

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

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

Wednesday, November 29, 2023; 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, and subsequently updated
and extended by the Governor and their staff**

Committee Members Present: Chair Paris Jeffries and Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi; Trustees Alden, Brady, Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Maguire Keches, Scheibel, Toye, Tutwiler and Worthy

Committee Members Absent: Trustee Okwara

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; Senior Vice President Subbaswamy; Chancellors Reyes, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Chen and Collins; Provosts Malone, Berger, Hartman and Flotte

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

Documents Used:

- Bachelor of Arts in Computational Linguistics, UMass Amherst, Doc. T23-053
- Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Doc. T23-054
- Academic Advising Presentation, Doc. T23-052
- Academic Quality Assessment and Development, Doc. T23-050
- Periodic Multi-Year Annual Review, Doc. T97-111

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He stated that 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 Committee 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 Committee.

He reminded the Committee members to unmute themselves and state their name when moving or seconding the action items.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
November 29, 2023

Chair Paris Jeffries announced the meeting's agenda: two Action Items, one discussion item, two information items, and two items for action in Executive Session. President Meehan and Senior Vice President Subbaswamy will also provide reports.

President's Report

President Meehan thanked Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll for directing \$62M toward the expansion of the MASSGrant Plus program. The program's goal is to cover the full cost of tuition and fees for all Pell Grant-eligible students attending public community colleges, state universities, and the University of Massachusetts. This expansion was made possible by the Fair Share Amendment passed by voters last fall to invest more in public schools, public colleges and universities, and transportation. This will supplement the \$395M in institutional aid that the University provides students, an increase of 67% since 2015.

He shared the importance of academic advising and is looking forward to hearing from the campuses later in the meeting on this topic.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Subbaswamy briefly discussed two important performance measurement processes used by the University to ensure the strength of departments, programs and faculty. The Academic Quality, Assessment and Development (AQAD) Report remains one of the key methods to assess the success of university departments and programs through external validation. The Periodic Multi-Year Review (PMYR) ensures that faculty remain engaged in their teaching, research, and service at a level appropriate for a high-quality research university. Both reports were posted to Boardvantage.

He also shared his support of Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and the voters of Massachusetts demonstrating an increase in state financial aid. This investment will have a great impact on student success.

Action Item #1: Bachelor of Arts in Computational Linguistics, UMass Amherst, Doc. T23-053

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Arts in Computational Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Scheibel and seconded by Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Bachelor of Arts in Computational Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provost Malone spoke to the program. Trustee Scheibel asked about the proforma and Provost Malone noted the number shown is only confirmed students. Once the program is approved by the Board, it will be marketed to prospective students and research shows this number will increase.

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
November 29, 2023

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. With none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi; Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Scheibel, Tutwiler and Worthy. Trustee Maguire Keches' vote was not heard.

Action Item #2: Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Doc. T23-054

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Lowell. The motion was moved by Trustee Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Jack Schnieder for the title of Dwight W. Allen Distinguished Professorship in Educational Policy and Leadership at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Ana Caicedo for the title of Dr. Constantine J. Gilgut Professorship in Plant Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Bertie Greer for the title of Rist Family Endowed Dean in the Manning School of Business at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Provosts Malone and Hartman spoke to the appointments.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. With none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi; Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Scheibel, Tutwiler and Worthy. Trustee Maguire Keches' vote was not heard.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on December 12, 2023. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi and seconded by Trustee Scheibel to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. With none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi; Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Scheibel, Tutwiler and Worthy. Trustee Keches' vote was not heard.

Discussion Item: Academic Advising, Doc. T23-052

Senior Vice President Subbaswamy provided a summary of how different campuses are organized for advising, and each campus representative spoke about aspects of emphasis and any initiatives

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs
November 29, 2023

that are being undertaken. Topics discussed were evolving paradigms, use of technology, achieving equity in student success and career advising and placement support.

Campus representatives included: Farshid Hajir, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education at UMass Amherst; Gail Stubbs, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Equity, Access, and Success at UMass Boston; Pauline Entin, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs at UMass Dartmouth; Kerry Donohoe, Dean of Academic Services at UMass Lowell; and Terry Flotte, Executive Deputy Vice Chancellor, Provost, and Dean at the T.H. Chan School of Medicine at UMass Chan Medical School.

Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi asked if there is data and benchmarking around the impact of this work. Trustee Epstein asked about the process of alerting faculty and advisors of students who are falling behind or not regularly connected, as well as how recent alumni can continue to connect with career advising services on campus. UMass Amherst and UMass Lowell briefly discussed the process on their respective campuses.

Information Items: Academic Quality Assessment and Development, Doc. T23-050 and Periodic Multi-Year Annual Review, Doc. T97-111

Chair Paris Jeffries noted two information items posted to Boardvantage for review: the annual Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD) and Periodic Multi-Year Review (PMYR) reports. Trustees were encouraged to reach out to Candyce Carragher in the Office of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, & Equity with any questions.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Paris Jeffries 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 at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell; and Honorary Degrees at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi and seconded by Trustee Scheibel.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. With none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi; Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Maguire Keches, Scheibel, Tutwiler and Worthy. Trustee Maguire Keches asked for previous votes to be amended to include her votes, noting technical difficulties.

Chair Paris Jeffries 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 11:05 a.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees