

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

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

Wednesday, May 26, 2021; 10:00 a.m.

Remote Meeting via Zoom

**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, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona

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

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; System Chancellor Newman; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller (Interim), Moloney and Collins; Provosts McCarthy, Berger, Goodman (Acting), Hartman and Flotte

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

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: March 31, 2021 (Open & Executive Session)
- Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics, UMass Lowell, Doc. T21-024
- Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, UMass Amherst, Doc. T21-025
- Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst, Doc. T21-026
- Research Excellence in the Humanities and Performing Arts, Doc. T21-022

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.

Chair Paris Jeffries then provided instructions for the Zoom meeting.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
May 26, 2021

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 March 31, 2021 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: two discussion items, three action items, two items for action in Executive Session, and reports from President Meehan and System Chancellor Newman.

President's Report

President Meehan stated that evidence of the University's emergence from pandemic management to recovery would be seen throughout the meeting. He noted that 19,000 students will graduate this spring, joining more than half a million alumni around the world and more than 300,000 in Massachusetts. He noted that almost \$700 million of research, in the life sciences, renewable energy, coastal preservation, and social science, will be conducted in fields critical to the future of the Commonwealth.

President Meehan provided campus highlights which included: Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held on May 13 and 14 at UMass Amherst, with the Governor lifting the ban on capacity limitations. UMass Amherst Alumnus and head coach of the national champion Men's Ice Hockey team, Greg Carvel, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Subbaswamy was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in April. He was one of only seven people elected to the academy in the education and academic leadership category.

At UMass Boston, many organizations work on engagement, ranging from student government and peer mentor programs to orientation and student media. Students involved in such groups are retained at a 2.3% higher rate than those who are not. UMass Dartmouth and its partners, Massasoit Community College and UMass Law, were awarded a \$150,000 grant to research and gather evidence-based data toward the creation of a Transformative Justice Certification Program which seeks to alter historical methodologies used in today's criminal justice system that are ineffective and inequitable.

UMass Lowell graduated nearly 4,600 members of the class of 2021 on May 12, 13 and 14—the largest in its history. Author Deepak Chopra and financial journalist Ron Insana were awarded honorary degrees and addressed the students; UMass Lowell alumna and Paralympian Noelle Lambert also addressed students; and Market Basket was honored with the Chancellor's Medal for Public Service and Civic Engagement. The 2020 graduates unable to walk last year will be honored in October at the Homecoming celebration.

The UMass Medical School rose to 10th nationwide in primary care education among 191 medical and osteopathic schools surveyed in the 2022 *U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate School Rankings*; this year's graduating class, the largest in the school's history, will be pursuing primary care residency training in internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology; and former Trustee Chair Henry Thomas will receive an honorary degree during commencement.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
May 26, 2021

The President noted that the Massachusetts state of emergency will be lifted in a few weeks and commended the Governor and his team for their response to the enormous complex challenges created by the pandemic.

Discussion Items: Research Excellence in the Humanities and Performing Arts, and Supporting First-Generation Students and Students from Low-Income Households.

Chair Paris Jeffries commented that the first discussion would focus on Research Excellence in the Humanities and Performing Arts. The faculty presentations would focus on research in history, philosophy, literature, creative writing and poetry, linguistics, music, and many other fields. The second discussion, which is the start of a new annual tradition of the outgoing Student Trustees presenting each spring on issues of great interest to the students they represent. The Student Trustee presentation would focus on Supporting First-Generation Students and Students from Low-Income Households.

System Chancellor Newman introduced the first discussion item on Research Excellence in the Humanities and Performing Arts. She commented on the enormous richness of research and innovation on the campuses in the Humanities and Performing Fine Arts and acknowledged the talented faculty in these fields. She then spoke to the place these fields have in the curriculums UMass offers its students.

Provost McCarthy introduced and provided the background for Anthony Tuck, Professor and Chair of the Department of Classics on the Amherst campus. The Provost noted that one of the key takeaways from the presentation is the value students get from being taught by faculty with an outstanding research record like Professor Tuck's.

Professor Tuck presented on *Singing at the Loom: Textile Patterns and the Meter of Archaic Greek Epic Poetry*. A class-based research project for a course he taught in 2019 on singing loom patterns, and which resulted in a publication.

Provost Berger introduced and provided the background for Rafael Jaen, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Performing Arts, and Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, Director of UMass Boston MFA in Creative Writing and Associate Professor of Creative Writing in the English Department.

Associate Professor Jaen presented on *Historical Reenactment: Storytelling that Replicates, Reproduces, and Reveals*. Associate Professor Bertram presented on *Writing Programming*. Her book *Travesty Generator*, a book of computational poetry strives to illuminate and intervene in the coded inequities that historically animate the social technology of racism by using programming codes to manipulate, disassemble, and reassemble the fractured narratives of black life of American poets.

Acting Provost Goodman introduced and provided the background for Anthony Arrigo, Associate Professor of English and Communication, and Scott Ahrens, Professor of Art and Design in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
May 26, 2021

Dr. Arrigo presented on the Virtual Reality Hoover Dam Project, an interdisciplinary project funded by the National Endowments for the Humanities. Professor Ahrens presented on the design of the project.

Provost Hartman introduced and provided the background for Sandra Lim, Professor in the English Department at UMass Lowell. He also noted that Dr. Lim was selected in the spring to receive the 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship. She was one of 184 writers, artists, scholars and scientists selected from almost 3,000 applicants.

Dr. Lim presented on the study and use of poetry and read 2 poems from her book, *The Curious Thing*.

Provost Flotte introduced and provided the background for Dr. Jennifer Reidy, Associate Professor of Healing Medicine and Community Health, the Joy McCann Professor for Women in Medicine, and the Director of the Division of Palliative Care.

Dr. Reidy presented on the use of Music Therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic at the Medical School and UMass Memorial Health to alleviate suffering among patients and their families and healthcare workers. She thanked and acknowledged Mary McDonald and her interns for their work.

System Chancellor Newman, Trustee Scheibel, Chair Paris Jeffries, and President Meehan thanked the faculty for their presentations.

President Meehan introduced the second discussion item on how the University is supporting first-generation students and students from low-income households. The President introduced and provided the background for the Student Trustees.

Tim Scalona, a first-generation college student, recently earned his Masters of Public Policy at UMass Amherst. He is headed to law school. Trustee Scalona presented on the barriers faced by first-generation students and low-income students. He discussed the campus' efforts to mitigate the limited economic resources available to first-generation students and low-income students.

Kush Patel graduates from UMass Boston tomorrow with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Economics. He has been involved in Student Government since starting college. Trustee Patel presented on Open Educational Resources (OER), a freely accessible and openly licensed text, media and other digital assets that are useful for teaching and learning. He discussed the benefits of implementing OER at UMass Boston.

Narcisse Kunda has been involved with various student organizations on the Dartmouth campus, and is completing a dual major in Management and Marketing. He is a member of the current Chancellor Search Committee for UMass Dartmouth, and is returning to serve on the UMass Board this academic year. Trustee Kunda presented on the growth of first-generation students and low-income students of color at UMass Dartmouth. He discussed students' call for the administration

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
May 26, 2021

to support their development and success, and to address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as institutional racism.

Ryan Callahan recently graduated from UMass Lowell with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Legal Studies. He served as a Residence Hall Chair and as a Student Mentor, helping to guide freshmen through their first year of college. Trustee Callahan presented on Open Educational Resources (OER). Specifically, the challenges with the level of faculty engagement across the UMass system, and discussed how UMass Lowell engages its faculty.

Peter Cruz-Gordillo is a MD/PhD candidate at the Medical School. He successfully defended his PhD dissertation in the laboratory of Michael J. Lee, PhD within the Program of Systems Biology. His anticipated graduation is May 2022, after which he plans to pursue residency training in neurosurgery and postdoctoral research training in neuro-oncology. Trustee Cruz-Gordillo presented on the importance of longitudinal personal mentorship network building. He discussed his background and how mentoring and networking helped him; and discussed creating a system-wide current graduate student network and how its access to undergraduate students can be transformative.

President Meehan and Chair Paris Jeffries thanked the Student Trustees for their presentations.

Trustee Callahan departed the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Action Items #s 1 & 2: Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics, UMass Lowell, Doc. T21-024 and Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, UMass Amherst, Doc. T21-025

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics at UMass Lowell and the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy at UMass Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

And;

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Provost Hartman presented the specifics of the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics at UMass Lowell and highlighted the reasons for offering the new degree: to meet market design for the increasing need for STEM majors in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation; to capitalize on the loss of capacity on the campus, to increase the efficiency of offerings in the physics department; and to take advantage of collaborations between three departments on the campus.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
May 26, 2021

Chair Paris Jeffries indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. Trustee Scheibel asked for clarification on the start date of the program to which Provost Hartman replied fall 2022 due to the BHE having to review the proposal one final time.

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, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

Provost McCarthy provided the background for the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy at UMass Amherst. He summarized the key strengths of the program: to prepare students by junior year for a senior capstone experience and synthesizing and applying their knowledge to an internship; a capstone project that focuses on real-world issues and is action oriented; and strong emphasis on student engagement throughout the curriculum and experiential learning.

Chair Paris Jeffries indicated that the Committee had a chance to review the background materials that were provided and asked for questions or discussion. Trustee Scheibel expressed her support for the 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; Trustees Epstein, Lewis, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

Action Item # 3: Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst, Doc. T21-026

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships at UMass Amherst. 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 Marla Miller as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Sonia Alvarez as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Daniela Calzetti as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Elizabeth Krouse as the Terrence Murray Commonwealth Honors College Professorship at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provost McCarthy spoke to the annual appointments of distinguished professors.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
May 26, 2021

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, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

In lieu of time, Chair Paris Jeffries announced that System Chancellor Newman would present her report at the next CASA meeting.

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 June 10th. 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, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

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 Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Boston, and Lowell. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion 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 Epstein, Lewis, Patel, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi and Scalona.

Chair Paris Jeffries thanked everyone for their work and accomplishments. He stated that it was an honor and a humbling experience to be a part of such a great university.

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