

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•MEDICAL SCHOOL•UMASSONLINE**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2017; 10:00 a.m.
Amherst Room
University of Massachusetts Club
One Beacon Street – 32nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts**

Trustees Present: Chair Manning; Vice Chair Furman (by phone); Vice Chair Collins; Trustees Buonomo (by phone), Burns, Delaney, Epstein, Feinberg, Johnston, O'Brien, Paris Jeffries (by phone), Peters, Peyser, Thomas and Wu

Trustees Absent: Trustees Fatemi Ardestani, Fubini, Odam, Osterhaus-Houle, Reed, Scheibel and Woolridge

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Heatwole

Isaacson, Miller: Gale Merseth, Vice President and Director

Chair Manning convened the meeting at 10:08 a.m. and stated that Trustees Buonomo, Furman and Paris Jeffries would be participating remotely under section 29.10(5)(E), since they were traveling.

Chair Manning then requested approval of the **Appointment of Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and Treasurer.** Chair Manning asked for questions or comments.

It was moved and seconded and the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Manning voted for the motion as did Vice Chairs Furman and Collins; Trustees Buonomo, Burns, Delaney, Epstein, Johnston, O'Brien, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Peyser, Thomas and Wu.

VOTED: To appoint Lisa Calise as Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and Treasurer of the University of Massachusetts. (Doc. T17-021)

Chair's Report

Chair Manning thanked Trustee Peters for chairing the UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Search Committee and leading another search process to a successful conclusion, and acknowledged Trustees Furman and Delaney for their contributions to the search. He also thanked the Search Committee members on behalf of the Board of Trustees for their service and work.

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Report of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Chancellor Search Committee

Trustee Peters stated that it was an honor and a privilege to serve as Chair of the Search Committee, and he acknowledged Trustees Furman and Delaney for their time and expertise.

Trustee Peters reported that at its first meeting on September 30th, 2016, the Search Committee was charged by President Meehan and then-Chairman Woolridge to seek, assess and recommend candidates who would make an outstanding Chancellor for UMass Dartmouth, and to deliver an unranked list of finalists for the position. The charge was to find strong, passionate leaders who could articulate and follow through on a vision for UMass Dartmouth that would enable the campus to carry out its mission by continuing to develop excellence in its educational, research and service endeavors.

On October 13 and 14, open forums were held at UMass Dartmouth, and in Fall River and New Bedford. The message from the campus and the external community was that the next Chancellor of UMass Dartmouth needed to be committed to the campus and willing to be engaged in the SouthCoast community.

A national search was launched resulting in the hiring of Isaacson, Miller. Throughout the course of the search process, 52 individuals indicated their interest in the role. Isaacson, Miller communicated with 165 prospective candidates in total, interviewed 40 candidates and presented the credentials of those candidates to the Search Committee. The Committee interviewed 12 candidates on February 12, 13 and 14. In addition to the public forums and interviews, the Committee held five formal business meetings, with the conclusion of the final meeting on February 22nd which selected the finalists.

Trustee Peters stated that the Search Committee voted unanimously to recommend three finalists to President Meehan for consideration. The finalists were Robert E. Johnson, President of Becker College, James P. Lentini, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Oakland University in Michigan, and Philip K. Way, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Slippery Rock University. In a pool of extremely qualified candidates, they rose to the top, with a record of high achievement, proven leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, collaboration, and campus experience.

Trustee Peters thanked the Committee for their outstanding contributions to the search process. He also thanked Susan Kelly and Christina Kelley for assisting the Search Committee.

President's Recommendation on the Appointment of Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

President Meehan thanked the Search Committee for their willingness to participate in this important process and offering their valuable time to ensure an outstanding search. He thanked Trustee Peters for his leadership and commitment, and Isaacson, Miller for their hard work, professionalism and sound guidance throughout the process.

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He stated that the Committee conducted an open, transparent and comprehensive search; sought input from important constituencies, including faculty, students, staff and the SouthCoast community; sought someone who wanted to make a long-term commitment to UMass Dartmouth; and conducted a diligent, energetic and open search, interviewed candidates, debated their merits, and delivered three excellent finalists. The finalists visited the campus last week for full days of stakeholder meetings.

President Meehan then recommended Dr. Robert Johnson to lead UMass Dartmouth. Dr. Johnson has been the president of Becker College since 2010, where he has increased enrollment to record levels, improved student success metrics and elevated the reputation of the campus. While at Becker, he became deeply ingrained in the Worcester region's civic and business community, serving as president of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the state Board of Higher Education, Vice Chairman of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Board, and a member of Governor Baker's Black Advisory Commission. Dr. Johnson has a long track record of success, including at public institutions, having held leadership positions at Sinclair Community College, the University of Dayton, Oakland University and Central State University.

President Meehan stated that at a time when diversity is celebrated and valued on the Dartmouth campus and across the UMass system, he is pleased that Robert Johnson will become the first African American to lead UMass Dartmouth should the Board accept his recommendation. He looks forward to working with Dr. Johnson to ensure the success of the Dartmouth campus, its students, its faculty and the entire SouthCoast region.

Chair Manning then requested approval of the **Appointment of Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**. Chair Manning asked for questions or comments.

Trustee Peyser endorsed the recommendation stating that Dr. Johnson was highly competitive and is a model for how the role works; he brings a broader system perspective in the context of higher education system, and is committed to preparing young people for career success in a world economy that is rapidly changing.

Trustee O'Brien commended the President and the Search Committee for a job well done, and thanked Interim Chancellor Helm for his work at UMass Dartmouth. He expressed his enthusiastic support of the recommendation and provided glowing comments about Dr. Johnson. Trustee O'Brien also disclosed that he works closely with Dr. Johnson and serves on the Board of Becker College.

Trustee Thomas commended the President and the Search Committee. He stated that Dr. Johnson is a tremendous talent and will be an asset to UMass. Trustee Delaney endorsed the recommendation from a student's perspective and commented that the students on the Dartmouth campus are excited about the energy Dr. Johnson brings.

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It was moved and seconded and the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Manning voted for the motion as did Vice Chairs Furman and Collins; Trustees Buonomo, Burns, Delaney, Epstein, Johnston, O'Brien, Peters, Peyser, Thomas and Wu.

VOTED: To appoint Robert E. Johnson as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

And further,

To authorize the President to enter into a contract with Robert E. Johnson for the Position of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in accordance with the most recent recommendation of the Compensation Committee. (Doc. T17-001)

Dr. Johnson joined the meeting and thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as the next Chancellor of UMass Dartmouth. He commented that UMass Dartmouth is going become a better place.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees