

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•MEDICAL•LAW•ONLINE**

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

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019; 10:00 a.m.
Amherst Room
University of Massachusetts Club
One Beacon Street – 32nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts**

Committee Members Present: Chair Paris Jeffries; Vice Chair Scheibel (by phone); Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Kuffoh, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peyser and Thomas

Other Trustees Present: Trustee Burns

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Binnall, Furman, Okwara and Peters

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

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

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: September 4, 2019 (Open & Executive Session)
- Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media, UMass Lowell, Doc. T19-054
- Appointments to Named Professorships including Chairs, UMass Amherst, Boston, Doc. T19-055
- Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD), Doc. T19-056
- Periodic Multi-Year Review (PMYR), Doc. T19-057
- Preliminary Fall Enrollment and Admissions Report, Doc. T19-058

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and announced that Trustee Scheibel would be participating by telephone pursuant to 940 CMR 29.10(5)(e), since she is traveling and geographically distant from Boston making it unreasonably difficult for her to attend the meeting in person.

Chair Paris Jeffries then welcomed the Committee 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 Paris Jeffries stated that the Committee was provided with the draft minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
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President's Report

President Meehan commented on the University's commitment to supporting veterans in the Commonwealth. He noted that each of the undergraduate campuses are designated as Military Friendly for their commitment to creating a welcoming environment for its military community; the University has several top-20-ranked online programs for veterans according to *U.S. News & World Report*; and in September it was announced that the UMass Medical School and the VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System will build a new community-based outpatient clinic for veterans on the UMass Medical School campus.

President Meehan provided highlights from across the campuses related to academic and student affairs including: Brandi Hephner LaBanc has been named Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life at UMass Amherst; At UMass Boston, physics major and Honors College student Joseph Farah was part of the astrophysics team that won the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for capturing the first-ever image of a black hole. UMass Boston also hired 22 new tenure-track faculty members this fall representing the most diverse group the University has recruited; UMass Dartmouth is offering several new educational initiatives aimed at enriching the student experience; For the fourth consecutive year, UMass Lowell is among the nation's Top 10 fastest-growing public doctoral universities. UMass Lowell has also been rated the No. 1 Sustainable Campus in Massachusetts by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; and last month, the UMass Medical School hosted a roundtable discussion with NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Gamache provided an overview of the purpose of tenure and its role at UMass as a follow-up to a question asked by a Trustee at the last meeting of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs regarding the number of tenure cases approved for the Amherst campus by the Board at its August meeting.

Action Item #1: Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media, UMass Lowell, Document T19-054

Chair Paris Jeffries requested the approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media at UMass Lowell. 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 Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media at the University of Massachusetts Lowell as contained in Doc. T19-054.

Dr. Wael Kamal, Assistant Dean in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences spoke to the proposed program.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; and Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser and Thomas.

Action Item #2: Appointments to Named Professorships including Chairs, UMass Amherst, Boston, Document T19-055

Chair Paris Jeffries requested the approval of the Appointments to Named Professorships including Chairs at UMass Amherst and Boston. 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 concur with the President in the appointment of Clinical Assistant Professor Raeann Leblanc as the Seedworks Endowed Clinical Assistant Professor for Social Justice in the College of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Nianqiang Wu to the Armstrong/Siadat Endowed Professorship in Materials Science in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Stephen Mrozowski to the title of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Provosts McCarthy and McDermott spoke to the appointments.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; and Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser and Thomas.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked for a vote to place Action Items #1-2 on a Consent Agenda for the December 18 Board meeting. It was moved and seconded to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; and Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser and Thomas.

Information Items: Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) and Periodic Multi-Year Review (PMYR), Documents T19-056 & T19-057

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that the Committee received the AQAD and PMYR materials that were provided. He announced that Senior Vice President Gamache was available to answer questions.

Discussion Item: Preliminary Fall Enrollment and Admissions Report, Document T19-058

President Meehan stated that the purpose of the discussion was to review data on admissions and enrollment trends and commented on the importance of enrollment revenue for the University.

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Chief Data Strategist and Director of Institutional Research Ismael Carreras summarized the 2019 Preliminary Fall Enrollment and Admissions Report, reviewed key metrics for the past 5 years, and reviewed data shown at the system and institutional levels. The Chancellors commented on admission and enrollment trends on their campuses. Discussion ensued.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Paris Jeffries 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, Boston, Lowell; Awards of Tenure, UMass Medical School; and 2020 Honorary Degrees, UMass Amherst, Boston, Lowell and Medical School.

Chair Paris Jeffries 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 Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; and Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Osterhaus-Houle, Peyser and Thomas.

The time was 11:05 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees