

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER**

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

**Wednesday, May 26, 2010; 8:00 a.m.  
Amherst Room  
225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Johnston, Trustees Lawton, Osterhaus-Houle, Thomas and Young

**Committee Member Absent:** Trustees King-Shaw, Reville and Tocco; Chairman Manning

**University Administration:** President Wilson; General Counsel Heatwole; Senior Vice President Williams; Vice President Chmura; Associate Vice President Brancato; Chancellors Holub, MacCormack, Meehan and Collins; Executive Deputy Chancellor/Provost Flotte; Provosts Langley and Garro; Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Malone, UMass Amherst; Vice Provost for Research Xia, UMass Boston; Vice Chancellor Petrovic, UMass Dartmouth; Vice Provost Chen, UMass Lowell; Vice Chancellor for Research Sullivan, UMass Worcester; Dr. Ambrosino, Executive Director, Mass Biological Laboratories

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

Chair Johnston convened the meeting at 8:02 a.m. and began by outlining the agenda for the meeting—a presentation by President Wilson on the growth of UMass’ Research and Development enterprise, and a presentation on the cutting-edge work of the Mass Biologics Laboratory by Dr. Donna Ambrosino from the Medical School.

Chair Johnston then asked for a motion to approve the **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**.

It was moved, seconded and

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2010 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President’s Report**. President Wilson highlighted UMass’ emergence as a top-tier public research university. He reported that while we are aware of UMass’ role in providing high quality, affordable education, there is not the same appreciation of UMass’ emergence as one of the nation’s top public research universities.

President Wilson then provided a clear picture of UMass’ development as a major R&D player. Last year, for example, our R&D expenditures approached \$1/2 B and grew at an

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impressive 12.4 % growth rate, more than double the national average. He noted that this growth was not an aberration; we've been exceeding the national growth rate on a regular basis for several years.

UMass now ranks #36 among all research universities – public and private – in R&D expenditures. We also rank #13 among all universities in technology licensing income. The data and trends clearly show our progress toward top-tier research university status.

President Wilson noted that the success which UMass has achieved over the past few years is not accidental, but rather the result of efforts by the campuses and the President's Office to execute a strategy which is strongly supported by the Trustees. The key factors include a clear focus by University leadership ... a variety of organizational changes (including creation of the first-ever Trustee Committee focused on R&D) ... strategic faculty hiring ... seed investments in new S&T programs ... massive investments in capital facilities ... effective advocacy for state S&T investments ... enhanced collaborations with industry and private universities ... and an emphasis on entrepreneurship and commercialization.

President Wilson suggested that maintaining this growth rate and leadership position will require a continued emphasis on these factors in the future – especially firming up state S&T support ... capitalizing on new federal opportunities in translational research/commercialization ... increasing industry funding ... and supporting the growth of more UMass start-up companies.

The Committee appreciates the President's overview and stressed the need to focus more of the University's communications strategy on highlighting our successes in this area.

Executive Deputy Chancellor/Provost Flotte commented on what an exciting time it is for the University. UMass has truly emerged as a top tier University. The recognition among our peers across the country is phenomenal right now and this is thanks to the leadership of President Wilson and the Chancellors.

Vice Chancellor Sullivan noted that the UMass Center for Translational Science has brought the campuses together around the life sciences and suggested the establishment of a venture fund that would support ideas around translational research and ways to get industry involved. President Wilson indicated that this is an excellent suggestion and advocates for the need to be consistent going forward. Vice President Chmura indicated that he has been approached by a number of alumni interested in private funding.

Chair Johnston then suggested the possibility of hosting a conference with State leadership to discuss where the University has come and why we need to work together to sustain it.

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Trustee Lawton asked that this Committee recommend to the President's Search Committee to make it one of its priorities that the new president continue the drive and momentum President Wilson has developed over the past 4-8 years with research and investment technology. Chair Johnston will recommend it to the Search Committee at its next meeting.

Chancellor Meehan then introduced Julie Chen as the Vice Provost for Research on the Lowell campus.

Chair Johnston introduced the next item for **Discussion, Update on the Massachusetts Biological Laboratories**, one of the "hidden jewels" of the UMass system. MassBiologics (MBL) is the only non-profit, FDA-licensed manufacturer of vaccines in the U.S. It has been in operation for over 100 years and previously under the control of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, MBL was transferred, by legislative action, to the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) in 1997.

Dr. Donna Ambrosino, Executive Director of the MBL and Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical School then presented a brief overview of the MBL's history.

The MBL's mission is to discover and develop products that will significantly impact public health. In support of this mission, MBL focuses on products, including vaccines, plasma derivatives and monoclonal antibodies, which may be targeted to smaller patient populations due to limited incidence of disease (orphan products), uncertain markets as new challenges to public health arise or developing nations with limited resources and unique needs. In addition to its product discovery and development pipeline, MBL manufactures Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids, Adsorbed (Td) vaccine and provides 30% of the Td vaccine used in the United States.

The MBL operates on two campuses: the Jamaica Plain (JP) campus and the Mattapan campus. The JP campus at 305 South Street is the site of MBL's bulk Td manufacturing facility. Currently, the Mattapan campus at 460 Walk Hill Street is home to a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility containing the aseptic fill/finish suite, QC Laboratories, a warehouse and distribution facility and a bulk monoclonal antibody (MAb) manufacturing for therapeutic use. MBL staff from departments spanning the entire spectrum of therapeutic development—product discovery, process development, manufacturing, filling, quality control, quality assurance, and clinical and regulatory affairs—has developed or collaborated on ten MABs since 1998.

The MBL has become the leading generator of technology licensing income at the University of Massachusetts. Since 1997, twenty-three MAB's have been developed, and six MABs discovered in the past eight years including SARS1 for the prevention of SARS, C-difficile for the treatment of hospital acquired infections, HCV for the treatment of Hepatitis C, and RAB1 for the treatment of Rabies post-exposure. As a result of MAB's expertise, it has successfully developed a number of exciting collaborative partnerships in the U.S. with companies such as Merck and internationally with groups such as the Serum Institute of India.

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Chair Johnston asked if there are NIH guidelines around clinical research. Vice Chancellor Sullivan commented that conflicts of interests are major sources of investigation right now around clinical research. Last week NIH published all of their changes in conflicts in the federal register. Two committees were in place, one to look at individual conflicts of interests, the other to look at institutional conflicts of interest. A series of recommendations were made to the Dean and Chancellor including having an external hiring review Board, data safety monitoring Board, and a clinical contract research organization to monitor the study. The recommendations were approved by the University Committee a week ago and a letter is being prepared for the President. Our basis is covered incredibly well. It is important to have UMass Memorial participate in the clinical trials connected to the Medical School. Vice President Chmura commented that the University-wide community considered this and agreed to go forward; there was an incredible amount of due diligence and thought that was done at the campus levels, and he is impressed with national guidelines and standards developed as part of the process.

Trustee Thomas commended Dr. Ambrosino for a moving and provocative presentation. We all should be proud with presentations such as this and should value the University. We need to dedicate more resources to public awareness and be more intentional about telling our story so that people will know what kind of value and proposition we bring to the research community. He also commended the philosophical and ethical position taken with respect to avoiding conflict.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett  
Assistant Secretary to the Board