

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

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

**Wednesday, May 30, 2018; 9:30 a.m.
Amherst Room
University of Massachusetts Club
One Beacon Street – 32nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts**

Committee Members Present: Chair Osterhaus Houle; Vice Chair Paris Jeffries; Trustees Milkowski, Furman, Peters, Peyser, Reid and Scheibel

Other Trustees Present: Trustees Burns, Dunlea and Epstein

Committee Members Absent: Trustee Reed, Thomas and Yu

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Professor Lublin, UMass Boston; Professor Abdallah, UMass Lowell

Documents Used: -Meeting Minutes: November 15, 2017 (Open & Executive Session)
-Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Medical School, Doc. T18-028
-Student Profile Fall 2017, Doc. T18-029
-Student Mental Health: The National Dilemma and Local Responses, Doc. T18-030

Chair Osterhaus-Houle convened the meeting at 9:41 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.

Consideration of Minutes of the prior meeting of the Committee

Chair Osterhaus-Houle stated that the Committee was provided with the draft minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting's Open 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 one action item; have one information item; one discussion item, and vote on two items in executive session.

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President's Report

President Meehan congratulated the UMass class of 2018 and expressed his sentiment that commencement season reaffirms how the Board's work translates to student opportunity and transformation on all of the UMass campuses. He thanked the Trustees for their participation at the commencement ceremonies. He congratulated student Trustees Samantha Reid and Derek Dunlea on their graduations, both will be pursuing graduate degrees.

President Meehan provided brief campus reports: UMass Amherst students and faculty continue to be recognized with prestigious awards and scholarships; UMass Boston has seen a 13% increase in freshmen applications, an 18% increase in admittance, a 30% increase in enrollment deposits as of May 16, and there is strong demand for the new student housing; UMass Dartmouth has re-aligned faculty distribution to target enrollment and accreditation as a measure of efficiency and effectiveness efforts; UMass Lowell graduated its largest, most accomplished class in history with more than 4,300 students receiving diplomas, and Pasteur Hall was renamed Dandeneau Hall in recognition of the longtime support of honorary degree recipient and alumnus James Dandeneau as part of Commencement activities; and at the UMass Medical School, three professors have been honored with prestigious recognitions.

President Meehan thanked Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Katherine Newman for accepting the appointment of Interim Chancellor of UMass Boston.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Newman outlined a new format for the Committee meeting noting that in addition to the important business of the Committee, one or two policy topics will be explored in depth. The day's discussion item focuses on student mental health, a national crisis that the University must also deal with. International student recruitment will be considered at a later meeting.

Senior Vice President Newman informed the Committee that the 2017 Student Profile data has been posted to Boardvantage. She also reported that the University has submitted its request to the Board of Higher Education for approval of programs in veterinary technology, interior architecture design and fashion design transferred from Mt. Ida College to the Amherst and Dartmouth campuses.

Public Speakers (UMass Boston)

Heike Schotten, Associate Chair of the Faculty Council, spoke to issues raised by the Mt. Ida College acquisition and its importance to the faculty on the Boston campus who were not in support of the transaction. She asked that the UMass system work together in collaboration toward the goal of providing quality public higher education across the Commonwealth; that the Board support the recently passed EDU 315 amendment sponsored by Senator Jehlen; and that there be a pause on all defunding of centers and institutes, and no further layoffs or other budget cuts until the fact-finding mission of the amendment is complete.

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Christopher Simon, an undergraduate student, expressed his sentiments towards the Board in regards to the issues on the Boston campus. He stated that he finds the actions of the Board deplorable. He stated that the Board needs to be transparent and asked that they find a way to do things right and communicate with the campus community.

Maddi Walker, a Sophomore, spoke about what it is like to be a student on the Boston campus and expressed her concerns about how the Boston campus has been treated. She asked that the Board recognize that the value of UMass lies in the system and that they commit to working to secure debt-relief for UMass Boston, guarantee that there will be no more cuts to the centers and institutes or programs in order to pay for the campus' debt.

Rajini Srikanth, Dean of the Honors College, spoke to the Mt. Ida issue and UMass Boston's crumbling infrastructure and its debt. She requested that the Board act responsibly as a body that works for the entire system. She stated that UMass Boston deserves the Board's respect and its commitment to work so that their fiscal needs are addressed, and to ensure that the campus is fully valued for the unique contributions of its students, faculty, and staff to the urban mission and to addressing the complex challenges of the 21st century, locally and globally.

Karyn Aiello, a member of the Professional Staff Union, spoke to the harm budget cuts place on the institution and its ability to obtain external funding, and about the Mt. Ida College purchase. She called on the Committee to take action to rebuild the trust between the Board of Trustees and UMass Boston's students and employees. She also made several requests of President Meehan and the Board: to publicly acknowledge the historic debt that is drowning the Boston campus and commit to working with the Jehlan Commission to secure debt-relief for UMass Boston; to guarantee that no UMass Boston centers and institutes or programs are cut to pay for the debt; and to ensure that no degree-granting or certificate programs that could impact similar UMass Boston's programs be allowed to operate out of the Mt. Ida campus, and to explicitly involve representatives from the Boston campus to provide feedback and play a decisive role on any and all such programs to be housed at the Mt. Ida campus.

Action Item: Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Medical School, Doc. T18-028

Chair Osterhaus-Houle requested the approval of the Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, 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 Jay Berkovitz as Distinguished Professor in the Department of Judaic & Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Alon Confino to the Pen Tishkach Chair in Holocaust Studies in the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Lixin Gao as Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Andrew McCallum as Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Krish Thiagarajan to the Endowed Chair in Renewable Energy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Alan Williams to the Nancy Donahue Professorship in the Arts at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Jane Freedman, MD to the Edward Budnitz Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment Professor Jonathan Gerber, MD to the Eleanor Eustis Farrington Chair in Cancer Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.
- And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Jason Shohet, MD, PhD to the Ali and John Pierce Chair of Pediatric Hematology / Oncology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Provosts McCarthy, Vayda and Flotte spoke to the appointments.

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

Consent Agenda

Chair Osterhaus-Houle then asked for a vote to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting. It was moved and seconded to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda.

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

Information Item: Student Profile for Fall 2017

Senior Vice President Newman reiterated from her earlier comments that the Student Profile was posted on Boardvantage. She briefly highlighted the increase in enrollments.

Discussion Item: Student Mental Health: The National Dilemma and Local Responses

Senior Vice President Newman provided an overview of the discussion and welcomed the panel. She noted that Nance Roy, Chief Clinical Officer of the JED Foundation would provide the framework for the discussion.

Nance Roy provided a historical overview of the JED Foundation and discussed national trends in student mental health and its impact on academic performance. She discussed JED'S Comprehensive Framework and belief in a comprehensive, public health approach to promoting emotional well-being and preventing suicide and serious substance abuse. Trustees Milkowski, Dunlea, and Reid commented on the issue and the problems they see among their peers.

Enku Gelaye, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UMass Amherst commented that mental health is an issue frequently discussed by Student Affairs Officers. She discussed the 'UMatter at UMass' program and its core concepts, priorities and outcomes.

Rob Pomalas, Executive Director of UMass Boston's University Health Services discussed UMass Boston's involvement with the JED Foundation. He presented an overview of JED's Self-Evaluation and highlighted points from their recommendations.

Shelly Metivier Scott, Associate Dean of Students highlighted the challenges at UMass Dartmouth. She discussed basic need insecurity and how food/housing insecurities, and homelessness are an impediment to mental health. She highlighted 'Arnie's Cupboard,' UMass Dartmouth's food pantry.

Larry Siegel, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UMass Lowell discussed the challenges in finding a sustainable model to address students mental health, and finding an approach to prevention.

Sonia Chimienti, Vice Provost for Student Life and Enrollment at the UMass Medical School discussed global trends and what is being done to address mental health issues associated with medical students, in particular graduate students. She highlighted the UMass Medical School's model to address student mental health.

Sarah Ketchen Lipson, Assistant Professor at Boston University, and a former faculty member from the University of Michigan's Department of Health Management and Policy provided an overview of the Healthy Minds Study (HMS), a tool used to predict mental health. She also discussed the impact of mental health on academes.

Chair Osterhaus-Houle and Senior Vice President Newman thanked the panel for their participation and insight.

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Trustee Furman then expressed her sentiments of the ongoing faculty and student demonstrations and their accusations of the Board of Trustees. She stated that she understands the issues, and noted that while shared governance has its issues, hard decisions have to be made.

Executive Session Announcement

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, Lowell and Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Boston, Lowell.

Chair Osterhaus-Houle announced that the Committee would 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 Paris Jeffries; and Trustees Furman, Peters, Peyser, Scheibel.

The time was 11:53 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees