

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 29, 2023; 12:00 p.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, and subsequently
updated and extended by the Governor and their staff**

Committee Members Present: Chair Kelleher; Trustees Burns, Brunelle, Delgado and Maguire
Keches

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Lewis

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; Executive Director of
Communications Hoey; Senior Vice President Subbaswamy; Chancellors Reyes, Suárez-Orozco,
Fuller and Chen; Vice Chancellor Gingerella; Athletics Directors Bamford, Schuman, Hendricks
and Casey

Faculty Representatives: Professor Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Professor Haroon, UMass
Boston

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: May 31, 2023
- UMass Boston Athletics Overview 2023-2024, Doc. T23-061
- UMass Dartmouth Athletics Overview 2023, Doc. T23-062

Chair Kelleher convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He turned to Executive Director of Communications John Hoey to provide instructions for the meeting. Mr. Hoey reminded the Committee of the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020, which was extended until March 31, 2025.

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 Committee 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 Committee 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. Mr. Hoey asked the members to mute when they were not speaking to avoid background noise.

Consideration of Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee

Chair Kelleher stated that the Committee received a copy of the meeting minutes from the May 31st open and executive sessions. He stated that if there were no comments or corrections, the minutes are approved.

Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 30A and under the Office of The MA Attorney General, Open Meeting Law Guide and Educational Materials, General Counsel Leone, under the delegation of the UMass Board of Trustees, has determined that the Executive Session minutes will not be released at this time, and should remain confidential because publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.

Chair's Report

Chair Kelleher announced that the focus of the meeting was UMass Boston and UMass Dartmouth Athletics. He noted that when the Athletics Committee was re-launched several months ago, he and Vice Chair Lewis met with each of the athletic directors to learn more about their programs, as well as them as people and educators. He came away from those meetings impressed with the knowledge and experience that each had and was inspired by Athletic Director Schuman and Athletic Director Hendricks's commitment to the Division III mission.

Chair Kelleher asked President Meehan for his report.

President's Report

President Meehan noted the Athletics Committee was re-established so there could be a forum to learn about the role athletics plays across the University's two Division I campuses at Amherst and Lowell, and two Division III campuses at Boston and Dartmouth. Division III campuses have a different mission and financial model, and a different set of challenges and opportunities, but a similar story about the importance of athletics to the life of their campuses.

Discussion Item, UMass Boston Athletics Overview, Doc. T23-061

Chair Kelleher asked Athletic Director Jacqui Schuman to make her presentations on the current state of UMass Boston Athletics. He asked the Committee to hold any questions and comments until after the presentation.

Athletic Director Schuman gave an overview of the UMass Boston athletics and recreation department including: mission, vision, and values; athletic leadership and head coaches; revenue and expenses; community involvement; and an overview of various fields and athletic facilities. UMass Boston has over 325 student-athletes across 19 NCAA Division III teams – 9 men's teams and 10 women's teams. Over the last two years, they have won eleven LEC Conference Championships including back-to-back championships by Women's Tennis. The student-athletes have an overall GPA of 3.15; 126 student athletes with a GPA over 3.5.

Trustee Burns congratulated Athletic Director Schuman for an impressive presentation and shared her excitement for the growth in UMass Boston athletics, especially in women's sports. Trustee Brunelle also congratulated Athletic Director Schuman on the growth of the program.

Athletics Committee
November 29, 2023

Trustee Delgado noted the intentionality around equity and continuing to brand UMass into the community.

Discussion Item, UMass Dartmouth Athletics Overview, Doc. T23-062

Chair Kelleher asked Athletics Director Lori Hendricks to make her presentations on the current state of UMass Dartmouth Athletics. He asked the Committee to hold any questions and comments until after the presentation.

Athletic Director Hendricks gave an overview of the UMass Dartmouth athletic department including: athletic staff, revenue and expenses, community engagement, and facilities. UMass Dartmouth has 475 student-athletes (425 unique) across 19 varsity programs. She explained the key role athletics plays in enrollment growth and discussed the trends in new student recruitment. Athletic Director Hendricks elevated several part-time coaches to full-time positions, a strategic decision to increase recruitment efforts throughout the year. UMass Dartmouth saw a 52% growth in varsity student-athletes since FY21-22. Lastly, she highlighted four outstanding student-athletes giving the committee insight into the talent on and off the field/court. Chancellor Fuller concluded UMass Dartmouth's presentation discussing the future of UMass Dartmouth athletics, including the demand and need to expand athletics facilities. He thanked Athletic Director Hendricks and Vice Chancellor Gingerella.

Trustee Burns and Trustee Delgado shared their appreciation for the incredible work happening in Division III athletics. Trustee Brunelle commented on the expansion of athletics facilities and the power of recruiting the community to campus through high school games and community events. President Meehan highlighted again the important role Division III athletics plays in enrollment and retention on these campuses. Chair Kelleher noted the creativity in assisting with enrollment issues for a longer term value.

Chair Kelleher thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

The time was 1:14 p.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board