

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Monday, August 9, 2021; 9:00 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**

Trustees Present: Chairman Manning; Vice Chair Peters; Trustees Bates, Burns, Dyer, Epstein, Houle, Karam, Kelleher, Kunda, Lewis, O'Brien, Paris Jeffries, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Tolman, Woolridge and Wu

Trustees Absent: Trustees Bhandari, Okwara and Osterhaus-Houle

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Moloney and Collins

Faculty Representatives: Professor O'Rielly, UMass Dartmouth

Chairman Manning convened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. and stated that the Governor of Massachusetts issued an executive order on March 12, 2020, that was effective immediately. 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 we engage, as we are today, with adequate and alternative means of access available.

Deputy Chief Information Officer Milligan then provided instructions for the Zoom meeting.

Chair's Remarks

Chairman Manning thanked the Trustees for making themselves available to attend the special Board meeting. He then announced the meeting's agenda. A report from Trustee Steve Karam, Chair of the UMass Dartmouth Chancellor Search Committee and President Meehan's recommendation on the appointment of the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Chairman Manning acknowledged and thanked Trustee Karam for taking on the leadership of the Search Committee; and thanked Nick Christ, President and CEO of BayCoast Bank, Trustee and UMass Dartmouth alumna Julie Ramos Gagliardi, Trustee Steve Tolman and Student Trustee Narcisse Kunda. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman extended its sincere gratitude to all of the members of the Search Committee for volunteering their time.

Chairman Manning stated that when the search process began, the goal was to find a leader with a demonstrated track record of success who would bring leadership stability to a campus which is needed tremendously this moment in time—qualities that are critical to UMass Dartmouth today

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as it confronts the challenges posed by the pandemic and several pre-pandemic years of declining enrollment which continues to be a financial strain on the campus.

Report of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Chancellor Search Committee

Trustee Karam first expressed his gratitude for the commitment and passion of the members of the Search Committee. He thanked his fellow Trustees Julie Ramos Gagliardi, Steve Tolman and Narcisse Kunda, and Nick Christ, the Search Committee's Vice Chair. He noted the intense process and constructive dialogues focused on the best interest for UMass Dartmouth and especially its students.

Trustee Karam provided an overview of the search process. The Committee was established on April 14, and was directed by Chairman Manning and President Meehan to identify leaders with a track record of effectiveness, a commitment to becoming an integral participant in the life of the community, and the ability to articulate and execute a strategy to advance the educational, research and service missions of UMass Dartmouth.

Since being established, the Committee held 10 forums attended by 190 UMass Dartmouth stakeholders. Feedback from the forums was used to identify the preferred qualities of the next Chancellor which included:

- The recognition that leadership stability at the chancellor level is critical to future success of the campus, and is committed to becoming a valued member of the campus and regional communities.
- Progressively responsible administrative and managerial experience in higher education, and classroom experience at the university level and academic rank and tenure.
- An experienced leader who has demonstrated the implementation of a vision, is comfortable in a shared governance environment, excels at management and resource development, and is fluent in enrollment and retention data.
- A communicator who can articulate and build support for the University's mission; and who has experience in building an institution's brand and reputation through innovative marketing.
- A team builder and team player comfortable working in a unionized, budget-constricted environment.
- A people person who understands the challenges faced by underrepresented and first-generation students.

Additionally, Greenwood/Asher, the search firm, communicated with 370 prospective candidates and 95 were interviewed, which resulted in 69 formal applications. The Committee interviewed 11 candidates and identified 4 of those candidates as finalists: Mark A. Fuller, Interim Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; Robert T. Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Valdosta State University; Eileen Strempel, Dean, Herb Albert School of Music, UCLA; and Darrell P. Wheeler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Iona College. At its meeting on July 29, the Search Committee unanimously voted and presented the finalists to President Meehan for his review.

President's Recommendation on the Appointment of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

President Meehan thanked the Search Committee for its work and for putting forward a strong group of finalists aspiring to lead UMass Dartmouth. He commented on campus meetings held with each finalist, both in person and via Zoom, with students, faculty, staff, senior leadership, alumni, and community stakeholders. Attendees were urged to provide confidential feedback on the finalists via an online form or via email to the President. Feedback from attendees included:

- The desire for stability on the Dartmouth campus.
- A person who understands branding and is able to tell the UMass Dartmouth story in a way that attracts students and investment.
- A person with an understanding of under-represented and first-generation students.
- A person with experience in a unionized and budget-constricted environment.
- A team player who is a people person and wants to be a community partner.
- A person who values data-driven decision-making, especially when it comes to enrollment and retention.

President Meehan stated that the candidate who best meets the criteria is Mark Fuller and noted his accomplishments at UMass Dartmouth since serving as Interim Chancellor and during the challenges created by the pandemic; and his accomplishments as Dean of the Isenberg School of Management and as Vice Chancellor for Advancement at UMass Amherst. The President also noted Dr. Fuller's research interests in Technology Supported Learning, Distance Education, and Teamwork in Technology-Mediated Environments, and his teaching interests in Executive Education, Leadership, Information Systems Strategy, E-Commerce, Change Management, and Project Management.

President Meehan stated that Dr. Fuller is a passionate and effective advocate for public higher education and will be one for UMass Dartmouth. He then recommended Dr. Fuller for the position of Chancellor at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Appointment of the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Doc. T21-038

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to recommend that the Board appoint Mark Fuller as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; and to further authorize the President to enter into a contract with Mark Fuller for the Position of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in accordance with the most recent recommendation from the Compensation Committee.

The motion was moved by Trustee Kelleher and seconded by Trustee Epstein.

Chairman Manning then asked for comments on the motion.

Trustee Karam commented that Dr. Fuller has the attributes that uniquely qualified him for the position and noted Dr. Fuller's experience with marketing and branding, advancement, first-generation students, and shared governance working within a public university in a system with unionized members. Trustees Epstein and Kelleher spoke to their experience working with Dr. Fuller and expressed their strong support of the President's selection.

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Trustee Ramos Gagliardi thanked Trustee Karam for his leadership on the search. She thanked the Committee members, spoke to her experience on the Committee, and spoke to Dr. Fuller's expertise and noted his accomplishments at UMass Dartmouth, and his engagement in the SouthCoast community. She expressed her support of Dr. Fuller.

Trustee Tolman commended the Search process and echoed comments about Dr. Fuller's expertise, and expressed his support of Dr. Fuller.

Trustee Kunda acknowledged the Search Committee, the campus and Dartmouth community, and the Board of Trustees. He commented on his experience and commended the Committee's work in accomplishing the mission of putting forth a strong candidate for the Chancellor position. Trustee Kunda then stated his intention to vote against the motion.

Trustee Kunda spoke to the concerns expressed by his peers and others on the campus. He commented that those concerns were expressed through feedback provided during the candidates' campus visits, and through an email sent to members of the Board last week outlining the concerns. Trustee Kunda noted the importance of listening to the students and to those on the campus doing the job of running the University. He noted his respect for Dr. Fuller and his accomplishments both at UMass Amherst and during his time at UMass Dartmouth. He stated that he will be voting accordingly in support of his peers and the people at the campus.

Trustee Scheibel commented that she was struck by Trustee Kunda's comments, and struck by the sincere and strong support by members of the Search Committee and the Trustees that know Dr. Fuller well. She expressed her support of Dr. Fuller's appointment as Chancellor of UMass Dartmouth. She thanked the Search Committee members and noted how difficult and time consuming searches can be.

President Meehan commented on the feedback he received from all sectors of the campus community. He stated that while the feedback varied on some candidates, Dr. Fuller was overwhelmingly the favorite candidate of the University community to be the permanent Chancellor.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chairman Manning voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Peters; Trustees Epstein, Houle, Karam, Kelleher, Lewis, O'Brien, Paris Jeffries, Peyser, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Tolman, Woolridge and Wu. Trustee Kunda voted against the motion.

VOTED: To appoint Dr. Mark A. Fuller as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

And further,

To authorize the President to enter into a contract with Dr. Mark A. Fuller for the Position of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in accordance with the most recent recommendation of the Compensation Committee.

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Dr. Fuller joined the meeting and thanked President Meehan, Chairman Manning, and the Board of Trustees for the appointment as UMass Dartmouth's next Chancellor. He is honored by the trust they are placing in him. He also expressed his appreciation to Chancellor Subbaswamy who mentored him during his time at UMass Amherst.

Chairman Manning congratulated Dr. Fuller on his appointment and extended the Board's and his personal support.

Chairman Manning thanked everyone for making themselves available for the Board meeting. He then adjourned the meeting. The time was 9:37 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees