

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

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

Wednesday, March 31, 2021; 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, Epstein, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona

Other Trustees Present: Trustee Burns

Committee Members Absent: Trustee Peters

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

Faculty Representatives: Professor Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Professor Lublin, UMass Boston; Professor O'Rielly, UMass Dartmouth; Professor Koren, UMass Lowell

Documents Used:

- November 18, 2020 (Open & Executive Session)
- Applied Science Research Initiative, Doc. T21-008
- Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics, UMass Lowell, Doc. T21-009
- Ph.D. in Earth System Science, UMass Lowell, Doc. T21-010
- Appointments to Named Professorship and Endowed Chair, UMass Amherst, Medical School, Doc. T21-011

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and stated that the Board continues to meet remotely under the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020. All necessary and required Action Items for Board vote in open session, and where required, in Executive Session will be addressed.

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 this Board 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.

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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 November 18, 2020 meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Chair Paris Jeffries then announced the meeting's agenda.

President's Report

President Meehan welcomed Student Trustee Narcisse Kunda to the Committee. He congratulated System Chancellor Newman and her team on a series of research summits and noted the growing appreciation for the University's economic impact through workforce development and innovative research. He noted that the University will publish its annual R&D Report, which shows \$687 million in research generated by the five campuses in fiscal year 2020, a \$3 million increase over the previous year, and a new record despite the pandemic.

The President commented about the University's obligation to lead the post-pandemic recovery through educating the Massachusetts workforce, and through innovation in its laboratories. He reported that major bond rating agencies recently reaffirmed the University's bond ratings at pre-pandemic levels, having cited the University's "excellent strategic positioning that incorporates disciplined fiscal oversight."

President Meehan highlighted first-generation student programs at UMass Amherst and Lowell, and highlighted vaccine efforts at UMass Boston, Dartmouth, and the Medical School.

At UMass Amherst, its Center for First-generation Student Success was selected for its First-gen Forward initiative by the National Association of Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and The Suder Foundation. UMass Lowell was named a First-gen Forward Advisory Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success, recognizing the River Hawk Scholars Academy as a national model for other universities.

UMass Boston conducted two clinics for frontline workers on campus and in the community and College of Nursing and Health Sciences students are volunteering at vaccination clinics and other sites across the Commonwealth. Faculty are also collaborating with MIT's Little Devices Lab on a report entitled "*Living in Boston During COVID-19: Vaccination Hesitation.*"

The UMass Medical School's Vaccine Corps has emerged as a force multiplier in the statewide vaccination effort having registered over 5,600 volunteers and administered over 20,000 shots. At UMass Dartmouth, Dr. Marianne Sullivan, Director of Health Services and Greg Homol, Director of the Fitness Center received the 2020 Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service.

President Meehan acknowledged Interim Chancellor Fuller's work at UMass Dartmouth and asked the Chancellor to provide a campus update. Chancellor Fuller reported on efforts underway to address enrollment issues at the campus, admissions acceptances are ahead of last year by 500 admitted students, work is underway to strengthen the transfer pipeline and to improve retention.

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He also reported on plans to hold in person commencement celebrations in June and to be back in person for the fall semester and within state guidelines.

Discussion Item: NEXT: Applied Science Research Initiative

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that discussion would focus on how UMass, one of the largest research enterprises in the applied sciences in the Commonwealth, is playing a crucial role in promoting economic recovery, human capital creation, and job generation in areas that are crucial for the state's prosperity.

System Chancellor Newman introduced the discussion item entitled NEXT: Applied Science Research Initiative. She acknowledged the contributions of faculty members who participated on the project. She provided the background for the initiative developed last summer in the midst of the COVID crisis and with the support of President Meehan and the Chancellors. She noted the Zoom Research Summits that were held on the five most important areas of strength across the UMass system in the fields of applied science, life science, precision health, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence/robotics/data science, aerospace/undersea remote sensing and technology, and sustainability; and the main challenges each field needs to address within the next decade. System Chancellor Newman then introduced the presenters.

Professor Thai Thayumanavan, Interim Department Head of the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Biomedical Engineering at UMass Amherst's presented on the Applied Life Sciences.

Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga, Director of the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science, Vice Provost of Clinical and Translational Research from the UMass Medical School presented on Data-Driven and Technology-Informed Precision Health.

Professor Joey Mead, Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at UMass Lowell's presented on Advanced Manufacturing.

Professor Jim Kurose, from the College of Innovation and Computer Sciences at UMass Amherst presented on the Research on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Data Science.

Vice Provost for Research and Academic Affairs Ramprasad Balasubramanian from UMass Dartmouth presented on Aerospace, Defense, Undersea Technology and Remote Sensing.

Professor Paul Kirshen, Director of the Stone Living Laboratory, and a professor in the School for the Environment at UMass Boston presented on Sustainability.

Professor Nilinjana Dasgupta, the founding Director of the Institute for Diversity Science at UMass Amherst presented on excellence in STEM education and How to Expand and Diversify the STEM Workforce.

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Public Speakers

Professor Robert Lublin, Chair of the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC), provided an update to the faculty concerns regarding the acquisition of Brandman University and its rebranding at the UMass level that he spoke about at the last CASA meeting. He noted that in response, Chancellor Newman met with the Intercampus Faculty Council and provided more information and a clearer picture. He commented on faculty concerns on the impact it will have on existing online programs, and commented on whether it may be worthwhile to look into making UMass Global another campus in the UMass system.

Professor Lublin stated that faculty of the University of Massachusetts are eager to see UMass Global succeed in support of the University's mission to make higher education more broadly acceptable and urged President Meehan, University leadership, and the Board of Trustees to include faculty in discussions that impact the University of Massachusetts.

Action Items #s 1 & 2: Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics UMass Lowell, Doc. T21-009 and Ph.D. in Earth System Science, UMass Lowell, Doc. T21-010

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics and the Ph.D. in Earth System Science 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 Trustee Patel and seconded by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

And,

To approve the Ph.D. in Earth System Science at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Provost Hartman spoke to the new programs in response to the needs of today's job market and illustrated how the campus expects to meet those needs and in an efficient manner.

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 Epstein, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

Action Item #3: Appointments to Named Professorship and Endowed Chair, UMass Amherst, Medical School, Doc. T21-011

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointment to Named Professorship and Endowed Chair 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 Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Epstein.

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To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Anna Nagurney to the Eugene M. Isenberg Chair in Integrative Studies from the John F. Smith Memorial Professorship in Operations Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor David McManus for the Richard M. Haidack Professorship of Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Brian C. Lewis as the George F. Booth Chair of the Basic Sciences 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 Epstein, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona. Trustee Lewis was not present for the vote.

System Chancellor for Academic Programs Report

System Chancellor Newman commented on the concerns from the impact of the COVID experience on academic preparedness as the Commonwealth emerges from the pandemic. She highlighted campus plans that will close the disparity gaps in the preparation of incoming first year students. She highlighted UMass Amherst's novel inter-session/summer program called "Jump In," sponsored by University Without Walls in collaboration with the Office of Student Success, UMass Lowell's summer "LAUNCH" program, UMass Boston's math placement test offering, and the expansion of UMass Dartmouth's Summer Bridge Program to all incoming STEM students.

Trustee Epstein cautioned the Provosts and Chancellors to apply the same amount of due diligence to analyzing programs that should be moved or cancelled and to invest their resources in programs such as the ones presented earlier.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked for a motion to place Action Items #s 1, 2 & 3 on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on April 14. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel 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; Trustees Epstein, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

Chair Paris Jeffries thanked everyone for their work, especially during the pandemic.

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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 and Dartmouth; Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Dartmouth and Medical School; and Honorary Degrees, UMass Lowell. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Patel.

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 Epstein, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle, Patel, Peysner, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

Chair Paris Jeffries then announced that the Zoom meeting will be closed by the host and instructed those participating in the Executive Session to join that Zoom meeting with the specific link that was provided.

The time was 11:49 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees