

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

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

Wednesday, September 18, 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; Trustees Delgado, Epstein (left at 11:02 a.m.), Haviari, Maguire Keches, Nicum, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen and Tutwiler

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Ramos Gagliardi; Trustees Lewis, Raymond and Scheibel

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 Abd-El-Khalick, Berger, Balasubramanian, Hartman and Flotte

Faculty Representatives: Professors Hoagland, UMass Amherst and Petersen, UMass Lowell

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: May 21, 2024 (Open & Executive Session)
- Amendments to the Graduate Student Senate Constitution, Doc. T12-001, as amended
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, UMass Amherst, Doc. T24-045
- Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs, UMass Chan Medical School, Doc. T24-048
- Student Life and Campus Engagement, Doc. T24-041

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:12 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 acknowledged the new Student Trustees serving on the Committee and thanked them for their service.

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 May 21, 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: three action items, one discussion item, and four items for action in Executive Session.

President's Report

President Meehan welcomed the new student trustees, Gent Haviari, Stephanie Nicum, Elizabeth Osa-Agbontaen, and Abigail Raymond, to the Committee.

President Meehan reported that the University welcomed more than 10,000 students to our campuses this fall. Despite the U.S. Supreme Court decision last year overturning affirmative action in college admission, UMass continues to educate a student body that increasingly reflects the diversity of our state. The Class of 2028 is the most diverse class in the University's history at UMass Amherst and UMass Boston, as well as at UMass Law. Across all of the campuses, 44% of the undergraduates are students of color. In addition to having the most diverse class ever, UMass Amherst's incoming class also had the highest combined SAT and ACT scores in the past decade, and the second-highest average GPA.

UMass Boston is the most diverse four-year institution in the Northeast; 73% of the incoming class of 2028 are students of color. They also have a deep commitment to Boston Public School students, with 406 graduates enrolled at UMass Boston this fall, representing 18% of the first-year class.

At UMass Dartmouth, more than half of the nearly 1,400 member incoming class are students of color and 55% are first generation. This is similar at UMass Lowell where 49% of their roughly 3,000 new first year and transfer students, identify as students of color and 40% are first-generation college students.

At UMass Chan Medical School, 70% of the T.H. Chan School of Medicine Class of 2028 identify as women, 35 students are from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine, 46 are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and 23 are first-generation college students.

President Meehan proudly shared that the University is exceeding expectations on Early College. UMass Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell continue to effectively grow their programs, increasing the number of partner high schools and the number of students served. UMass Amherst launched their early college pilot program this month, which will begin in five Western Massachusetts high schools. With the addition of UMass Amherst, 1,100 students from 22 high schools are expected to enroll in the University's Early College Program.

UMass is also continuing to work closely with the Massachusetts Community Colleges, which are the single-largest source of transfer students, accounting for 44% of transfer students. The Chancellors are continuing to work collaboratively on articulation agreements to ensure that the transfer process between a community college and a UMass campus are as seamless as possible.

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This is also the first year of the UMass Community College Advantage Scholarship which provides up to \$10,000 in scholarship aid to community college graduates in the top 10% of their class who transfer to UMass. This fall, more than 60 students received the scholarship, and we expect that number to grow as the program matures and gets marketed more directly.

Senior Vice President's Report

Senior Vice President Subbaswamy gave an update on the Academic Quality Assessment and Development (AQAD), a component of the University Performance Measurement System. Each campus establishes, within guidelines established by the President's Office, procedures for implementing the Academic Quality Assessment and Development. The guidelines include specifying that the length of time between reviews may be no more than five to seven years, and a requirement that the review team include no fewer than two external reviewers from outside the campus. The AQAD concludes with the Dean reviewing and commenting on the written reports with recommendations for improvement which is distributed to all program faculty. The AQAD results will be provided to the Committee in November.

Senior Vice President Subbaswamy also updated the Committee on quality assurance as it pertains to faculty work. There are four elements to evaluating the productivity and impact of faculty throughout their career. First, hiring at a research university is an extremely selective process. The University receives around 10,000 applications annually for fewer than 100 tenure-track positions. Second, the award of tenure or ongoing contract to faculty, which occurs after a seven-year probationary period. Among the elite who are recruited, typically only 50-60% stay through the probationary period and successfully earn tenure. Third, the annual faculty activity report for all faculty which, among other things, determines any merit increases in salary. This also involves student evaluations of teaching as one component. Lastly, the Periodic Multi-Year Review (PMYR) of all tenured faculty, which is done in seven-year cycles, taking a cumulative view of the teaching, research, and outreach impact of the faculty, along with a review of plans for the future. Improvement plans are created as warranted, and realignment of workload is made as appropriate. The summary of the most recent cycle of PMYR will be provided to the Committee in November.

Action Item #1: Amendments to the Graduate Student Senate Constitution, UMass Amherst, Doc. T12,001, as amended

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Amendments to the Graduate Student Senate Constitution. The motion was moved by Trustee Maguire Keches and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the amendments to the Graduate Student Senate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Perdomo-Ahmed 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, Maguire Keches, Nicum, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen and Tutwiler.

Action Item #2: Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, UMass Amherst, Doc. T24-045

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, UMass 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 Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provost Abd-El-Khalick 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, Maguire Keches, Nicum, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen and Tutwiler.

Action Item #3: Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs, UMass Chan Medical School, Doc. T24-048

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, UMass Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Maguire Keches and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor M. Diane McKee as the inaugural holder of the UMass Memorial Ledwith Chair in Family and Community Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor J. Matthias Walz as the inaugural holder of the UMass Memorial Kaur Chair in Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Max Rosen as the inaugural holder of the UMass Memorial Chair in Radiology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor A.M. (Anna Mariya) Barrett as the inaugural holder of the UMass Memorial Chair in Neurology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

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To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Thomas J. Fitzgerald as the inaugural holder of the UMass Memorial Chair in Radiation Oncology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Fernando J. Martinez as the inaugural holder of the Joseph D. Early Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Anil Chandraker as the inaugural holder of the Jack M. Wilson Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Dorothy P. Schafer as the inaugural holder of the UMass Chan Medical School Chair in Biomedical Research I at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Paul R. Thompson as the inaugural holder of the Endowed Chair in Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology I at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Oliver Rando as the inaugural holder of the Endowed Chair in Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology II at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Daryl A. Bosco as the inaugural holder of the Paul J. DiMare Chair in Neurodegenerative Disease at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Stephenie C. Lemon to the Barbara Helen Smith Chair of Preventive and Behavioral Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

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, Maguire Keches, Nicum, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen and Tutwiler.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place the Action Items 1-3 on a Consent Agenda for the Board Meeting on September 19, 2024. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Okwara.

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, Maguire Keches, Nicum, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen and Tutwiler.

Discussion Item: Student Life and Campus Engagement, Doc. T24-041

Deputy Vice President Walker introduced the discussion on Student Life and Campus Engagement. At the core of the UMass mission is the student experience, anchored by the commitment to deliver affordable and accessible world-class education that transforms lives, improves our world, and creates a social and economic impact that shapes and energizes communities. Campus life is supported through student leadership opportunities, student research opportunities, and opportunities for students to work.

Each member of the Student Affairs Advisory Council highlighted student engagement, student leadership, and student government. Campus representatives included: Shelly Perdomo-Ahmed, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life, UMass Amherst; Michelle Budig, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs, UMass Amherst; Karen Ferrer-Muniz, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, UMass Boston; Kimberly Scott, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, UMass Dartmouth; Brenda Evans, Dean of Student Affairs and Wellness, UMass Lowell; and Alan Acosta, Associate Vice Provost for Student Life, UMass Chan Medical School.

Trustee Epstein left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

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 Maguire Keches and seconded by Trustee Okwara.

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, Maguire Keches, Nicum, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen and Tutwiler.

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 11:21 a.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees