

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

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

Wednesday, May 27, 2020; 10:00 a.m.

Remote Meeting

Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §20 dated March 12, 2020

Committee Members Present: Chair Paris Jeffries; Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Binnall, Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman, Kuffoh, Patel and Peyser

Other Trustees Present: Trustees Burns and Kelleher

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Peters and Thomas

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

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

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2020 (Open & Executive Session)
- Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science, UMass Amherst, Doc. T20-010
- Bachelor of Arts in Communication, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T20-013
- Appointments to Named Professorships including Chairs, UMass Amherst, Medical School, Doc. T20-018
- Amendment to Student Government Constitution, UMass Lowell, Doc. T04-007, as amended
- Student Legal Services Office, UMass Amherst, Doc. T93-059, Addendum 2, as amended

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and stated that as a public body, the UMass Board of Trustees could meet remotely under the Governor of Massachusetts' executive order issued on March 12, 2020, which was effective immediately, and will remain in place until it is rescinded or the state of emergency that was declared is terminated.

Under the Emergency Order, All members of the Board may participate by remote virtual means, without affording public access to the physical meeting locations, as long as they engage with adequate and alternative means of access available. any member of the public wishing to address the Board regarding an agenda item or issue related to the agenda, or to make an audio or video recording of the open public session of the Board meeting, was provided notice by the Secretary of the Board through a posting indicating that such written requests needed to be received no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Under the law, the Chair has complete discretion in granting or

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denying the request to speak, and may limit the duration that the public has to address the Board. The Chair stated that he received no requests to speak, make an audio or videotape of the meeting. He then provided instructions for the Zoom meeting.

Chair Paris Jeffries thanked Trustees Jacob Binnall from UMass Amherst and Amanda Kuffoh from Dartmouth for their service. It was the last board meeting cycle for the student Trustees. Trustees Kush Patel from Boston, Ryan Callahan from Lowell and Peter Cruz-Gordillo from the Medical School were re-elected.

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 April 15, 2020 meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Meehan congratulated the Class of 2020 on their accomplishment during a global pandemic and thanked the system's IT team and the campuses leadership teams, faculty and staff for making it possible. He commented on the planning underway in preparation for the fall semester. A range of scenarios are under consideration from returning to the campuses to being fully online.

The President highlighted COVID-19 research taking place on the campuses. Three research projects at the Medical School are being awarded funding from the Massachusetts Consortium on Pathogen Readiness (MassCPR) to combat COVID-19 and prepare for future outbreaks. Associate Professor of Engineering Kim Hamad-Schifferli from UMass Boston is developing a procedure that could help detect COVID-19. Researchers at UMass Lowell created a germ-killing fabric that could help stop the spread of communicable diseases like COVID-19. UMass Amherst's biostatistician Nicholas Reich was among 20 global experts invited by the White House Coronavirus Task Force in mid-March to participate in a coronavirus modeling webinar to help inform the public health response to COVID-19. Associate Professor of Biology Erin Bromage, an infectious disease expert, from UMass has been educating the public about COVID-19 risks associated with different activities as society begins to re-open.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Gamache commented on the class of 2020 graduation ceremonies. The Medical School held a virtual ceremony on March 31st which allowed 135 new doctors to join in the fight against the Coronavirus. UMass Amherst held its virtual commencement on May 8th. UMass Lowell will hold its first virtual commencement celebration on May 29th. UMass Boston and UMass Dartmouth postponed their commencement until it is safe to proceed in person. He also reported on the tenure process and provided information regarding tenure awards on the five campuses noting that there were 76 faculty with either an appointment with tenure or award of tenure, down from 83 last year. Most of the tenure cases come forward at the June CASA meeting for approval.

Action Item #1: Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science, UMass Amherst, Doc. T20-010

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science at UMass Amherst. He indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Furman.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Master of Science in Data Analytics and Computational Social Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provost McCarthy spoke to the proposed one-year professional master's degree.

Vice Chair Scheibel expressed her concerns with the addition and cost of new programs and asked whether it made sense to be approving programs given the current state of affairs. Provost McCarthy explained that starting this program was not dependent on the state budget and commented on the targeted marketing plan to attract students to the program. Trustee Furman expressed her ongoing concerns with the review and approval process for programs. She stated that a process is needed to look at and to phase out programs. Something should be in place for more rationalization around programs and all of the campuses should be looked at. Chair Paris Jeffries suggested continued conversations on the review and approval process of programs.

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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peysner.

Vice Chair Scheibel voted for the motion but reiterated her concerns with the addition and cost of new programs and whether it made sense to be approving programs. Trustee Furman voted for the motion with reservations noting that she would like to see reports that include what has been analyzed, phased out, and cost concerns. President Meehan stated that with the return of Chancellor Newman to the President's Office all programs will be reviewed and a presentation on evaluated and eliminated programs will be made.

Action Item #2: Bachelor of Arts in Communication, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T20-013

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Arts in Communication at UMass Dartmouth. He indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. The motion was moved by Trustee Furman and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Bachelor of Arts in Communication at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as contained in Doc. T20-013.

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Provost Karim spoke to the proposed bachelor's degree. Chancellor Johnson noted the estimated \$2.1 million cost savings.

Vice Chair Scheibel reiterated her previous concerns about the addition and cost of new programs and whether it makes sense to be approving programs. Trustee Furman reiterated her concerns with the review and approval of programs. Trustee Epstein cautioned against the Board micromanaging the campuses.

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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peyser.

Action Item #3: Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Medical School, Doc. T20-018

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs at UMass Amherst and the Medical School. He indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Lisa Green as a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Susan Hankinson as a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Prashant Shenoy as a Distinguished Professor in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Sundar Krishnamurty to the Ronnie & Eugene M. Isenberg Distinguished Professorship in Engineering in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Jennifer Reidy to the Joy McCann Professorship for Women in Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Gregory A. Volturoto to the Richard V. Aghababian Chair in Emergency Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

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And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Anastasia Khvorova as the inaugural recipient of The Remondi Family Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Provosts McCarthy and Flotte 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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peyser.

Action Item #4: Approval of an amendment to the Student Government Constitution, UMass Lowell, Doc. T04-007, as amended

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the amendment of the Student Government Constitution 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. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Furman.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve an amendment of the Student Government Constitution at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Provost Hartman spoke to the item noting the addition of the ‘College of Education’ to Article IV, Section 1B.

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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peyser.

Action Item #5: Student Legal Services Office, UMass Amherst, Doc. T93-059, Addendum 2, as amended

General Counsel Leone introduced and spoke to the item. Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Student Legal Services Office Amendment at UMass Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Peyser and seconded by Trustee Epstein.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

WHEREAS, the authorization for limited litigation authority for the Student Legal Services Office (“SLSO”), granted by the Board of Trustees on December 1, 1993 in Trustee Document T93-059, Addendum 1 and extended on December 6, 1995, November 8, 2000 and December 8, 2010, shall expire on December 15, 2020 unless the Board of Trustees acts affirmatively to continue litigation authority; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor have reviewed the operations of the office,

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

That the authorization by this Board of the Student Legal Services Office on the Amherst campus to provide representation in litigation on behalf of students in certain situations, which is contained in Trustee Document T93-059, Addendum 2, is hereby extended until December 15, 2022, with the possibility of an extension until December 15, 2023, unless and until this Board affirmatively modifies or terminates said authorization.

During the period of this authorization and extension, it is agreed that a Committee will be formed. This Committee will include but not be limited to members of the UMass Office of General Counsel (“OGC”), members of the UMass Amherst Student Affairs Office, UMass Amherst Students, and members of the “SLSO” and “SLSO Advisory Committee”. The mission and work of this Committee shall be determined by way of a collaborative approach that includes the aforementioned members of the Committee.

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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peyser.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked for a motion to place Action Items 1-5 on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel to place the Action Item 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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peyser.

Trustee Epstein then asked the President for an update on plans to announce a tuition reduction or tuition freeze and plans to return in the fall. President Meehan reported that it will be recommended of the Board at their next meeting to not increase tuition in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the current crisis, he and the Chancellors agree that they could not ask the Board to increase tuition by any amount. The President also noted that discussions are underway regarding campus fall plans. All scenarios are being looked at and a plan that is safe will be submitted to the Board.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked the Committee for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 75, Section 4, for the purpose of considering Appointments with Tenure at UMass Dartmouth and Medical School; Awards of Tenure at UMass Amherst, Boston, Lowell and Medical School; and Transfers of Tenure at UMass Amherst and Boston. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session.

It was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel. 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; Trustees Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Epstein, Furman and Peyser.

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Chair Paris Jeffries then announced that the Zoom meeting will be closed by the host and instructed those participating in the Executive Session to hang up and join the Zoom meeting for that session with the specific link on their schedule.

The time was 11:45 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees