

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

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

Thursday, February 29, 2024; 1:30 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 Brunelle; Vice Chair Lewis; Vice Chair Burns (UMass Board); Trustees Delgado, Dooley, Maguire Keches and Sullivan

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Epstein and O'Brien

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Lowy; Executive Director of Communications Hoey; Senior Vice President Calise; Chancellor Reyes; Athletics Director Bamford

Chair Brunelle convened the meeting at 1:32 p.m. and 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.

Chair's Report

Chair Brunelle thanked former Trustee, Rick Kelleher, for his service as Chair of the Athletics Committee over the last year, noting there is no greater supporter of UMass athletics from DI to DIII than Rick Kelleher.

Chair Brunelle noted last year's establishment of the Athletics Committee to make sure that Trustees are well-informed about the major issues facing collegiate athletics across the country; including Title IX, Name-Image-Likeness (NIL), and conference affiliations. He spoke on UMass Amherst considering its conference affiliation status and the exciting opportunity it was offered this week. Last April, Athletics Director Ryan Bamford informed the Committee that the campus was investigating potential conference opportunities, and this week that work culminated with an invitation to join the Mid-American Conference (MAC). As UMass Amherst approaches a conclusion to its search for a conference that will advance the interests of its student-athletes and the University, Chair Brunelle commended Chancellor Reyes and Athletics Director Bamford and their teams for their efforts to analyze the various scenarios.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Brunelle asked for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21, Purpose 7, to comply with, or act under the authority of any general or special law, and pursuant to M.G.L. c.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; and purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, 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.

Chair Brunelle stated that the meeting would not reconvene in open session and asked for a motion. It was moved by Trustee Delgado and seconded by Trustee Burns.

The Secretary called the roll. Chair Brunelle voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Lewis; Vice Chair Burns (UMass Board); Trustees Delgado, Dooley and Sullivan. Trustee Maguire Keches' vote was not heard.

The time was 1:38 p.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board