

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

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

**Tuesday, May 21, 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; Trustees Brady, Epstein, Maguire Keches, Scheibel and Worthy; Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler); and Chairman Karam (UMass Board)

**Other Trustees Present:** Vice Chair Burns

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustees Alden, Delgado, Lewis, Okwara and Tutwiler

**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:** Professor Hurwitz, UMass Lowell

**Documents Used:**

- Meeting Minutes: April 2, 2024 (Open & Executive Session)
- Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst and Lowell, Doc. T24-024
- International Student Programs, Doc. T24-029

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:05 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.

Chair Paris Jeffries recognized and thanked the Student Trustees that served on the Committee. He thanked them for their service and wished them well in their future endeavors.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 21, 2024**

**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 April 2, 2024 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: one action item, one discussion item, and two items for action in Executive Session. Also reports President Meehan and Senior Vice President Subbaswamy.

**President's Report**

President Meehan commented that it was an exciting time of the year to be a member of the UMass community. Commencement season is a clear reminder of why we are all here, and noted everything we do is to ensure that we are helping as many students as possible reach this milestone. He thanked all trustees who attended the Commencement ceremonies, and congratulated Trustee Worthy who graduated from the UMass School of Law and Trustee Brady who graduated from UMass Amherst. Trustees Worthy and Brady are a part of more than 19,000 students in the UMass graduating Class of 2024 and will join the ranks of 630,000 alumni, including the 360,000 in Massachusetts. President Meehan highlighted the critical role UMass plays in educating Massachusetts residents.

President Meehan updated the Committee on the UMass Early College Program. Spring enrollment rose to a new high of 680 students who enrolled for a total of 2,307 credits, which represents nearly \$1M in savings generated for these students and their families. The program had 282 students in Fall 2022 and the University anticipates more than 1,000 students enrolled this Fall. He recognized Kate Copans, Director of the Commonwealth Collegiate Academy program, for the momentum she has been able to build for the program since she arrived in August.

President Meehan also reported that the University's bond ratings have been reaffirmed by Moody's, Fitch, and S&P Global. All three rated the University's outlook as "stable," and cited the University's strong management practices, disciplined controls, and accountability framework. He thanked the Chancellors and their teams, and the Board of Trustees.

**Senior Vice President's Report**

Senior Vice President Subbaswamy reported that UMass continues to serve its students, advance research frontiers, and impact the economy of the Commonwealth. This month saw the culmination of an important annual competition for awards that support technology commercialization, which awarded \$175K in grants to seven principal investigations at UMass Amherst, Lowell and Chan Medical School. The projects were evaluated on the basis of their promise for commercial use by 12 entrepreneurs and tech transfer experts from outside the University.

**Action Item #1: Appointments to Named Professorships, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Doc. T24-024**

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

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 21, 2024**

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Qiangfei Xia for the title of Dev and Linda Gupta Endowed Professorship in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Brian Levine for the title of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Dimitrios Maroudas for the title of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Joya Misra for the title of Distinguished Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Joey Mead for the title of David and Frances Pernick Endowed Nanotechnology Professorship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor James Sherwood for the title of Howard P. Foley Endowed Professorship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Margaret Sobkowicz-Kline for the title of James V. Dandeneau Endowed Professorship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Carol Barry for the title of Mark and Elisia Saab Endowed Professorship at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Shelley Barish for the title of Nancy Donahue Endowed Professorship in the Arts at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Gulden Camci-Unal for the title of Robert and Gail Ward Endowed Professorship in Biomedical Materials Development at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

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 Epstein, Maguire Keches, Scheibel and Worthy; Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler); and Chairman Karam (UMass Board).

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda for the Board Meeting on June 7, 2024. The motion was moved by Trustee Scheibel and seconded by Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi to place the Action Item 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 Epstein, Maguire Keches, Scheibel and Worthy; Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler); and Chairman Karam (UMass Board).

**Discussion Item: International Student Programs, Doc. T24-029**

Deputy Vice President Walker introduced the discussion on international student programs and how each campus engages with international students. Provost Flotte then reviewed the statistical profile and trends for international students and programs across the System. As of Fall 2023, the University's international undergraduate student population is 3,032 and graduate student population is 5,169.

Each member of the International Relations Advisory Council highlighted trends, recruitment and retention efforts, challenges and opportunities on each of their campuses. Campus representatives included: Ken Reade, Executive Director of Immigration Services at UMass Amherst; Kalpen Trivedi, Vice Provost for Global Affairs at UMass Amherst; Shaun Morgan, Executive Director Global Programs at UMass Boston; Tesfay Meressi, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies at UMass Dartmouth; and Sal Mazzone, Executive Director of International Students and Scholars Office at UMass Lowell.

**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. Chair Paris Jeffries stated that the Committee meeting would not reconvene in open session and asked for a motion. It was moved by Trustee Scheibel and seconded by Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi.

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 Maguire Keches, Scheibel and Worthy; Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler); and Chairman Karam (UMass Board). Trustee Epstein's vote was not heard.

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 11:08 a.m.

**Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**  
**May 21, 2024**

Chelsey L. Burke  
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees