

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

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

Wednesday, December 18, 2024; 9:00 a.m.; 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**

Trustees Present: Chairman Karam; Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Maguire Keches, Nicum, O'Brien, Okwara, Oliveira, Osa-Agbontaen, Paris Jeffries, Ramos Gagliardi, Raymond, Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman, Tutwiler and Wu

Trustees Absent: Trustees Haviari and Lewis

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Lowy; Senior Vice Presidents Calise and Subbaswamy; Chancellors Reyes, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Chen and Collins; Provosts Abd-El-Khalick, Berger, Balasubramanian, Hartman and Flotte; Vice Chancellors Mangels, Kirleis, Doyle, Yestramski and Lindstedt

Faculty Representatives: Professors Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Todd, UMass Boston; Roscoe, UMass Dartmouth; Marchand, UMass Lowell

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2024 (Open & Executive Session)

Chairman Karam convened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. and reminded everyone of the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020, which has been 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, as they are today, with adequate and alternative means of access available.

Chairman Karam reminded the Board to unmute themselves and state their name when moving or seconding the action items.

Consideration of Minutes of the prior meeting of the Committee

Chairman Karam stated that the Board was provided with the draft meeting minutes of the September 19, 2024 Board meeting's open and executive sessions, and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Chair's Remarks

Chairman Karam wished everyone a happy and restful holiday season, encouraging reflection on the past year's achievements and optimism for the year ahead. He expressed gratitude to fellow Board members, President Meehan, and the Chancellors for their outstanding leadership during a challenging year in higher education. He highlighted the progress made in strengthening financial

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oversight and management operations; aspects of oversight that remain critical in navigating a rapidly changing environment for colleges and universities, driven by demographic shifts and economic pressures. Chairman Karam praised the Chancellors for increasing their use of the SPARC tool, which enables data-driven decision-making that helps the University proactively address challenges and allocate resources effectively. He also reaffirmed the Board's support for the campus efforts aimed at ensuring the University's long-term sustainability, acknowledging that some decisions are difficult but necessary for the benefit of students and families.

The Chairman commended President Meehan, Deputy Vice President Nef Walker, and the Chancellors for their work on evaluating the transfer process and identifying opportunities to improve the experience for community college students who choose to come to a UMass campus. He expressed appreciation for everyone involved in the success of UMass, reflecting on the inspiring work accomplished.

Student Trustee Report, UMass Amherst

Trustee Oliveira reported on the fall semester at UMass Amherst. She began by sharing her personal experience navigating financial challenges as a first-generation college student from Brockton. She highlighted the significant impact of scholarships, specifically one that enabled her to study abroad in Barcelona, and underscored the difficulties faced by low-income students, including housing and financial aid delays. Trustee Oliveira stressed the importance state funding being awarded earlier in the process to help students with the clarity needed to plan for essential expenses. She praised the University's investments in infrastructure and its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and sustainability, noting the Class of 2028's record diversity and the University's carbon neutrality efforts. She also discussed her work with the Undergraduate Student Government to reform financial processes and her work with MASSPIRG to address food insecurity, including the opening of UMass Amherst's first on-campus food pantry this semester.

Trustee Oliveira expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees and her commitment to continuing advocacy work, with aspirations to serve as an elected official in Massachusetts in the future.

President's Report

President Meehan wished everyone a happy holiday season and expressed gratitude for their hard work and dedication to the University. He shared that the University is working hard to prepare for the new presidential administration to ensure that it is proactive in responding to any policy changes and well-positioned to compete for federal funding in areas critical to its mission. To support this work, the University is continuing to work closely with the federal and state delegations, as well as national higher education associations.

In September, the Board approved the University's FY26 budget request; seeking a \$44M increase to the base appropriation, \$870M total. This increase includes \$4M for student mental health services and \$24M for the new Student SUCCESS Grants Plus program. The Student SUCCESS Grants Plus program mirrors a program that is already funded by the Commonwealth for the State Universities and Community Colleges and will make critical investments in the University's advising, counseling, and wrap-around services so it can expand those services to transferring community college students aggressively in the years ahead. The budget request also includes \$16M to address inflation and cost growth and to maintain affordability. The University also made two requests with regard to Fair Share funding – \$60M in dedicated annual funds to support

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Resources for Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Equity (RISE) and \$20M for the Endowment Incentive Match program.

President Meehan reported that the UMass undergraduate campuses all launched programs which will fully cover tuition and mandatory fees for students from families earning \$75K or less, through a combination of federal, state, and University-funded aid. These programs were made possible by the historic levels of investment in UMass-funded financial aid that has been a priority under his presidency. Last year, the University awarded \$409M in financial aid which would not have been possible without the visionary investments made by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Legislature in the MASS Grant Plus Expansion program. He commended the Chancellors for the work they have done to make sure Massachusetts students and families understand how affordable a UMass education is, especially for those with the greatest level of need.

President Meehan highlighted the robust discussion of the University's Five-Year Financial Forecast at the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier this week. The higher education environment is undergoing significant changes that will pose challenges for all institutions and President Meehan is proud of all the University is doing to confront these challenges head on.

President Meehan acknowledged the retirement of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Equity and UMass Amherst Chancellor Emeritus Kumble Subbaswamy. He praised Senior Vice President Subbaswamy's transformative leadership, particularly his efforts to elevate UMass Amherst's national profile, increase diversity, improve graduation rates, and expand research. He also recognized Deputy Vice President Nefertiti Walker who he is appointing as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Equity. Dr. Walker is an outstanding leader, a remarkable academic, and an experienced higher education administrator.

Standing Committee Reports:

Report of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

Trustee Paris Jeffries reported that the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs met on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. President Meehan gave his report followed by remarks from Senior Vice President Subbaswamy. The Committee considered and voted on one action item: Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs at UMass Amherst and UMass Chan Medical School. The action item was voted for inclusion in the Consent Agenda for full Board action today. There was one discussion item. Deputy Vice President Walker and colleagues from each campus gave an informative presentation on Early College across UMass: Expanding the pathway to college through innovation and collaboration. The Committee then voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of considering three action items: Appointments with Tenure, Transfer of Tenure and Honorary Degrees. The tenure items were also voted for inclusion in the Consent Agenda for full Board action.

Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

Trustee Scheibel reported that the Audit and Risk Committee met on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. The Committee approved the minutes of the prior meeting, and Chief Audit Officer David and Assistant Internal Audit Director Scano provided the Committee with insight into the audit and risk team's fiscal year activity and audit results, as well as upcoming priorities. Assistant Vice President Packard shared an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) update, followed by Senior Vice President Calise providing a summary of the University's Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Results.

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KPMG's engagement partner David Gagnon and his team presented the results from the Annual Financial Statements audit, the status of the Uniform Guidance audit and provided other required communications to the Committee. The audit resulted in an unmodified audit opinion and there were no Uniform Guidance findings. The Committee voted to approve the University's Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements and then voted to approve placing the action item on the Board's Consent Agenda.

Report of the Committee on Administration and Finance

Trustee O'Brien reported that the Committee on Administration and Finance met on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Senior Vice President Calise and her team highlighted the progress of several key initiatives that support efforts to manage risks and the financial sustainability of the University. The Advisory Working Group continues its efforts building upon the success of the admissions sharing pilot between UMass Amherst, Dartmouth and Lowell, which must continue to preserve and improve enrollment. The Committee also discussed the connection between their work and the University's Five-Year Forecast that was presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting this week. The challenges are not new—the University has limited revenue growth prospects between enrollment, tuition rate and state appropriation, while at the same time costs continue to grow. Campuses are constantly adjusting to meet these challenges and Trustee O'Brien applauded their unwavering financial management, for using data to make decisions and for being nimble and capable of making necessary adjustments during this difficult climate.

The Committee considered and voted on two action items, noting action item one had several components which were taken as individual votes: Quarterly Capital Report and Approval of Changes to the Capital Projects List; Vote 1 Traditional Project – Tobin Deferred Maintenance, Doc. T23-047, as amended; Vote 1 Traditional Project – SWPH Heat Shift Chillers, UMass Boston, Doc. T23-047, as amended; Vote 1 Traditional Project – Design & Innovation Studio, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T23-047, as amended; Vote 2 Traditional Project – Flint Renovations, UMass Amherst, Doc. T23-047, as amended; Vote 2 Traditional Project – Utilities Cooling Capacity, UMass Boston, Doc. T23-047, as amended; and Approval of Changes to the Regulations for Use of Property, UMass Amherst, Doc. T90-079, as amended. All action items were approved and placed on the consent agenda. The Committee also met in Executive Session to discuss several matters.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Karam stated that on November 20, 2024 the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs approved and voted to place their action items 1-3 on the Consent Agenda and yesterday, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Committee on Administration and Finance approved and voted to place their action items 4-10 on the Consent Agenda for Board approval today. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-10 on the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Trustee Colella and seconded by Trustee Scheibel. Chairman Karam asked for questions or comments.

With none, the Secretary called the roll. Chairman Karam voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Maguire Keches, Nicum, O'Brien, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen, Paris Jeffries, Ramos Gagliardi, Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman, Tutwiler and Wu.

VOTED: To approve the following votes listed as 1-10 on the Consent Agenda:

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs approved items 1-3 on November 20, 2024.

1. Appointments to Named Professorships and Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Chan Medical School, Doc. T24-058

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Seth Cable for the title of the Edward Sapir Endowed Professor of Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further,

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Richard Gregory for the title of the Eleanor Eustis Farrington Chair in Cancer Research at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

2. Appointments with Tenure UMass Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Doc. T24-055

To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Indika Dissanayake in the Department of Operations and Information Management in the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Thomas Mackie in the Department of Health Promotion and Policy at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Bayinnah Jeffries in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Madan Annavarjula in the Department of Management and Marketing in the Charlton College of Business at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Lanier Sammons in the Department of Music in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Julie Keysor in the Department of Physical Therapy & Kinesiology in the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

3. Transfer of Tenure, UMass Lowell, Doc. T24-056

To concur with the President in the transfer of tenure to the following individual in the following department:

Lowell Associate Professor Ming Shao from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth campus to the University of Massachusetts Lowell's Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences.

The Audit & Risk Committee approved item 4 on December 17, 2024.

4. University's Financial Statements, Doc. T24-033

To approve the University's Annual Financial Statements.

The Committee on Administration and Finance approved items 5-10 on December 17, 2024.

5. Changes to the Capital Projects List: Vote 1 Traditional Project - Tobin Deferred Maintenance, UMass Amherst, Doc. T23-047, as amended

Pursuant to Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended, to authorize the following project under the **first vote**; the adoption of such vote hereby satisfies the University's written request that the University of Massachusetts Building Authority undertake the following projects to the extent permitted by Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended:

Campus	Project Name	Building	Preliminary Campus Estimate	Funding Sources			
				Local Funding	External Funding	Borrowed Funding	State Funding
Amherst	Tobin Deferred Maintenance	Tobin Hall	\$40,000,000	-	-	40,000,000	-
TOTAL			\$40,000,000			\$40,000,000	

6. Changes to the Capital Projects List: Vote 1 Traditional Project - SWPH Heat Shift Chillers, UMass Boston, Doc. T23-047, as amended

Pursuant to Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended, to authorize the following project under the **first vote**; the adoption of such vote hereby satisfies the University's written request that the University of Massachusetts Building Authority undertake the following projects to the extent permitted by Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended:

Campus	Project Name	Building	Preliminary Campus Estimate	Funding Sources			
				Local Funding	External Funding	Borrowed Funding	State Funding
Boston	SWPH Heat Shift Chillers	Salt Water Pump House	\$15,000,000	15,000,000	-	-	-
TOTAL			\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000		\$0	

7. Changes to the Capital Projects List: Vote 1 Traditional Project - Design & Innovation Studio, UMass Dartmouth, Doc. T23-047, as amended

Pursuant to Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended, to authorize the following project under the **first vote**; the adoption of such vote hereby satisfies the University's written request that the University of Massachusetts Building Authority undertake the following projects to the extent permitted by Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended:

Campus	Project Name	Building	Preliminary Campus Estimate	Funding Sources			
				Local Funding	External Funding	Borrowed Funding	State Funding
Dartmouth	Design & Innovation Studio	College of Visual & Performing Arts	\$25,000,000	-	-	\$25,000,000	-
TOTAL			\$25,000,000			\$25,000,000	

8. Changes to the Capital Projects List: Vote 2 Traditional Project - Flint Renovations, UMass Amherst, Doc. T23-047, as amended

Pursuant to Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended, to authorize the following project under the **second vote**; the adoption of such vote hereby satisfies the University's written request that the University of Massachusetts Building Authority undertake the following projects to the extent permitted by Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended:

Campus	Project Name	Building	Vote 1	Vote 2	Local Funding	Funding Sources		
						External Funding	Borrowed Funding	State Funding
Amherst	Flint Renovations	Flint Laboratory	28,000,000	32,000,000	27,500,000			4,500,000
TOTAL			28,000,000	32,000,000	27,500,000	-	-	4,500,000

9. Changes to the Capital Projects List: Vote 2 Traditional Project - Utilities - Cooling Capacity, UMass Boston, Doc. T23-047, as amended

Pursuant to Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended, to authorize the following project under the **second vote**; the adoption of such vote hereby satisfies the University's written request that the University of Massachusetts Building Authority undertake the following projects to the extent permitted by Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended:

Campus	Project Name	Building	Total Building DM	Vote 1	Vote 2	Funding Sources	
						Local Funding	State Funding
Boston	Utilities - Cooling Capacity*	Utility Plant	11,965,968	N/A	15,000,000	15,000,000	-
TOTAL			11,965,968	-	15,000,000	15,000,000	-

*originally received President's authorization as part of another utilities project, now split off into a stand-alone project advancing into construction.

10. Changes to the Regulations for Use of Property, UMass Amherst, Doc. T90-079, as amended

To approve revisions to the changes to the University of Massachusetts Amherst Regulations for the Use of Property, Doc. T90-079, as amended.

Public Speakers

Chairman Karam stated that any member of the public wishing to address the Board 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 Board 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 this Board 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 Board.

Chairman Karam announced that there were five speakers who wished to address the Board. Remarks were limited to three minutes each and speakers were not allowed to yield their time to anyone else.

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Alexa MacPherson, President of the Classified Staff Union at UMass Boston, Nicholas Gula, President of the AFT Maintainers Local 6350 at UMass Dartmouth, and Mary Malinowski '16, President of the University Staff Association at UMass Amherst, each spoke about current living wage issues and understaffing at their campuses. Ellen Michaud Martins, President of the Union of Adjunct Faculty at UMass Lowell, spoke about financial difficulties at her campus. Max Page, President of the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), addressed the challenges and opportunities facing public higher education and MTA's legislative and budget priorities for the new session.

Chairman Karam thanked each of the speakers for their remarks.

Executive Session Announcement

Chairman Karam asked 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 Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 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, 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. 4, Section 7 Clause 26, subclauses: (d) and (u) since an open meeting may 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 Vice Chair Burns and seconded by Trustee Colella.

The Secretary called the roll. Chairman Karam voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Maguire Keches, Nicum, O'Brien, Okwara, Osa-Agbontaen, Paris Jeffries, Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman, Tutwiler and Wu. Trustee Brunelle's vote was not heard.

The time was 9:49 a.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees