

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

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

Tuesday, September 15, 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 Callahan, Cruz-Gordillo, Dunlea, Epstein, Johnson, Lewis, Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Peyser), Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peters, Ramos Gagliardi

Other Trustees Present: Trustee Kelleher

Committee Members Absent: Trustee Peyser

University Administration: President Meehan; System Chancellor Newman; General Counsel Leone; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Preble, Moloney and Collins

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

Documents Used:

- May 27, 2020 (Open & Executive Session)
- Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Boston, Medical School, Doc. T20-034
- Innovation in COVID Spring: Remote Education and Campus Ingenuity
Analysis of the move to remote in spring 2020. Including: technology, faculty training, intervening on behalf of vulnerable students, the impact of CARES supports and the pivot to fall 2020 in terms of improving remote delivery, Doc. T20-035

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:02 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executive order issued on March 12, 2020, which was effective immediately, and will remain in place until it is rescinded or the state of emergency that was declared is terminated.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

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than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Under the law, the Chair has complete discretion in granting or 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.

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 May 27th meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

President's Report

President Meehan welcomed Trustees Lewis, Ramos Gagliardi and Johnson; UMass Boston's Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco; and UMass Dartmouth's Acting Chancellor Mark Preble and Acting Provost Michael Goodman to their first CASA meeting. He thanked the Chancellors for their leadership during the pandemic as well as the faculty and staff on the campuses.

The President highlighted continued COVID-19 activities on the campuses. At UMass Amherst MyCRU (My Campus Remote/Residential Unit) was created for first-year and transfer students to promote well-being and resilience during this challenging time. UMass Boston is confronting the dual traumas of the pandemic and systemic racism with the deployment of telemedicine in March and discussions on racial and social justice issues.

UMass Dartmouth Faculty received a \$425,000 NIH grant to lead a national research team using Artificial Intelligence to harmonize dietary data across four large studies, and first-year student enrollment at the Law School is up more than 30 percent for fall 2020. This class is the most academically qualified in school history. UMass Lowell is one of just three universities on the state's Manufacturing Emergency Response Team. UMass Lowell researchers are partnering with the UMass Medical School on new COVID-19 testing methods. The campus also concluded its "Our Legacy / Our Place" campaign raising \$165 million which exceeded its \$125 million goal.

The Medical School was recently awarded over \$100 million dollars in NIH grants to coordinate the nationwide push for fast, accessible COVID-19 testing as part of its Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics, or RAD-X, program. NIH recognizes the University's successful track record as an incubator for innovative point-of-care medical technology through the Center for Advancing Point of Care Technologies, a partnership between the Medical School and UMass Lowell.

President Meehan stated that the meeting's discussion would focus on the UMass campuses response to COVID-19 and the lessons learned during the Spring.

System Chancellor for Academic Programs Report

System Chancellor Newman commented on her return to the President's Office and the focus of the Committee under the President's leadership. She welcomed the new Trustees, Marcelo Suárez Orozco, her successor as Chancellor at UMass Boston, and Acting Chancellor Mark Preble to the Committee.

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System Chancellor Newman commented on the transition to remote education and asked Student Trustee Dakeyla Johnson from the Dartmouth campus to talk about her experience. Trustee Johnson spoke to her experience as a student working remotely and highlighted the challenges with learning from home. She expressed her excitement about her position on the Board and being able to speak on behalf of the students.

System Chancellor Newman asked Chief Data Strategist Ismael Carreras to provide a system level overview of the impact of COVID-19 on student persistence. Mr. Carreras provided an analysis on the impact of shifting to remote learning as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic on student outcomes in Spring 2020. He discussed the study on undergraduate and graduate credit earning completion among students on the campuses. He noted the limited subgroup of international students that would have substantial impact on the overall results of the analysis. In comparison to Spring 2018 and Spring 2019, student credit completion results were stronger in Spring 2020.

President Meehan commented that the Chancellors are looking at strategies and best practices to return to the campuses safely in Spring 2021.

Action Item #1: Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Boston, Medical School, Doc. T20-034

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs at UMass Amherst, Boston, 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 Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Peters.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Shelly Peyton for the Armstrong Professional Development Professorship in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Monideepa Tarafdar for the Charles J. Dockendorff Endowed Professorship in the Department of Operations and Information Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco for the title of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Leadership in Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Carola Suárez-Orozco for the title of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Milagros C. Rosal,

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MS, PhD as the inaugural recipient of the Imoigele P. Aisiku, MD '97 Chair in Health Equity at the University of Massachusetts Medical School contingent upon approval to establish the Imoigele P. Aisiku, MD '97 Chair in Health Equity by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on September 22, 2020.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Kimberly A. Yonkers, MD as the inaugural recipient of The Katz Family Chair in Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Provosts McCarthy, McDermott 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 Dunlea, Epstein, Lewis, Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Peyser), Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peters and Ramos Gagliardi.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked for a motion to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on September 22nd. The motion was moved by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi and seconded by Trustee Peters 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 Dunlea, Epstein, Lewis, Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Peyser), Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peters and Ramos Gagliardi.

Chair Paris Jeffries acknowledged Chancellors Moloney, Subbaswamy and Collins and asked for comments on the beginning of the school year. Chancellor Maloney commented on the challenges on the Lowell campus. Chancellor Swamy commented on the resiliency of the campus community. Chancellor Collins commented on the strong state of the Medical School and the University's leadership.

Discussion Item: Innovation in COVID Spring – Remote Education and Campus Ingenuity. Analysis of the move to remote in Spring 2020. Including: technology, faculty training, intervening on behalf of vulnerable students, the impact of CARES supports and the pivot to fall 2020 in terms of improving remote delivery

System Chancellor Katherine Newman provided an overview of the discussion item and highlighted the Inter-Campus Course Exchange (ICX) initiative developed as a result of the pandemic-induced transition to remote teaching during the Spring 2020 semester to make courses on each of the campuses available to students on all UMass campuses.

The Provosts discussed innovations on the campuses in response to the challenges posed by the COVID19 pandemic.

Provost McCarthy spoke about the collaboration among the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Instructional Design, Engagement and Support group within University Without Walls,

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Information Technology, and the Library to support faculty on the Amherst campus during the transition to remote learning.

Provost McDermott spoke about UMass Boston's Response Peer Coaching Initiative launched to support the needs of the students academically and personally.

Acting Provost Goodman shared UMass Dartmouth's experiences from last spring and the digital divide challenges and its impact on students, in particular, students of color.

Provost Hartman spoke to UMass Lowell's online program and the innovative teaching by faculty to deliver programs online and virtually without losing the hands-on learning experience of those courses in the sciences and engineering and programs in the arts where laboratories are used.

Provost Flotte spoke to the transitioning of students to a clinical setting and the creation of an online pandemic curriculum at the Medical School.

Vice Chair Scheibel thanked the campuses for their innovative work. Discussion ensued.

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, UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Medical School; Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Medical School; and Honorary Degrees, UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Medical School. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session.

The motion was moved by Trustee Dunlea and seconded by Trustee Peters.

Assistant Secretary Kelley 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 Dunlea, Epstein, Lewis, Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Peyser), Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peters and Ramos Gagliardi.

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 that was provided.

President Meehan requested feedback from the Committee on the meeting.

The time was 11:50 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees