

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

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

Wednesday, September 6, 2017; 10:00 a.m.

Amherst Room

University of Massachusetts Club

One Beacon Street – 32nd Floor

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Vice Chair Thomas; Trustees Collins, Furman, Milkowski, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Peyser, Reed, Reid and Yu

Other Trustees Present: Trustee Burns

Committee Members Absent: Chair Osterhaus Houle; Trustee Scheibel

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor Hajir, UMass Amherst; Professor Lublin, UMass Boston

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: June 7, 2017 (Open & Executive Session)
- B.S., B.A. in Public Administration, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T17-049
- B.A. in Health and Society, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T17-050
- Student Success: Retention and Persistence Strategies, Doc. T17-051

Vice Chair Thomas convened the meeting at 10:04 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. He then welcomed the new student Trustees to the Committee: Gray Milkowski, UMass Boston; Samantha Reid, UMass Dartmouth; Camilla Yu, UMass Medical School; Malinda Reed from UMass Lowell was re-elected.

Vice Chair Thomas stated that the Committee was provided with the draft minutes of the June 7, 2017 meeting's Open Session and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Vice Chair Thomas then announced the day's agenda and indicated that the Committee would vote on two action items; have one discussion item, and vote on four items in executive session.

Reports:

President's Report

President Meehan congratulated the student Trustees on being selected by their peers to represent them on the Board of Trustees. He thanked them for their commitment and service to the University. He also acknowledged Chancellors Mills and Johnson, and Provost Emily McDermott from UMass Boston and Acting Provost John McCarthy from UMass Amherst.

President Meehan commented on the Trump Administration's announcement to rescind DACA (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program), noting that he and the Chancellors made a joint statement opposing the decision. The University's immigration counsel will continue to update the campuses to ensure that they are positioned to address concerns and answer students questions. He stated that the decision to end DACA is a cruel and reckless decision that leaves hundreds of thousands of people vulnerable and only serves to weaken, not strengthen the country. The University will do everything it can to advocate for swift action from Congress to address this issue in the next six months and explore other avenues to advocate for its students. President Meehan also commented on the University's assistance with the ongoing disaster in Texas and the recovery efforts underway.

The President then highlighted recent noteworthy developments from across the University including: the welcoming of four new academic deans at UMass Amherst, and the campus launched its first summer semester program with the Master of Science in Business and Analytics, an accelerated one-year degree designed to serve non-business graduates and fulfill a critical workforce need.

UMass Boston received a \$4.6 million grant from the NSF to fund the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a program that supports minority and low-income students studying in STEM fields; the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation received a \$100,000 grant from the Boston Foundation to launch a first-in-the-nation innovation accelerator for early educators; Christopher Chiu, a doctoral student in clinical psychology, was awarded a \$125,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship over four years.

UMass Dartmouth will officially open its new marine research facility, SMAST East, in New Bedford at the end of the month. The facility will be used collaboratively by the campus and the state's Department of Marine Fisheries; the College of Nursing was awarded a \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration to help diversify the SouthCoast's nursing workforce—more than \$500,000 of that will provide need-based aid for low-income students; the campus has doubled the number of students (nearly 7,000) engaged in service learning over the last eight years through ongoing efforts to expand civic engagement initiatives.

At UMass Lowell students and faculty traveled across the nation to conduct research in the path of last month's solar eclipse; UMass Lowell scientists used the total eclipse to study "space weather" and its effect on our atmosphere, and educate prospective students and the general public about the expansive space expertise at UMass Lowell; University Relations worked with the Kennedy College of Sciences to develop a website and create short informational videos and

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infographics; researchers shared tips with media organizations to ensure the public was taking steps to view the eclipse safely.

The UMass Medical School welcomed 162 members of the class of 2021, the largest first-year class of medical students in its history; the class also includes 22 students who make up the inaugural cohort of the Population-based Urban and Rural Community Health (PURCH) track, which is a special offering of the UMass Medical School-Baystate regional campus in Springfield.

UMass Online continued to grow at an impressive rate in fiscal year 2017, with course enrollments rising to 75,000 and revenues exceeding \$100 million for the first time, which represents a 9.2% growth over the past fiscal year and demonstrates the University's commitment to growing its online presence and provide the access and flexibility today's students demand. The system is uniquely positioned and focused to move forward to expand its market share in online education.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Williams acknowledged the student Trustees and noted that the beginning of each academic year means a time when students and faculty carry into the year the hope and promise of the successful engagement of dreams realized. She commented on the University's eagerness and readiness to carry out its responsibilities and commitments to fulfill its mission to provide an affordable and accessible education of high quality and to conduct programs of research and public service that advance knowledge and improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth, the nation and the world. Senior Vice President Williams reminded the Committee that the faculty are the sine qua non of a university, and students have a singular opportunity to engage the extraordinary group of faculty recruited to carry out the integrated mission of discovery, education and engagement.

Senior Vice President Williams noted that Provost Karim would describe the degree programs before the Committee for approval. She then outlined the process for the development of new programs.

Action Items:

Vice Chair Thomas requested the approval of the **B.S., B.A. in Public Administration, UMass Dartmouth**. He 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 B.S., B.A. in Public Administration at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T17-049.

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Provost Karim reported that the Economics, English, and Political Science departments proposal for the B.A. and B.S. in Public Administration requires coursework in those areas and is the only standing degree program offered in the Commonwealth. The BA will train students for public facing jobs requiring more interaction with the public, and the BS will train students for positions that are internally focused on management and analysis.

Trustee Peyser expressed concerns over the program's absence of core management courses. Trustee Reid commented from a student's perspective on the importance of the program and the impact it will have on the students.

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

Vice Chair Thomas requested the approval of the **B.A. in Health and Society, UMass Dartmouth**. He 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 B.A. in Health and Society, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T17-050.

Provost Karim commented on the program. The program will be attractive to students who are interested in health-related careers but need to shift their academic careers away from strictly science or nursing majors. Articulation agreements have begun, specifically between the campus and its regional community colleges. It is projected that health care and social assistance will increase by 2024.

Trustee Furman expressed concerns over inactive programs that could become costly for the University and drain its resources. She suggested that a template be developed by which to measure all programs after 5 years. Senior Vice President Williams commented on the AQAD review process for programs and offered to provide that information to Trustees.

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

Vice Chair Thomas 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.

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

Discussion Item: Student Success: Retention and Persistence Strategies

Vice Chair Thomas introduced Senior Vice President Marcie Williams and the Panel to discuss Student Success: Retention and Persistence Strategies around the enrollment trends of first time freshman and transfer students, highlighting the relationship between the success represented by the upward trend in enrollment over a ten year period and some of the retention and persistence strategies employed by the campuses.

Acting Provost John McCarthy and Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Carol Barr reported on institutionalizing cross-campus collaborations with the Office of Student Success and how metrics are working on the Amherst campus.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gail DiSabatino reported on UMass Boston's U-ACCESS and Maxient system to tackle hunger and boost student success.

Interim Dean Ram Bala from the College of Engineering and Interim Dean Amy Shapiro from the College of Arts and Sciences reported on proactive student-centered advising at UMass Dartmouth.

Provost Michael Vayda and Vice Provost for Student Success Julie Nash from UMass Lowell reported on the campus-wide student advising efforts.

Senior Vice President Williams provided an update on key system-level data related to trends in enrollment. She referred the Committee to the materials on Boardvantage. Discussion ensued.

Vice Chair Thomas 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, Lowell; Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Medical School; Transfers of Tenure, UMass Boston, Dartmouth; and Honorary Degrees, UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Medical School.**

Vice Chair Thomas 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. Vice Chair Thomas voted for the motion as did Trustees Collins, Furman, Paris Jeffries, Peters, Peyser and Yu.

The time was 12:20 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees