

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Wednesday, May 26, 2010; 12:00 p.m.

Amherst Room

225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair Thomas; Vice Chair DiBiaggio; Trustees Braceras, Furman, Osterhaus-Houle, Peters, Reville, Woolridge and Young

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Boyle, DeSisto, Johnston, Koffman, King-Shaw, Lawton and Tocco

University Administration: President Wilson, Senior Vice Presidents Gray and Williams, General Counsel Heatwole; Dr. Udas, CEO, UMassOnline; Chancellors Holub, MacCormack, Meehan and Collins; Provosts Staros, Langley, Abdelal and Garro; Executive Deputy Chancellor/Provost Flotte; Executive Vice Chancellor Moloney; Associate Vice President Harrington; Dean Ismael Ramirez-Soto, UMass Dartmouth;

Faculty Representatives: Professor Adrion, UMass Amherst; Ms. Gibbs, UMass Dartmouth; Professor Tirrell, UMass Boston

Chair Thomas convened the meeting at 12:10 p.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 February 3, 2010 meeting of the Committee.

Chair Thomas noted that Chair Manning and Chancellor Motley both lost their brothers recently and that the members' thoughts were with each of them. He also noted that the Athletics Committee no longer exists but that athletics is once again a part of the agenda for this Committee. It is important for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Athletics to be connected. Lastly, Chair Thomas acknowledged the receipt of letters regarding the reorganization of the Regional, Economic and Social Development Department at UMass Lowell. Chancellor Meehan commented that reorganization is supported from both an academic practice and fiscal accountability. The President noted that these curricular issues are matters left to the campus for decision-making.

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The next item was the **President's Report**. President Wilson focused his remarks on the value added education that students receive at the University where they are given opportunities to work with faculty on exciting projects. He featured the M5, at UMass Amherst, an open learning environment whose mission is to enable ECE undergraduate students to advance their technical interests through experimentation, exploration, interaction and entrepreneurship. At UMass Boston, students work with faculty and business owners in the Venture Development Center. Dartmouth students have the opportunity to participate in research which creates scientific visualizations through animations. Over 100 students from UMass Lowell have participated in service learning experiences in Peru, seeking to build sustainable infrastructures. UMass Worcester has partnered with faculty and house staff from several institutions including Boston Children's Hospital and Mt. Sinai, to provide both a supervised global health experience for US residents, and 12 months' of teaching and service coverage on the ground for pediatric medical students and residents in Liberia. The graduating class of 2010 has had these opportunities and many others as part of their University education. Looking to the future, there is substantial interest from prospective students in the University. Applications are up overall 8% for fall 2010.

The Chair commented that he had the opportunity to participate in the Amherst and Dartmouth graduations and encouraged all Trustees to participate in at least one to see the excitement and thrill of graduates as they receive their degrees.

Senior Vice President Williams added her congratulations to new alumni for the accomplishment of an earned UMass degree. She noted that President Wilson just asserted that new alums have the added value of learning from professors whose research is new, innovative and challenging. Each new faculty member has enhanced the experience of students and students have in turn enhanced the learning of new faculty. At the beginning of last decade, the University experienced a low point in a cycle of growth. It then developed a set of priorities to guide future development and growth. Two of the priorities are to enhance the student learning experience and renew faculty. We have enjoyed tremendous advances in almost every indicator, such as large growth in R&D. These are faculty with whom our students are studying, with professors at the cutting edge of their research. Prospective students understand the unique education that UMass provides its students. The power of the University brand derives from its tri-part mission. The mission reads: The University's mission is to provide an affordable and accessible education of high quality and to conduct programs of research and public service that advance knowledge and improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

The Chair then gave an overview of the agenda and introduced Provost Langley to present the first action item, the **Approval of University College at UMass Boston**.

Provost Langley noted that the campus needed a modified form to allow for a more coherent division of labor. The attempt to create a university college is to allow for that division of labor in part. What is being sought through the new unit is an effort to allow experimental laboratory

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where new degree programs of which we are not entirely certain due to rapid changes in need. We will be allowed to experiment with programs to see if there is a longer duration than originally supposed. We will avoid seeking faculty with tenure appointments but rather offer long term contracts. We also seek to affect this change to allow us to pursue transdisciplinary programs. Disciplinary borders largely remain and issues are not always resolved. When programs emerge that challenge an existing disciplinary boundary, they are not always well received.

This college would allow those programs to flourish and see if other colleagues might be interested. There would also be revenue generated through this college which could be used for assistantships, undergraduate research support and start up costs in other academic areas. There have been some questions as to whether the current way of doing things would allow us to do what we seek but this is not the case. Most academic departments like to replicate themselves rather than create new programs; competition in continuing education is also increasing and we need to compete on equal terms. There are a number of professional areas offered by community colleges which anticipate a four year degree; we may be able to develop additional offerings to assist with the needs of these programs.

Vice Chair DiBiaggio commented that this is an excellent concept. He did note two issues: will this be self-supporting and an assessment of the program. He did not ask the campus to respond to these today but perhaps in the future. These are important things we need to consider with all programs that we approve. Provost Langley responded that all programs of the University go through an assessment program. It is his hope that the campus will be known for a culture of assessment.

President Wilson noted that the proposal compares University College to other entities such as the University College of Maryland. He said that the proposal seems to be contradictory in that it suggests that it will not be a revenue generating entity while acknowledging that it could be. Provost Langley responded that there is a desire for revenue but the focus is on being an academic unit like others.

Trustee Reville stated that he can't help but admire the way in Provost Langley presents matters of great delicacy. The proposal argues for the capacity to respond to needs of work force, market and employment demands. He asked how the change in structure would allow for more flexibility? Provost Langley explained that currently CE does a number of things with industry and NGOs that the campus would like to extend. It would like to have new centers with new entity. No such preparation exists in other colleges at the moment.

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Trustee Woolridge asked about the frequency of assessments, noting that the first one is five years and what is the interval thereafter. The faculty council wanted five years to give a sufficient amount of time to see how degree programs function. Faculty council will appoint a committee to do the assessment. Thereafter, the Provost would perform an assessment, most likely every three years.

Chair Thomas was also interested in the flexibility and agility to be responsive to societal and community needs. The proposal is flexible, revenue positive and has a great deal of relevance built in.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the creation of University College at the University of Massachusetts Boston. (Doc. T10-026)

The next action item was the **MS/EdD/PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, UMass Dartmouth**. Chancellor MacCormack reminded the Committee that the concept of this degree was included in a proposal to establish the School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement (SEPPCE.) There is much debate about EdD and PhD programs in education and the campus has done a significant amount of homework to develop a program to prepare practioners and those preparing to be in agencies and other places are educated together.

Provost Garro noted in 2007 the campus undertook a planning process to determine how it could position itself to meet K-12 needs regionally and nationally. Three goals were laid out in a proposal for the new school (SEPPCC): to develop programs in STEM, to address broad needs of better preparation of K-12 teachers, and to create a program to train leaders of K12 education. This new program has come out of a year and half of work to address the third goal. The program has been vetted by the other UMass campuses and has their support.

Dean Ramirez-Soto feels that the new program has a unique configuration. They found programs with one or the other degrees and those which have both. UMass Dartmouth created a common core and then separated the program in terms of social science base with an analysis of structures and systems or exploration of solutions to problem based practice. We looked at the field; the landscape is changing rapidly with much debate. We were also trying to create a different relationship between academic departments and centers in the University. The curriculum needed to be a global curriculum with solutions that were local but grounded in global perspective.

Vice Chair DiBiaggio asked if UMass Dartmouth was working with other campuses. The Dean indicated that there are conversations going on regarding areas for collaboration and cooperation.

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Trustee Reville was curious about the description of practice strand and research strand. He said that it seemed that the practice strand focused on policy leadership and practical leadership in the field. Is that accurate? The Dean responded yes, but the program is not making a clear distinction that EdD is the practitioner degree; it will have the research element as that of a PhD. Trustee Reville asked how, within practice strand, do you accommodate both sets of interests? Provost Garro indicated that will be determined by thesis work undertaken. The curriculum has a great deal of time devoted to choosing thesis topics and where they will be performing work.

Trustee Reville suggested that the campus think of state agencies and the Legislature as places for internships for students. He also suggested that there may be more flexibility to hiring faculty with an earned doctorate. The Chancellor explained that the campus is hoping to create a clinical practitioner degree which would allow for hiring of faculty without a terminal degree.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the MS/EdD/PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. (Doc. T10-025)

The next item was **Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst, UMass Worcester.** Provost Staros spoke to the qualifications of Professor Park and Chancellor Collins spoke to both outstanding attributes of Drs. Czech and Flotte.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Yeonhwa Park to the Frederick J. Francis Chair in Food Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Michael Czech to the Isadore and Fannie Foxman Chair in Cancer Research at the University of Massachusetts Worcester.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Terence R. Flotte as the Celia and Isaac Haidak Distinguished Professor of Medical Education at the University of Massachusetts Worcester. (Doc. T10-016)

The next item was the **Appointment of the First Holder of the Mary C. DeFeudis Chair in Cancer Care and Research, UMass Worcester.** This appointment was contingent on the

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establishment of the DeFeudis Chair by the Committee on Administration and Finance on June 2nd.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Michael L. Blute as the first holder of the Mary C. DeFeudis Chair in Cancer Care and Research at the University of Massachusetts Worcester, contingent on the establishment at the June 2, 2010 Committee on Administration and Finance of the Mary C. DeFeudis Chair in Cancer Care and Research at the University of Massachusetts Worcester. (Doc. T10-027)

Chair Thomas then moved to the **Information Item, The School of Law Status Update, UMass Dartmouth.** Chancellor MacCormack provided an update on ongoing implementation of the Law School. There has been an overwhelming positive response. They have exceeded application targets, with close to 600 applications for fall 2010 and almost 1000 for next year. They expect this fall's class to be 140 -150. There has been a focus on improving the profile of students while maintaining diversity. LSAT is up about 4 points. Approximately 31% of the incoming class is minority. Twenty-three students are coming from UMass but other institutions include BU, Hofstra, Skidmore, Providence College and URI.

The Chancellor also has strong indications of private support for a founder's fund. She received large number of letters from all five campus alumni asking how they can assist the law school. She hopes to have an event at the UMass Club to have alumni learn more about the law school. Dealing with other transition issues is well underway and scheduled to be completed by the start of the year. The review of faculty and staff has been completed. Transfer of assets and addressing other legal issues are underway.

Trustee Braceras asked questions regarding the GPA of students who have currently deposited and if there could be an updated report on GPA and LSAT averages when the class has enrolled. Chancellor MacCormack agreed to do so.

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

The Committee will not reconvene in Open Session, and the Secretary will call the Roll.

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It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of considering **Appointments with Tenure, UMass Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell and Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester.**

Chair Thomas voted for the motion as did Vice Chair DiBiaggio, Trustees Braceras, Furman, Osterhaus-Houle, Peters, Reville, Woolridge and Young.

The time was 1:24 p.m.

Barbara F. DeVico
Secretary to the Board of Trustees