

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

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

Tuesday, April 2, 2024; 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; Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi (joined at 10:21 a.m.); Trustees Alden, Brady (joined at 10:13 a.m.), Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Maguire Keches, Toye (joined at 10:19 a.m.) and Worthy

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Okwara, Scheibel and Tutwiler

Other Trustees: Vice Chair Burns

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Lowy; Senior Vice Presidents Calise and Subbaswamy; Deputy Vice President Walker; Chancellors Reyes, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Chen and Collins; Provosts Malone, Berger, Balasubramanian, Hartman and Flotte

Faculty Representatives: Professors Hoagland, UMass Amherst, Haroon, UMass Boston, Hurwitz, UMass Lowell and Sadasivam, UMass Chan Medical School

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: November 29, 2023 (Open & Executive Session)
- Master of Health Administration, UMass Amherst, Doc. T24-016
- Graduate Student Association Constitution, UMass Lowell, Doc. T24-004
- Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst, Doc. T24-010
- Core Facilities and Industry Partnership, Doc. T24-015

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:07 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.

Consideration of Minutes of the prior meeting of the Committee

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that the Committee was provided with the draft minutes of the November 29, 2023 meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

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

President's Report

President Meehan commented on the conclusion of another academic year, which will culminate with awarding the Class of 2024 with about 20,000 undergraduate and graduate diplomas. UMass is making sure that the greatest tool for social and economic mobility – a four-year college degree – remains achievable for students from all backgrounds in Massachusetts.

He announced a system-wide symposium "Impact of Artificial Intelligence" that will be held on Thursday, April 11 on the Mount Ida campus. While AI holds great potential for improving the human condition, it presents both opportunities and threats within higher education. Discussions have begun on the development of policies and guidelines on how best to utilize AI tools while minimizing their abuse. The AI System Working Group, led by Senior Vice President Subbaswamy, is to ensure that critical issues are being addressed consistently across campuses.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Subbaswamy briefly shared the impact of the federal government's financial aid form. The federal government's effort to simplify the financial aid form, FAFSA, was to be ready last October, but ran into technical difficulties, backlogs, and wasn't operating normally until earlier this month. This has caused delays in universities receiving the necessary information to put together individual financial packages for continuing and new students. Senior Vice President Subbaswamy acknowledged and expressed gratitude to the UMass campus admissions and financial aid staff, for their dedication and hard work in helping students and families navigate this situation through extra information sessions, moving the deadline for putting down deposits, answering numerous phone calls and emails, and working long hours to get financial packages completed as quickly as possible.

Action Item #1: Master of Health Administration, UMass Amherst, Doc. T24-016

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Master of Health Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Master of Health Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provost Malone spoke to the action item.

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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 Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Maguire Keches and Worthy. Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi was not present for the vote.

Action Item #2: Graduate Student Association Constitution, UMass Lowell, Doc. T24-004

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Graduate Student Association Constitution at University of Massachusetts Lowell. The motion was moved by Trustee Lewis and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Graduate Student Association Constitution at University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Provost Hartman spoke to the action item.

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 Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Maguire Keches and Worthy. Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi was not present for the vote.

Action Item #3: Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst, Doc. T24-010

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Lewis.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Mila Getmansky Sherman for the title of Fuller and Meehan Endowed Professorship at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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 Trustees Delgado, Epstein, Lewis, Maguire Keches and Worthy. Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi was not present for the vote.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda for the Board Meeting on April 10, 2024. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Maguire Keches 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, Maguire Keches and Worthy.

Discussion Item: Core Facilities and Industry Partnership, Doc. T24-015

Deputy Vice President Walker and Peter Reinhart, Founding Director of the Institute for Applied Life Sciences at UMass Amherst, provided a summary of these core facilities, comprised of state-of-the-art laboratories and high-end equipment and instrumentation, offering a wide range of services including cutting-edge technologies and technical support for basic, translational and clinical research. UMass has more than 100 core research facilities across the state. Campus representatives spoke about their cores and the industry partnerships that developed from those interactions.

Campus representatives included: Laura Vandenberg, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement at UMass Amherst; Bala Sundaram, Vice Provost for Research & Strategic Initiatives at UMass Boston; Megan Hennessey-Greene, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation at UMass Dartmouth; Anne Maglia, Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation at UMass Lowell; and Kate Fitzgerald, Associate Vice Provost for Basic Science Research at UMass Chan Medical School.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Paris Jeffries asked the Committee for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law necessitating confidentiality, as permitted under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30, Section 21a, Purpose (7), See MGL c. 75, Section 4, subsection (2) regarding awards of tenure– since an open meeting may compromise the purpose for which the executive session is being called and have a detrimental effect on the University AND to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law necessitating confidentiality, as permitted under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30, Section 21a, Purpose (7), See MGL c. 75, Section 4, subsection (1) regarding awards of honorary degrees– since an open meeting may compromise the purpose for which the executive session is being called and have a detrimental effect on the University. Chair Paris Jeffries stated that the committee meeting would not reconvene in open session and asked for a motion. It was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

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 and Worthy.

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 11:09 a.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees