

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

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

**Wednesday, September 4, 2013; 11:30 a.m.
Amherst Room
225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts**

Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle; Trustees Carpman, Kingston, Lowe, Murphy, O'Brien, Peters and Xifaras; Chairman Thomas

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Furman, Geoffroy, Gomez, King-Shaw, Lee and Malone

University Administration: President Caret; Senior Vice President Williams; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Motley, Grossman, Meehan and Collins; General Counsel Heatwole

Faculty Representatives: Professor Kurose, UMass Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMass Boston; Professor Buzawa, UMass Lowell

Documents Used: -Ph.D. in Higher Education AND Ed.D. in Higher Education, UMass Boston, Doc. T13-051
-Appointment to Named Professorship, UMass Amherst, Doc. T13-070
-Revisions to the Governance Document of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Doc. T03-035, as amended
-Rescind the Establishment of the School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Doc. T13-087
-Establishment of the School of Education housed within the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Doc. T13-088

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle convened the meeting at 11:48 a.m. and welcomed the new Student Trustees: Megan Kingston, UMass Amherst; Nolan O'Brien, UMass Boston; Colin Murphy, UMass Dartmouth and Patrick Lowe, UMass Worcester. Phillip Geoffroy was reappointed to a second term. Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle also welcomed UMass Dartmouth's new Provost, Mohammad Karim.

Reports:

Chair's Report

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle then stated that due to a full Board agenda and the need to keep the meeting moving forward in a constructive manner, any members of the Committee or others

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who wish to speak please do so through the Vice Chair, noting that all speakers will be limited to three minutes. She also noted that Board of Trustees meeting guidelines restrict comments to specific agenda items and not stray into areas that are not part of the agenda.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle stated that the Committee was provided with draft minutes of the June 5, 2013 meeting and the Executive Session minutes of the June 5, 2013 meeting and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle then provided an overview of the day's agenda and action items.

President's Report

President Caret acknowledged the beginning of a new academic year and welcomed Provost Karim and the new student Trustees. Chancellor Grossman spoke briefly about Provost Karim's expertise and accomplishments. President Caret commented on noteworthy incoming freshman class, which resulted in the highest achieving class in history.

President Caret also highlighted faculty accomplishments on each campus. Highlights included: UMass Amherst's Lila Gierasch's, Distinguished Professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology prestigious Mildred Cohn Award; Boston's Maria Ivanova and Robyn Hannigan's successful acquisition of a \$3.1M Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship grant from the NSF; Dartmouth Professor John Buck's use of the slinky to teach and talk about acoustics; Lowell's Dr. Laura Punnett and her students' work in epidemiology of work-related musculoskeletal disorders; and Worcester's Professor Marc Freeman's research on glial cells.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Williams also welcomed the new Trustees and the new school year. She then commented on the recent loss of Elaine Sortino and Priscilla Clarkson and the tremendous impact they had on the University for nearly four decades. Their lives constituted a symphony of commitment and passion, of striving and excellence, of discovery and engagement, of rigor and balance, and of caring and compassion and they personified what should be our full commitment to UMass students.

Action Items:

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **Ph.D. in Higher Education AND Ed.D. in Higher Education, UMass Boston**. She indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. It was moved and seconded:

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

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To approve the Ph.D. in Higher Education AND the Ed.D. in Higher Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston as contained in Doc. T13-051.

The Vice Chair asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **Appointment to Named Professorship, UMass Amherst**. She indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. It was moved and seconded:

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Robert Pollin as Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. (Doc. T13-070)

The Vice Chair asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **Revisions to the Governance Document of the University of Massachusetts Medical School**. She indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. It was moved and seconded:

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the revisions to the Governance Document of the University of Massachusetts Medical School as contained in Doc. T03-035, as amended.

The Vice Chair asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval to **Rescind the Establishment of the School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement, UMass Dartmouth**. She indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. It was moved and seconded:

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To rescind Doc. T08-044, which established the School Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

The Vice Chair asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **Establishment of the School of Education housed within the College of Arts and Sciences, UMass Dartmouth**. She

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indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. It was moved and seconded:

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the recommendation of the President and approve the establishment of a School of Education within the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. (Doc. T13-088)

The Vice Chair asked for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle then asked for a motion to put the above action items #1-5 on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting and explained that the Board can approve all these items by a single vote, and that no discussion will be permitted.

It was moved and seconded to place the above matters on a Consent Agenda. The Vice Chair called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Item:

Senior Vice President Williams introduced the Discussion Item: **UMass Admissions Update Post Fisher v. University of Texas Austin**. General Counsel Heatwole reported that campus Admissions Officers were asked how the ruling would prohibit diversity. She also noted also that the case had been remanded back to Texas Federal Court and that it provided guidance on continually evaluating practices and examining why diversity is essential to the mission of a university.

The panel included Associate Provost James Roche from Amherst, Associate Vice Chancellor Lisa Johnson from Boston, Associate Vice Chancellor Teresa Mauk from Dartmouth, Dean Thomas Taylor from Lowell and Associate Dean Kendal Knight from Worcester.

Associate Provost Roche reported that the recent ruling stimulated conversation amongst his system colleagues on this complex issue, noting the support of the system office and Senior Vice President Williams. He added that he expected meetings to continue and that it was evident that the campuses were significantly engaged in race-neutral practices with an inclusive goal without being exclusive. He noted other relevant criteria, including income, socio-economic status, first generation, overcoming adversity, leadership and special skills and talents. He added that continuing and improving outreach efforts was essential.

Trustee Xifaras commented on UMass Dartmouth's Upward Bound program and the UAspire program, as workable race-neutral alternatives. President Caret commented that it was an important campus-wide discussion, beyond simply admissions, but embedded in campus culture. Associate Vice Chancellor Johnson noted Boston's diverse student body, but added that

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tremendous outreach was still important, including marketing, fairs, and bringing students and parents to campus. Chancellor Motley added that senior leadership was highly engaged in this issue. Associate Vice Chancellor Mauk added that diversity in various fields of study was important as well. Chancellor Grossman provided additional examples of such programs on Dartmouth's campus. Associate Dean Knight added the importance of diverse applicants for the School of Medicine because they will be serving diverse communities.

Trustee Kingston asked about the "student bridges" program and if an increase in funding had a significant impact. President Caret commented on the UMass Performance initiative and some related outcome measures. Faculty Representative Lynn Tirrell noted Boston's diversity and the mainstreaming of diversity into the classroom and the campus culture. Chairman Thomas noted the challenge of the topic and commended the various programs and practices on campus but added that the Fisher case does not eliminate affirmative action but rather installed a stricter scrutiny. He added that more robust discussion was necessary and the topic deserves more attention and intentionality to the historically underrepresented.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle then asked the Committee to vote to enter into **Executive Session** pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 75, Section 4, for the purpose of considering **Appointments with Tenure, UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell** and **Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Worcester**. She announced that the Committee would reconvene in Open Session to continue the UMass Admissions Update Post Fisher v. University of Texas Austin.

It was moved and seconded and the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no to enter into Executive Session for those purposes listed: Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle voted for the motion as did Trustees Carpman, Murphy, O'Brien and Xifaras. Chairman Thomas also voted for the motion.

The time was 12:41 p.m.

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 12:46 p.m.

Senior Vice President Williams stated that input on the Post Fisher topic was appreciated and conversations would be ongoing. Deputy Chancellor/Provost Flotte clarified that the Medical School was not completely race-neutral and that it was essential that the Medical School provide physicians to the Commonwealth. He added that a "holistic" review included economic and educational disadvantages and that there were a number of entry pathways, including the baccalaureate/MD pathway. There was further discussion on creating diverse communities on campus.

Chairman Thomas commended the strategies that campuses were employing but called for courageousness and leadership, noting that the rules had not changed. There was further

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discussion about creating opportunity across the curriculum and the importance about the diversity of ideas.

Information Item:

Chancellor Grossman provided the **Report on Review of Policies and Practices Post Patriot's Day 2013 Tragedy**. She reported on the Task Force findings on the post-Patriots Day tragedy. The Task Force was appointed in May and released their report in August. The report focused on emergency planning and public safety; academic and social policies; and processes and policies for international students. Chancellor Grossman also reported that the Task Force concluded that the campus made the correct decision and executed effectively. She described the process that the Task Force undertook and thanked President Caret, President's Office staff, and her fellow Chancellors. She noted that there were recommendations that would be implemented.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Kate Wilkinson
Staff Assistant