

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

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

Thursday, February 29, 2024; 2:00 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**

Trustees Present: Chairman Karam; Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Alden, Brady, Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Dooley, Epstein, Maguire Keches, Paris Jeffries, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Sullivan, Toye, Worthy and Wu; and Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler)

Trustees Absent: Trustees Lewis, O'Brien, Okwara, Tolman and Tutwiler

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

Chairman Karam convened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. and reminded everyone of the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020, which has been extended until March 31st, 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, as they are today, with adequate and alternative means of access available.

Chair's Remarks

Chairman Karam thanked everyone for joining today's meeting on such short notice. He thanked former Trustee, Rick Kelleher, who gave five years of service to the Board, including the past year as chair of the Athletics Committee. He stated that Rick has been a stalwart supporter of UMass and its student-athletes, announced that Trustee Brunelle was appointed as the new chair of the Athletics Committee.

Chairman Karam welcomed new Trustee, Joseph Sullivan. Trustee Sullivan is an alumnus of UMass Amherst and brings to the Board a track record of meaningful and effective public service, including 12 years as the first mayor of Braintree, 10 years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and as the executive director of the Massachusetts Lottery. Trustees Okwara and Delgado were also reappointed to the Board.

Report of the Athletics Committee

Trustee Brunelle reported that the Athletics Committee met just before the Board of Trustees meeting to discuss this week's invitation for UMass Amherst to join the Mid-American Conference (MAC). UMass Amherst has been considering its conference affiliation status for a long time and at the Committee meeting last April, Athletics Director Bamford made it clear that the campus was investigating potential conference opportunities. This work culminated this week with an

Board of Trustees
February 29, 2024

invitation to join the Mid-American Conference. Trustee Brunelle commended Chancellor Reyes, Athletics Director Bamford, and their teams for their efforts to analyze the various scenarios.

Executive Session Announcement

Chairman Karam 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.

Chairman Karam 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 Colella.

The Secretary called the roll. Chairman Karam voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Dooley, Epstein, Paris Jeffries, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Sullivan, Worthy and Wu; and Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler). Trustee Keches' vote was not heard.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked those participating in Executive Session to hang up and join the next Zoom meeting with the specific link that was provided for Executive Session.

The time was 2:10 p.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees