

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

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

Wednesday, June 7, 2017; 10:00 a.m.

Amherst Room

University of Massachusetts Club

One Beacon Street – 32nd Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair Osterhaus Houle; Vice Chair Thomas; Trustees Collins, Feinberg, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Peyser, Reed and Scheibel; Chair Manning

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Delaney, Fatemi Ardestani and Furman

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor Whitbourne, UMass Amherst; Lublin, UMass Boston, Professor O'Reilly, UMass Dartmouth; Professor Abdallah, UMass Lowell

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: April 5, 2017 (Open & Executive Session)
- Faculty Senate Constitution, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T17-037
- Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Medical School, Doc. T17-038
- University of Massachusetts Opposition to the Department of Higher Education's (DHE) Revised Procedures for New Academic Program Proposals for Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Doc. T17-030
- Student Profile Fall 2016, Doc. T17-036

Chair Osterhaus-Houle convened the meeting at 10:12 a.m. and 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 wishing to speak should do so through the Chair.

Chair Osterhaus-Houle stated that the Committee was provided with the draft minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting's Open Session and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Chair Osterhaus-Houle then announced the day's agenda and indicated that the Committee would vote on three action items; discuss an informational item, and vote on two items in executive session.

Reports:

President's Report

President Meehan congratulated the Class of 2017, the largest class ever for UMass with approximately 17,700 graduates across the five campuses. He thanked the Trustees for their participation at the commencement ceremonies and noted how important it is for the students to see the support of the Board of Trustees.

President Meehan commented on the proposed vote to strongly oppose the Department of Higher Education's (DHE) Revised Procedures for New Academic Program Proposals. The Board of Higher Ed plans to discuss the revised procedures at its Academic Affairs meeting on June 13 and at their Board meeting on June 20. He indicated that later in the meeting the campuses would provide comments with respect to the vote. He then highlighted the campuses achievements.

Last fall, UMass Amherst conducted a Climate Survey to assess whether its values were reflected in the daily experience of students, staff, and faculty, focusing on topics such as: perceptions of campus inclusiveness; experiences and interactions within classrooms, schools/colleges, workplace environments, and the surrounding community; experiences and interactions shaped by social identity; perceptions of the University's response to unfair treatment; and changes needed to make the campus more welcoming and inclusive.

Overall the campus response rate was 41 percent. An abridged report released in May mentioned that while the flagship is meeting its goals for inclusivity and equality, the results also identify clear areas of concern. Chancellor Subbaswamy commented that the improvement of the Amherst campus is an institutional priority.

UMass Boston continues to affirm the University's status as a hub for groundbreaking research on issues with real world impact. Over 300 students presented their latest findings at end-of-semester public sessions and this year the Boston campus students have earned a number of prestigious awards and fellowships including: 3 Fulbright scholars, 2 Boren scholars, 2 Erasmus scholars, and the College of Management students won the national Bloomberg Trading Challenge.

At UMass Dartmouth, the February Bar Exam pass rate of 64.3% for UMass Law graduates moved the campus into fourth place among the eight ABA accredited law schools in Massachusetts. Additionally, third-year student Shayla Mombeleur received the top student award from the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Law School also received the Massachusetts Bar Association Public Service Award. Professors Amit Tandon and Robin Robinson received Fulbright scholarships this year to conduct research on monsoons over the Indian Ocean and Sociology and sexual violence in Hungary. Assistant Professor of Bioengineering Lamyia Karin was awarded a \$616,000 grant to study how type 2 diabetes weakens bones.

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The Lowell campus recently opened the Lawrence Lin MakerSpace in the Francis College of Engineering; the Pulchino Tong Business Center; the Susan and Alan Solomont School of Nursing; the Donna Manning Endowed Chair for Nursing; and the Roy J. Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences.

The Medical School had its largest Match Day in history, with 127 medical students having matched to some of the best teaching hospitals across the nation. More than half of the class will enter primary care residencies and 55 graduates will stay in Massachusetts, addressing a critical need in the Commonwealth's healthcare system for primary care physicians and fulfilling the Medical School's founding mission.

President Meehan also reported that more than 200 faculty from across the system participated in the Innovation Conference in April. The conference allowed the faculty to share ideas and strategies to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency in academics across the UMass system. The conference emerged from the system-wide effectiveness and efficiency initiative led by Chancellor Moloney with the support of Senior Vice President Williams.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Williams recognized the accomplishments of the University's many graduates. She stated that it is the time to pause to reflect on what the University of Massachusetts contributes uniquely to the experience of the students especially the undergraduate students. Senior Vice President Williams discussed a report by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation titled *Values Added*. She commented on the importance of an undergraduate education from a research enterprise university and highlighted characteristics noted in the report including that students learn the habit of working from problem to solution, and students experience personal interactions with active scholars and researchers. Senior Vice President Williams encouraged the Committee and members of the UMass community to do their part to carry out the mission of the University while remembering that people matter and by doing so we all will become better human beings and more fully prepared to contribute positively to right any wrongs or imbalances one may experience.

Action Items:

Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **Faculty Senate Constitution, 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 approve the Faculty Senate Constitution for the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T17-037.

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Provost Karim commented on the purpose for the campus seeking a free standing faculty senate constitution.

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

Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, 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 concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Hilary Kornblith to Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Julie A. Caswell as Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Stephen G. Sireci as Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Erin Baker to the Armstrong Professional Development Professorship in Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Job Dekker, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology as the inaugural holder of the Joseph J. Byrne Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School contingent upon approval at the June 14th, 2017 Committee on Administration and Finance of the establishment of the Joseph J. Byrne Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Michael J. Thompson, MD as the inaugural holder of the Herman G. Berkman Chair in Diabetes Care Innovation at the University of Massachusetts Medical School contingent upon approval at the June 14th, 2017 Committee on Administration and Finance of the establishment of the Herman G. Berkman Chair in Diabetes Care Innovation at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

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And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Heather Forkey, MD to the Joy McCann Professorship for Women in Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. (Doc. T17-038)

Provost Newman and Provost Flotte provided the background for the appointments.

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

Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the **University of Massachusetts Opposition to the Department of Higher Education's (DHE) Revised Procedures for New Academic Program Proposals for Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**. 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 University of Massachusetts President, the Chancellors, Provosts and Faculty Senates at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell, in opposing strongly the proposed changes detailed in the revision to the Procedure for New Academic Program Proposals for Public Institutions of Higher Education (BHE 16-07). (Doc. T17-030)

Discussion ensued and then a motion was made and seconded to table the vote until the September Board meeting. Trustee Collins stated that he will vote 'no' on the motion. He stated that the UMass Board will change significantly by September and that if there is an opportunity for public comment the Board should make one now. Trustees expressed concerns about what authority the Board of Higher Education has to govern the University. President Meehan stated that the excellence of UMass is due in part to its ability to govern itself and that independent governance is critically important to the mission of the University.

Trustee Peyser provided the context of the Board of Higher Education's (BHE) proposal. He stated that the BHE's pending proposal does not establish the University's academic programs and that the intent of the proposal was to streamline the process of reviewing/approving programs before they come to the BHE. The BHE has authority to review academic programs for both private and public institutions. Professor Susan Whitbourne from UMass Amherst then read a letter addressed to the BHE in opposition of the Department of Higher Education's (DHE) Revised Procedures for New Academic Program Proposals for Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Chancellor Subbaswamy expressed his disappointment that the Board of Trustees would consider tabling the vote until September. He noted that timing is imperative in establishing academic programs. Chancellor Moloney inquired whether it was conceivable that a degree

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program that is denied by the UMass Board of Trustees be approved at the BHE Level to which Trustee Peyser responded “it’s not the intention but it’s possible.

Discussion ensued about the sequence of approval outlined in the proposal. Chancellor Helm commented that the streamlining of the proposal should begin with the respective university and then followed by the BHE, not the reverse. President Meehan expressed concern that the future of the University’s academic degree programs would lie in the hands of individuals unfamiliar with the mission and the individual needs of each campus.

Trustee Peters made a motion to reconsider the vote to table approving the University of Massachusetts’ Opposition to the Department of Higher Education’s (DHE) Revised Procedures for New Academic Program Proposals for Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Trustee Reed seconded the motion and the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Osterhaus-Houle voted for motion approve the Opposition, as did Vice Chair Thomas and Trustees Collins, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Reed, Scheibel, and Board Chair Manning. Trustee Peyser abstained.

Chancellor Helm asked for clarification regarding the motion to reconsider. He asked the Chair to confirm whether the motion to reconsider was intended as a vote against the current BHE proposed changes.

Chair Manning stated that current policies and procedures are in place and that he would be in favor of tabling the vote to allow President Meehan and himself an opportunity to speak with Secretary Peyser and the Commissioner regarding a proposal that would prevent the BHE from vetoing the authority of the University and allowing UMass to continue as an independent governing body.

Senior Vice President Williams noted that UMass has worked over the years within the confines of policies made by the Board of Trustees which are instituted within the approved procedures of the DHE. The current revisions indicated in the BHE proposal are an issue to the myriad of higher education institutions in the Commonwealth. In recognizing the primacy of the Board of Trustees and the President, Board policies and procedures indicate that the President of the University is the principal academic officer. UMass is a research institution and should be held to a different standard.

Trustee Scheibel agreed that the sequence of approval is critically important to developing and implementing academic programs and agreed with Chair Manning on tabling the vote to allow follow-up with the Secretary of Education.

Chancellor Helm commented that the current vote is not an endorsement of the status quo but a comment nonetheless since the BHE proposal is out for public comment. Trustee Thomas asked the Board to keep in mind that the BHE has the authority to approve or disapprove any program by a Higher Education institution by statute.

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Chair Osterhaus Houle then asked for a vote to reconsider the initial vote on the Proposal. The Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Osterhaus-Houle voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Thomas and Trustees Collins, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Reed and Scheibel; and Chair Manning. Trustee Peyser abstained.

Chair Osterhaus-Houle then asked for a vote to place Action Items #1-2 on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded to place Action Items #1-2 on a Consent Agenda. Trustee Collins moved to include item #3 on the consent agenda. Trustee Peters seconded the motion. Trustee Collins then withdrew his motion to include item #3 on the consent agenda.

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

Informational Item

Senior Vice President Williams reported on the **Student Profile Fall 2016**. She noted 42% (2,173 Graduates) of the UMass graduates come from sister colleges (community colleges), and 58% (3,003 Graduates) originate from other public and private colleges and universities. Chair Osterhaus-Houle congratulated the students and acknowledged the outgoing student Trustees for their service to the Board of Trustees.

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** and **Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Boston, Lowell, and Medical School**.

Chair Osterhaus-Houle announced that the Committee will not reconvene in open session.

It was moved and seconded and the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no to enter in Executive Session for those purposes listed. Chair Osterhaus-Houle voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Thomas and Trustees Collins, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Peyser and Reed; and Chair Manning.

The time was 12:12 p.m.

Christina A. Kelley
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees