

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Wednesday, February 13, 2013; 8:00 a.m.

Amherst Room

225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair Johnston; Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle; Trustee Quattrochi

Conference Call: Trustee Xifaras

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Campbell and Malone

University Administration: President Caret; Senior Vice President Williams; Vice President Chmura; Associate Vice President Banks; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Motley, Grossman, Meehan and Collins

Faculty Representatives: Professor May, UMass Amherst

Documents Used: -Preliminary Report – UMass R&D Expenditures for FY 2012, Doc. T13-023
-Update – Potential Impacts of Sequestration on University R&D, Doc. T13-024
-Panel Discussion – The University of Massachusetts Innovation Institute (UMII), Doc. T13-025

Chair Johnston convened the meeting at 8:04 a.m. and stated that Trustee Xifaras will be participating by telephone pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10, as adopted by the Board of Trustees and permitted under Section 29.10 (5)(e), since she is traveling and geographically distant from Boston making it unreasonably difficult for her to attend the meeting in person.

Chair Johnston stated that the Committee had been provided with draft minutes for the November 28, 2012 meeting and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report:

Chair Johnston reviewed the meeting's agenda.

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President's Report:

President Caret reported on his recent efforts to highlight UMass' role as the Commonwealth's public research university. He included his major speaking engagements, the development of the University's accountability document titled *UMass Performance: Accountable and On The Move*, and the University's other efficiency and effectiveness efforts, among other highlights. Additionally, President Caret reported on University efforts with the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center, and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. He also reported on a new joint research agreement between UMass Lowell and Natick Soldier Systems Center that will focus on soldier safety research such as body armor and fire-resistant fabric, and on the successful opening of the New England Robotics Validation and Experimentation Center at UMass Lowell. He also noted the call for proposals for three system-wide grants to help faculty develop work in key areas, Science & Technology, Life Sciences and Creative Economy.

Discussion Items:

Vice President Chmura provided the **Preliminary Report—UMass R&D Expenditures for FY 2012**. He reviewed R&D expenditure trends between FY 2008 and FY 2012, noting the annual growth rate between FY 2008 and FY 2011 and the slowing growth rate between FY 2011 and FY 2012. He attributed the decrease in growth to future uncertainty in funding, the loss of Congressional earmarks and the completion of expenditures from onetime ARRA grants. Chair Johnston remarked on the potential percentage cuts to NIH funding under sequestration and the potential opportunities in health care reform dollars, particularly for the Medical School.

Deputy Chancellor/Provost Flotte, Vice Provost Xia, Chancellor Grossman, Vice Provost Chen, Vice Chancellor Malone, and Acting Vice Provost Meressi commented on their campus' recent rates of growth and other research trends.

Chancellors Meehan and Collins reported on the **Potential Impacts of Sequestration on University R&D**. Chancellor Meehan provided an overview of the legislative process to date, the current outcomes, and the potential for future action. He also reported on the potential impact to the Lowell campus.

Chancellor Collins then reported on the potential impact that sequestration could have on both the University and Massachusetts overall. He highlighted the state's strength in and reliance on NIH funding and its importance to the Massachusetts economy. Chancellor Collins emphasized the importance of federal research funding to the health and wealth of the nation and stressed to advocate against any cuts.

President Caret noted the University's work with several national organizations to fight R&D funding cuts through sequestration.

Chair Johnston remarked on Senator Warren as an ally on this issue and also the recent loss

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of 80 years of seniority and advocacy between Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry. There was further discussion on advocacy with legislators in Massachusetts and throughout New England.

Trustee Quattrochi asked about the preservation of funding for fellowships and post-docs. Chancellor Collins discussed the difficulty for young investigators to receive funding and the growing competition with Asian nations for the best researchers.

Chair Johnston then introduced the next discussion item, the **Panel Discussion on the University of Massachusetts Innovation Institute (UMII)**. Vice President Chmura provided brief background information on the Innovation Institute. Chancellor Subbaswamy then remarked on the growing emphasis on translational science grants and the complexity of bridging the divide between industry and academia. Vice Chancellor Malone introduced the vision and mission of the UMII, the global context, the motivations, and the changing academic/industry landscape. He then introduced the panel which included Jim Capistran, Executive Director, UMII; Rakesh Kapoor, Director of NOVA External Venturing, Saint-Gobain; Alan Lesser, Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering; Patricia Freedson, Professor and Chair, Kinesiology; and Jack Healy, Director, Mass Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Mr. Capistran discussed the UMII's role as liaison between industry and the University. Mr. Kapoor described Saint-Gobain's partnership with UMass and the company's philosophy with regard to R&D. Professors Lesser and Freedson provided faculty perspectives on the UMII and applied research. Mr. Healy described the collaboration between the UMII and the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

Chair Johnston inquired about Mass MEP's funding and relationship to state government. Trustee Quattrochi inquired as to how to engage additional faculty, particularly those hesitant to work with industry. There was a discussion about faculty involvement and outreach.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle thanked the panel and noted the importance of keeping UMass graduates, and their brain power, in state upon graduation.

Chancellor Subbaswamy added that UMII is expected to eventually be self-supporting. Vice President Chmura noted that Amherst was playing an important leadership role with this model.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Kate Wilkinson
Staff Assistant