

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

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

Wednesday, May 31, 2023; 11:00 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, and subsequently
updated and extended by the Governor and their staff**

Committee Members Present: Chair Kelleher; Vice Chair Lewis; Trustees Brunelle, Delgado and Maguire Keches; Vice Chair Burns (UMass Board)

University Administration: President Meehan; Chief Executive Office Julian (UMass Foundation); General Counsel Leone; Executive Director of Communications Hoey; Senior Vice President Calise; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Fuller and Chen; Vice Chancellor Gingerella; Athletics Directors Bamford, Schuman, Hendricks and Casey

Faculty Representatives: Professors Hoagland, UMass Amherst

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes, April 5, 2023
- UMass Lowell Athletics Overview 2022-2023, Doc. T23-037

Chair Kelleher convened the meeting at 11:03 a.m. 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 April 5th open and executive sessions. He stated that if there were no comments or corrections, the minutes are approved.

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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 Lowell Athletics. A transition to Division 1, which started under Chancellor Marty Meehan just nine years ago, continued under Chancellor Moloney, and is building momentum under Chancellor Julie Chen. He noted that Chancellor Chen was a college athlete herself who understands the value of athletics in the development of young people.

Chair Kelleher reported that the Committee received an excellent presentation from UMass Amherst Athletics Director Ryan Bamford at the last meeting. The Division 3 campuses (Boston and Dartmouth) will present in subsequent meetings. He hopes that the discussions give the members a sense of the scope and impacts of UMass athletics.

Chair Kelleher asked President Meehan for his report.

President's Report

President Meehan noted that it was commencement season, a season to celebrate student achievement and highlighted four UMass past or present student-athletes who should make everyone proud. UMass Amherst alumna Brianna Scurry, a world-class soccer athlete, trailblazer for African-American women and LGBT athletes, and role model for people dealing with pain and depression, was presented an honorary degree at last week's commencement. UMass Lowell field hockey forward and biology major Megan Salsinha, a two-year co-president of UMass Lowell's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and advocate for student-athlete mental health, recently graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was honored with Chancellors medals for academic achievement and community service.

UMass Dartmouth's Mehki Geter, a two-time captain of the football team and who lead the team to the Division 3 New England Bowl championship, recently graduated from UMass Dartmouth with a degree in Crime and Justice Studies. He served in the Massachusetts National Guard and was deployed on multiple occasions, including being sent to area hospitals during the pandemic and to the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2020. UMass Boston hockey players Jake Adkins and Andy Walker, also known as Men In Blades, achieved national recognition for roller blading from Michigan to Boston during the pandemic to raise money (more than \$50,000 since their journey) for the American Cancer Society. Mr. Adkins, a biology major will be attending medical school in the fall and Mr. Walker, a biochemistry major will be contributing to the life science industry in the years ahead.

President Meehan stated that these scholar-athletes are representative of hundreds of their peers across the University's four NCAA programs and personify the values he believes the Chancellors, Athletic Directors and Coaches embrace.

Discussion Item, UMass Lowell Athletics Overview, Doc. T23-037

Chair Kelleher asked Athletics Director Peter Casey to make his presentation on the current state of UMass Lowell Athletics. He asked the Committee to hold any questions and comments until after the presentation.

Mr. Casey provided an historical overview of UMass Lowell athletics highlighting the 2012 transition from Division I athletics to Division II. He discussed the strategic vision highlighting its mission to conduct a program that inspires student-athletes to achieve excellence in their academic and athletic pursuits; emphasizes character, courage and respect; and creates a sense of pride for the campus and community; and highlighting its core values (student success, respect, innovation, engagement, collaboration, and excellence. He discussed the athletics department's leadership noting 16 field sports and 11 coaches. He highlighted the organizational chart and spoke of the strategic partnerships on campus.

Mr. Casey discussed the athletics program sports sponsorship and provided highlights of the program (16 NCAA Division I sports, 412 student athletes (representing 23 countries, 25 states, 5 continents, 14% are international, 29% are first-generation college students); reviewed the program's academic success; highlighted the importance of the use of social media; reviewed the department's FY22 \$18.13 million budget, athletic fundraising and corporate partnerships. He discussed streaming and TV highlighting ESPN+, and discussed the fan experience noting the program's receipt of NACMA promotion awards (3 gold, 5 silver, 3 bronze) over the past 5 years. He discussed the athletics facilities investments totaling \$35 million since 2010 (Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell updates, LeLacheur Baseball Park, Riverview Field, Costello Athletic Center, Cushing Complex). He discussed future facility prospects (Tsongas Center Practice Annex, Costello Athletic Center expansion, LeLacheur Park and Riverview Field upgrades, Indoor Practice Facility). He discussed the program's strategic alliances highlighting the Oakview View Group (OVG). Brief discussion ensued. Vice Chair Burns encouraged everyone to attend the hockey and basketball games. Vice Chair Lewis commended Mr. Casey on his presentation and Chair Kelleher thanked him.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Kelleher asked the Committee for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Purpose 7, to comply with, or act under the authority of any general or special law, and pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 4, Section 7, Clause 26(d), necessitating confidentiality, since public disclosure in an open meeting would compromise the purpose for which the executive session is being called and have a detrimental effect on the University. He stated that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Lewis and seconded by Vice Chair Burns.

The Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Kelleher voted for the motion as did Vice Chairs Lewis and Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Delgado and Maguire Keches.

Chair Kelleher thanked everyone and 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.

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The time was 11:39 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board