of Engineering recruited its first cohort of 23 incoming transfer students, each supported with a \$6000 S-STEM Scholarship from its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarship Program. Of those students, 17 percent were female (n=4), 22 percent were under-represented minorities in engineering (n=5), and 39 percent were Commonwealth College (n=9) students. Massachusetts community colleges were well-represented as well: three from Holyoke Community College, three from Springfield Technical Community College, three from Massachusetts Bay Community College, two from Bunker Hill Community College, one from Greenfield Community College. The S-STEM program, funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF), is intended to address the critical shortage of a technically trained workforce. It is fundamental to our three part mission; instructive to faculty, staff and students; and demonstrates our societal obligation—especially in these times-- to take to our communities the knowledge we discover here.

From **Worcester**: **Three Schweitzer Fellows Exemplify Hands-on Multicultural Learning.** Three School of Medicine students have been named fellows of the prestigious Albert Schweitzer Foundation. With its mission to reduce disparities in health and health care, the U.S. Schweitzer Fellows program provides funding for direct service projects by students in underserved communities. 2008 Schweitzer Fellows Mathew Bartek and Abraham Jaffee established the Akwaaba Free Health Clinic to address the unmet needs of Worcester's rapidly expanding African immigrant population, while Thomas Peteet directs the Worcester Center for Healthy Kids in a low-income housing project in Worcester.

From **Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell**: **Developing UMass as a Leader in Growing the Green Economy.** A Creative Economy collaborative in progress, this ambitious project, involves UMass Boston (the lead campus), UMass Dartmouth and UMass Lowell and showcases UMass' leadership in the green economy. "UMBe Green", the Boston Campus' sustainability program works with academic, administrative and student constituencies to engage the campus community in sustainable practices in a cosmopolitan city like Boston to help fulfill UMB's obligations towards its sustainability commitments. The overall project explores three aspects of the "Green Economy": (1) Clean Energy—a growing new industry; (2) creating smart growth in a long-established sector (cities and ports); and (3) developing the workforce to grow these sectors by engaging a new generation (K-12 and pre-collegiate students).

Partnerships are the hallmark of this initiative:

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- Massachusetts Technology Council (MTC)/Renewable Energy Trust (RET)/Donahue Institute/Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) regarding data analysis to determine job demand, type, and source;
- Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council – data gathering roundtables with NGOs, government, business, and academic stakeholders;
- Short-Sea Shipping and South Coast Rail conversations conjoined;
- UMD winter session course to train students on carbon auditing software;
- UMD spring classes partnering with municipalities and businesses to help them develop sustainability plans;
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SPREDD) on sustainable plans and energy; issues of sustainable food, healthcare, and transportation;
- BOLD (Breath of Life: Dorchester: youth-led pro-health environmental group improving the community through outreach and through the establishment of organizations to address issues of the environment and public health;
- Upward Bound: math and science curricula integrating environmental issues.

The next item was the **Senior Vice President's Report**. Senior Vice President Williams reported that these are the times that demand the best, the most creative, and the most resourceful that is in us. These are the times that challenge us to find new ways for striving for and achieving excellence and for ensuring that what we continue to provide for our students is the quality we have always demanded of ourselves. The Office of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and International Relations will continue to bear the standard and be the quality control for the University, even—and, perhaps, especially—in the face of the global and local economic challenges demanding effective resolution.

Senior Vice President Williams noted that one of the University Priorities is to enhance the student learning experience. In the President's remarks, he often cites campus initiatives demonstrating the University's ongoing commitment to that priority.

Today's meeting will bring a panel of students whose experiences you will find to be of the quality that enhances their overall learning experiences. The University is among the top 100 or so such universities in the world, and ensuring for our students ample and purposeful global experiences as one of the goals we strive to accomplish in order that our graduates will be ably competitive citizens for these times.

As we continue to review what we do and how we do it, asking ourselves what we can do differently and/or what we can do without, we remain committed to providing for our students rich, transforming learning experiences and the resources required for them to explore these opportunities.

We are the University of Massachusetts, a premiere, land-grant research University whose history and mission bind us inextricably to the Commonwealth and to the common wealth—

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locally and globally. UMass graduates remain in the state after graduation in substantial numbers, contributing to the economic and social development of the Commonwealth. As President Wilson says, “the path to social and economic development goes through the University of Massachusetts”.

Chair Thomas then introduced the action item, **M.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics Education, UMass Dartmouth**. Provost Garro introduced the subject joined by Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto of the School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement and Steve Hegedus from the Department of Education and Chair of the James Kaput Center. The proposal represents a long time of planning on the campus to bring the degree forward. The campus has been investing in faculty hires and resources to develop the program. Planning goes back to 2004. It is linked to the establishment of the James Kaput Center in 2007. The M.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics proposal addresses a significant regional and national need for mathematical educators, and goes beyond math teachers to bring research into how students learn and develop mathematical skills. The proposal has been reviewed externally. Recommendations on the program and admissions requirements have been taken into account by the campus. Projecting new revenues for the campus for this program; resources currently in place can deliver the program. The faculty currently in place is generating research funding for the campus.

Trustee DiBiaggio asked how many students would be enrolled at full capacity. The proposal anticipates that there would be attrition of approximately 2 students a year. He also asked how the improvement in quality of math teaching would be measured. There are a number of programs currently funded that are assessing math teaching and practice. Much of the research involved examines how students learn math and this knowledge will be translated into the practice of teachers. Some of the programs have been piloted in Texas. Dr. Hegedus has conducted random sample trials and efficiency studies. Longitudinal work is being measured in southeast MA.

Trustee DiBiaggio commented on the teaching that focuses on memorization rather than on introducing conceptual understanding of the subject. Trustee Reville commented that the proposal speaks to a compelling need in the field. The purpose of the program is to develop trained PhD scholars. What is envisioned in the outreach function that would help to have an impact on the schools? Provost Garro indicated that outreach is already happening. The center is engaged with local communities at the teacher level to translate research into practice. Chancellor MacCormack noted that this program is an example of practical research in which the field and the researcher interact with one another and have an impact on one another. She is happy to see James Kaput’s vision come to fruition.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the Master of Science and Ph.D. in Mathematics Education at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T09-009.

Trustee Braceras abstained.

Chair Thomas then moved to the **Discussion Item, Global Opportunities for UMass Students**. Senior Vice President Williams introduced the panel. She noted that when Trustee Thomas became Chair of the Committee, he expressed an interest in student engagement and this is one of those opportunities. It has been just over three years since there was a panel on international experiences for students.

Ejiro Onus from UMass Worcester is a King-Shaw fellow who spent six weeks in the Dominican Republic shadowing a doctor at a hospital and also working in a village. She learned to appreciate the vulnerabilities of her patients. She learned that laughter was helpful in treating patients. Ms. Onus felt the need to be out of her comfort zone and still be able to bring health care to her patients. She is with the Navy and hopes to bring these experiences to her future practice.

Senior Vice President Williams mentioned that medical students at the University experience international opportunities at the rate of 49% more than double that of their peer institutions.

Carolina Barreto from UMass Lowell is an international student from Nicaragua who came to study as the result of a Fulbright scholarship. Ms. Barreto chose UMass Lowell for energy engineering and its opportunity for service learning. The village program gives students the opportunity to take theoretical designs and put them into real life experience. This helps with her goal to develop skills and bring them back to her village. There is a strong commitment to those communities and to the region. The Village Empowerment program is committed to sustainability. She has been able to work with undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines, and the project has given her an opportunity to integrate service learning in the University of Nicaragua.

Anne Laraia from UMass Lowell is an undergraduate student who worked in a lab in Paris with world renowned scientists. She attended meetings and saw presentations in French and English. Ms. Laraia remains connected to these scientists. She has produced two peer-reviewed publications and has two more in progress. Her time in France changed her perception on research. She realizes that it is her work as well as the faculty member's, and she can influence the work that is being done. Her experience makes her want to go on to graduate work and pursue her PhD.

Bart Walsh from UMass Dartmouth went to the Galapagos Islands. He commented that this year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Origin of the Species. Today's talk is a

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unique way to participate in and celebrate the Darwin anniversary by telling his story and experience. He is a non-biology major and was concerned about being able to participate in the trip. Putting the work being done in the science with the philosophy of evolution, he incorporated his own discipline of philosophy into the work that was being done as interdisciplinary research. The academic components of the trip included learning the biology of the trip, the geology of the islands and the culture and history of Ecuador. This was a group experience. Mr. Walsh learned a new appreciation for the scientific method. He was able to remind biology students that there is more going on than the science being done. He conducted a three phase project explaining and defending the evolution theory, and examined the philosophical implications of that theory and the practical applications of the theory such as educating students more in the evolutionary theory. It is important that these types of opportunities remain available to students.

Nancy Riordan from UMass Boston worked with Padraig O'Malley on the Helsinki Agreements. She traveled with Professor O'Malley to Helsinki and Bhagdad. The experience enhanced her classroom learning. It is difficult to summarize in five minutes what she's learned during this project. First, she worked closely with the Finnish NGO organization. This was an instant immersion in operations of a global NGO. She worked on planning and logistics to bring the Iraqi group to Helsinki. Secondly, she participated as a note taker and in reporting on the meetings. Ms Riordan felt as if she was witnessing history in real time. She witnessed peer to peer negotiations in action. People coming from divided societies are in the best position to help those in divided societies. Lastly, it has been an honor to work with Professor O'Malley and learn how it is done. She served as a liaison between several levels of government and other organizations. Ms. Riordan spent much time on communication, often done on a Blackberry.

Peter Kovach from UMass Boston is also a King-Shaw fellow. He had an experience in South Africa. The trip was part of a year-long honors class on infectious disease. The first semester he studied epidemics and infectious disease from an interdisciplinary perspective, and formed a structural view of an epidemic. Mr. Kovach traveled in January between the two semesters. He heard a first-hand account of apartheid, visited a chest hospital and learned of the tuberculosis epidemic. Government had allocated funds to repair the hospital but no work had begun yet. He also traveled to one of the largest townships in South Africa where 60% of the people do not have a job. When one is diagnosed with HIV they can get free medication and a stipend. Some people want to be diagnosed so they can get the stipend to live on. He also visited the rape clinic and learned that many women will not visit the clinic because of the stigma of going.

Megan Kolb from UMass Amherst is a senior, and an out-of-state student who came for the dance program, the Commonwealth Honors program and the Bachelors Degree in Independent Concentration (BDIC), and the Marching Band. She decided to pursue creating her own degree in performing arts management. The Centers for Academic Programs Abroad offered internships in London. She worked with a producing company in London in the West End. Working 40 hours a weeks on different shows is a life experience she would not have been able

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to obtain in a classroom. The greatest opportunity was networking. Ms. Kolb met a producer of another setting for a Festival in Scotland. At the end of the Festival, she was offered the opportunity to come back to a full-time job in London.

Chair Thomas noted that when he became Chair of the Committee he insisted that students be included as a substantial part of the meetings. This panel has affirmed that this is the right thing to do. Students are the best promoters of the UMass brand. Chair Thomas complimented everyone on the level of intensity and depth, and breadth of the learning experience.

Trustee Reville commended the students for their presentations, particularly, the reflection shown by their remarks. Several things struck him. He commented that this is a demonstration of applied learning, and demonstrates close working relationships with faculty. These elements can be applied even when we can not get students abroad. He then asked what kind of an appetite exists among fellow students for such experiences, and what keeps them from doing it. Ms. Barreto responded that there is a lot of interest, but there is an economic issue that keeps students from going abroad. The academic demands and requirements might also keep students from going abroad.

Trustee DiBiaggio noted that there are financial constraints. Many American students are parochial in their views. He asked if students have a chance to share their trips with other students. Mr. Kovach noted that there was an article in the student magazine at UMass Boston, and he is also involved in student groups where he can share his experience.

Professor May commented that the current budget situation does constrain opportunities. Globalization of the campus was a major priority of the campus but a budget crisis stretches the ability to accomplish those priorities.

The International Relations Advisory Committee (IRAC) has looked at the question of what happens to students who go abroad when they return to campus. When the budget is constrained, and we have priorities, we become creative in finding ways to fund priorities. King-Shaw fellows benefit from philanthropy, and some students have benefitted from grant funding. Building experience into a course which can capture financial aid funding is a way in which we might provide funding.

Trustee Koffman commented that he is surprised at the opportunities that are available to students. He learned much of what is available today.

Trustee Kulenovic addressed the resource question noting that partnerships with other international institutions may provide a way to also fund students in international experiences.

Senior Vice Presidents Williams noted that Hanban provides opportunities for students in China through the Confucius Institute. She also noted that even in these times, we need to be

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engaged and move forward toward our priorities. She thanked Susan Kelly Fisher for her work on putting the panel together.

Trustee Thomas noted that he did not want to lose sight of vicarious experience as a means of accomplishing goals even if international travel is not possible.

Professor May noted that there is quite a bit of cost-effective access already in place in study abroad programs where students pay tuition at the home campus in addition to only the cost of a plane ticket.

Chair Thomas thanked the panel participants.

Chair Thomas then announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Appointments with Tenure, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, UMass Worcester.**

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 **Appointments with Tenure, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, UMass Worcester.**

Chair Thomas voted for the motion as did Vice Chair DiBiaggio and Trustees Braceras, Endich, Kulenovic, Osterhaus-Houle, Pearl and Reville.

The time was 1:43 p.m.

Barbara F. DeVico  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees