

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2013; 4:00 p.m.
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Massachusetts Room – 3rd Floor
200 Commonwealth Avenue
Amherst, Massachusetts**

Trustees Present: Chair Thomas; Vice Chair Furman; Trustees Buonomo, Campbell, Collins, Fubini, Geoffroy, Johnston, Kingston, Lowe, Mullan, Murphy, O'Brien, Osterhaus-Houle, Peters, Woolridge and Xifaras

Trustees Absent: Trustees Carpman, Gomez, Lee and Malone; Vice Chair King-Shaw

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor Buzawa, UMass Lowell

Guest: Cathy Sandeen, Vice President of Education Attainment and Innovation for the American Council on Education

Chair Thomas convened the meeting at 4:07 p.m. and stated that the Board had been provided with a copy of the minutes from the June 18, 2013 meeting. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report

Chair Thomas thanked Chancellor Subbaswamy and the Amherst campus for hosting the Trustees. He reviewed today's agenda and thanked Trustee Xifaras for her leadership on the Task Force on Online Education.

President's Report

President Caret also thanked Chancellor Subbaswamy and the Amherst campus as well as UMassOnline CEO John Cunningham and the Provosts at each campus. President Caret remarked on the pioneering work of UMassOnline and noted today's agenda of looking to the future.

Trustee Xifaras then introduced UMassOnline CEO, John Cunningham, and described the order of the presentations.

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Discussion Item:

Mr. Cunningham introduced the Discussion Item: **UMassOnline Update**, and provided a brief history of the evolution of UMassOnline, its business model, and its reputation in the global online learning community.

Mr. Cunningham then introduced the panel to provide highlights of innovative online learning initiatives on their respective campuses. Provost Staros and Professor Gross described the blended learning model in an upper division physical chemistry course at the Amherst campus. Provost Langley and Dr. Girelli, Director of the Center for Innovation in e-Learning, described the charge of the new Center, including developing and utilizing learning analytics. Executive Vice Chancellor Moloney and Provost Abdelal described the evolution of the online program at the Lowell campus and its future focus on professional science masters programs, international programs, and building and implementing the cooperative education model. Provost Karim and Interim Dean Riley described the initiatives on campus that will help the Dartmouth campus expand its current program, including substantial investments in infrastructure. Deputy Chancellor/Provost Flotte described the standardized patient program and the high fidelity stimulation at the Worcester campus.

Vice Chair Furman asked how E&E efforts were being incorporated into UMassOnline. Mr. Cunningham described the buying consortium and Vice President Solis described the collaboration to deliver technology through the managed infrastructure. Trustee Campbell welcomed Provost Karim and asked about the role of the Law School in the online future at the Dartmouth campus, noting the rapidly changing landscape of law education and the need to be innovative.

Dr. Cathy Sandeen, Vice President of Education Attainment and Innovation for the American Council on Education then provided an overview of current trends in online education and described her recent project on how credit recommendations may be applied to MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Dr. Sandeen also focused on key questions that may help inform future strategies for universities around online education.

Trustee Fubini asked about leveraging across the system and having a more systematic approach to sharing. Dr. Sandeen noted the University of Georgia system which identified common core courses. Dr. Girelli described a number of articulation agreements, but noted the different student management systems. Executive Vice Chancellor Moloney noted the tremendous efficiencies of the programs and also the distinct campus differences in programs. She added that demand continues to rise. Trustee Buonomo stated that it was important not to systematize everything and considering the end goal was important.

Trustee Xifaras thanked Dr. Sandeen and the panelists for their presentations. President Caret added that the University's online program will continue to evolve and the University needs to decide who is best served by online education. Chairman Thomas thanked Trustee Xifaras for bringing the topic to the Committee of the Whole.

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There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Kate Wilkinson
Staff Assistant