

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Wednesday, November 28, 2012; 8:00 a.m.

Amherst Room

225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle; Trustees Campbell, Quattrochi and Xifaras

Committee Members Absent: Chair Johnston

University Administration: President Caret; Senior Vice President Williams; Vice Presidents Chmura and Solis; Associate Vice President Banks; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Motley, Grossman, Meehan and Collins; Provosts Langley; Vice Provosts Fowler, Xia and Chen; Vice Chancellor Malone; Professor Kurose, UMass Amherst; Ralph Zottola, Chief Technology Officer, UMass Users Group for the MGHPCC

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

Guest: Mr. Goodhue; Executive Director, Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center

Documents Used: -Update - State R&D Matching Grant Legislation, Doc. T12-090
-Update - Future of the Mass Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC), Doc. T12-091

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle convened the meeting at 8:14 a.m. and stated that the Committee had been provided with draft minutes for the May 23, 2012 meeting and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report:

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle highlighted the meeting's agenda.

President's Report:

President Caret reported on his ongoing efforts to "tell and sell" the UMass story to a variety of constituents throughout the state, including recent engagements with the Brockton, Merrimack Valley and Greater Boston Chambers of Commerce and the October bus tour.

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President Caret highlighted recent University successes, including the support from business and industry groups and Legislative approval of the \$50 million R&D matching fund and the \$300K planning grant for UMass Amherst from the Massachusetts life Sciences Center. He reported that Secretary Bialecki has asked UMass to put together a presentation on the University's strategic plan for life sciences research and development over the next ten years.

President Caret also noted the potential effect of the "fiscal cliff" on the University's R&D budget; an 8.2 percent potential cut. He added that he cosigned a letter to Congress urging resolution.

Discussion Items:

Mike Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, Amherst and Julie Chen, Vice Provost for Research, UMass Lowell provided an overview of the **State R&D Matching Grant Legislation**. Vice Chancellor Malone presented background on the state's previous R&D matching grant program and highlighted the University's coordinated campaign, led by President Caret, with leading business and technology groups and private universities to advocate for the new program. Vice Chancellor Malone noted why such legislation was important to the Commonwealth, including the fact that more and more federal funding requires matching dollars, the increasingly competitive funding environment, and investments are guaranteed a 3:1 return.

Vice Provost Chen commended Vice Chancellor Malone and Vice President Chmura for their efforts and noted how quickly the legislation passed. She then highlighted potential opportunities for funding through the new legislation. Vice Provost Chen noted the recent award to an Ohio and Pennsylvania group of the Advanced Manufacturing Institute. It is expected that there will be 15 more awards of this type and Massachusetts is now positioned to be able to apply for such an institute because of the availability of matching funds in addition to the strength of the state's industry cluster.

Chancellor Meehan commended Vice Provost Chen and Vice Chancellor Malone. While passage of the R&D bill is positive, he noted that per capita funding for higher education from the Commonwealth is among the lowest in the country, which puts UMass at a disadvantage. Vice Provost Chen added that the matching funds allow for partnering with private industry as another model. Vice President Chmura noted that this was a new tool with which to work. President Caret noted the aggressive work by Vice President Chmura, David McDermott and Executive Vice President Julian in this effort.

Trustee Xifaras asked about the interest in the program by the legislature. There was a discussion on the win-win nature of the legislation and the state's legacy of not investing in R&D. Trustee Xifaras added that this type of discussion should be had with all potential future leaders of the Commonwealth and their advisors to keep them in the loop.

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The next item was the panel discussion on the **Future of the Mass Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC)**. Vice President Chmura introduced the panel on what Governor Patrick called “the most significant public/private collaboration” in the state’s history. The panel included John Goodhue, Executive Director, MGHPCC; Jim Kurose, Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, Amherst and Chair, UMass Research Advisory Committee for the MGHPCC; Bob Solis, Vice President and CIO, and Chair, UMass Project Management Team for the MGHPCC; and Ralph Zottola, Chief Technology Officer for Research Computing, and Chair, UMass Users Group for the MGHPCC. Mr. Goodhue provided an overview of the key objectives of the MGHPCC: a computer center for scientific research; a university/industry/government research collaboration; and an innovation district in Holyoke. Professor Kurose provided a faculty perspective on the new center, highlighted research being done on all five campuses that will benefit from its existence, provided an overview of potential areas for collaboration and funding, and highlighted community engagement to date. Vice President Solis provided an overview of the data center as a system-wide resource as well as the University’s Data Center optimization strategy. Mr. Zottola presented an overview of the University’s shared services cluster and its potential for substantial savings in capital and operating costs and more efficient use of research funds.

Vice President Chmura noted the well-attended Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Governor Patrick’s support and enthusiasm for the project. He also noted that it is a critical piece of research infrastructure and an important vehicle for collaboration. Chancellor Subbaswamy asked about the business model for operating costs. Vice President Solis shared the current thinking on the business model, which includes shared initial capital costs and annual operating costs and the planned use of scheduling software to be able to keep accurate track of campus use for billing purposes. Vice President Solis also noted that it would be very cost-effective in the long-term. Professor Kurose added that faculty felt the responsibility to contribute and bring in funding for the infrastructure. Mr. Zottola added that the software also allows for forecasting.

There being no other business meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Kate Wilkinson
Staff Assistant