

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

**Wednesday, June 5, 2013; 8:00 a.m.
Amherst Room
225 Franklin Street – 33rd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts**

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

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Campbell and Malone; Chairman Thomas

Other Trustees: Trustee Buonomo

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor Adrion, UMass Amherst

Documents Used: -Life Sciences Research and Innovation Growth Strategy for UMass Amherst in the Massachusetts Bio-economy, Doc. T13-057
-Overview of MassBiologics: A Resource for Biologics Discovery, Innovation, Manufacturing and Public Service, Doc. T13-046

Chair Johnston convened the meeting at 8:16 a.m. and stated that the Committee had been provided with draft minutes for the February 13, 2013 meeting and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Reports:

Chair's Report:

Chair Johnston reviewed the meeting's agenda.

President's Report:

President Caret reported on the award of a \$95M life sciences grant for UMass Amherst from the Mass. Life Sciences Center and thanked Chancellor Subbaswamy and Vice Chancellor Malone, along with Vice President Chmura, for the collaborative planning process. He added that this earmark was a part of the Life Sciences Bond Bill from which \$250M has come to UMass to date. In addition to the Amherst grant, the Life Sciences Center also awarded a \$270K grant to the Medical School for the continued operation of its international Stem Cell Registry.

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Additionally, the Boston campus used a \$750K MLSC grant to recruit a faculty member from the University of Michigan to manage the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy. President Caret also provided updates on Dartmouth's work with the Clean Energy Center to secure ongoing support for its marine renewable energy center (MREC) in New Bedford and the equipment installation at the MGHPCC. Lastly, he described the University's work in support of new legislation that will provide funding to the Mass Technology Transfer Center to enable it to make "proof of concept" grants to faculty seeking to commercialize their technology.

Discussion Items:

Chancellor Subbaswamy and Vice Chancellor Malone reported on the **Life Sciences Research & Innovation Growth Strategy for UMass Amherst in the Massachusetts Bio-economy**. Chancellor Subbaswamy introduced the strategic planning process and described it as a significant process, which reached across the campus, across industry and also included the Medical School. Vice Chancellor Malone further described the planning process, which was made possible by a planning grant. He noted that the study helped identify the intersection of research and regional strengths. Regional assets included precision manufacturing, Baystate Health, MGHPCC, and higher education. Vice Chancellor Malone described the extensive process and the resulting proposal of three centers: Personalized Healthcare Monitoring, Models to Medicine and Bioactive Delivery. He then described the "Awareness Audit" conducted, which underscored the campus' need to expand targeted relationships and build its reputation with industry. Vice Chancellor Malone provided a breakdown of the funding, which included significant equipment purchases.

Trustee Buonomo asked about other markets that might be affected by the campus' polymer research. Vice Chancellor Malone noted that the technology was a platform for light weight batteries and "second skin". Chair Johnston inquired about the effect on students. Vice Chancellor Malone stated that this process had brought undergraduates into the lab and at the graduate level, bringing in more industry partners has enhanced the Isenberg School of Management's new focus on entrepreneurship. Industry has stated a need for both life sciences and business students. Provost Langley commended UMass Amherst's and Vice Chancellor Malone's work.

Vice President Chmura noted the incredible engagement of industry, with over 50 companies endorsing the strategy. He added that the MLSC Board was very enthusiastic. Trustee Xifaras asked how the economic climate in Washington might affect the program. Vice Chancellor Malone stated that there were future concerns and it was an opportunity to engage industry for alternative income, however it is not a substitute for federal funding. Provost Flotte added that institutions still need to supplement 20-30 cents on the dollar and that all medical schools and research universities were looking at the diversification of revenue. President Caret added that the initial impact of sequestration on the University was around \$30M. Vice Chancellor Malone noted a Barry Bluestone report on the MLSC and Chair Johnston asked for copies for Trustees.

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Chair Thomas inquired about the cross-fertilization with other campuses and the pipeline initiative. Vice Chancellor Malone described the collaboration with the Medical School's Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Lowell's M2D2. Chancellor Subbaswamy added that the leveraging of resources was essential and that it should be regarded as a UMass center, not just Amherst.

Chancellor Collins introduced Mark Klempler, Executive Vice Chancellor for Mass Biologics and Professor of Medicine from the UMass Medical School and Katherine Luzuriaga, Associate Provost of Global Health, Director of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Medicine, from the UMass Medical School, who provided an **Overview of MassBiologics: A Resource for Biologics Discovery, Innovation, Manufacturing and Public Service**. Dr. Klempler provided the history of MassBiologics, from its start in 1894 until today. He then described its future, noting the targeting of niche products with global impact. Dr. Luzuriaga described the overall strategy for translational science and its history, focusing on the development of multi-disciplinary teams from across the system as an approach to problem-solving. There was discussion about MassBiologics as a major resource for education and training. Trustee Xifaras asked if MassBiologics had been used as resource for the Governor in the recent compounding pharmacy issues in the state. Dr. Klempler described safety as the top priority and noted that MassBiologics was an FDA-licensed, GMP facility. There was discussion about this topic.

Trustee Campbell commended Vice Chancellor Malone, Dr. Klempler and Dr. Luzuriaga and stated that he thought that the citizens of Massachusetts were not as aware of this important work as they should be and the key to success in philanthropy was investing in success.

Vice Chair Osterhaus-Houle thanked MassBiologics for its work on pre-eclampsia.

President Caret stated that the President's Office is continuing a series of grant programs to promote the work of faculty in three key areas: science & technology, the life sciences and the creative economy.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Kate Wilkinson
Staff Assistant