



Time posted to the University's website: 1:36 p.m.

March 26, 2025

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs  
Board of Trustees  
University of Massachusetts

At the request of the President and approval by the Chair, a meeting of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs is hereby called to convene on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. for the University of Massachusetts. The meeting will be held remotely pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, General Law chapter 30A, §20 dated March 12, 2020, and subsequently updated and extended.

An agenda is attached.

Zunilka Barrett  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

# **University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Medical, Law Committee on Academic and Student Affairs Agenda**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025; 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Opening Meeting Law, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20 dated March 12, 2020, and subsequently updated and extended.

---

## **A. Call to Order**

## **B. Consideration of Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee**

- November 20, 2024 (Open and Executive Session)

## **C. Chair's Report**

## **D. President's Report**

## **E. Senior Vice President's Report**

## **F. Action Items**

1. Appointment to Endowed Chair, UMass Amherst

## **G. Discussion Item**

1. Faculty-led Undergraduate Student Research at the University of Massachusetts

Presenters:

- Nefertiti Walker, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Equity, UMass President's Office
- Gabriela Weaver, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, UMass President's Office
- Wouter Hoogkamer, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology, UMass Amherst
- Elena Schell, Student, UMass Amherst
- Jill Macoska, Distinguished University Professor of Science and Mathematics, UMass Boston
- Jason Lu, Student, UMass Boston
- Rachel Sirianni, Professor of Neurological Surgery, UMass Chan Medical School
- Lily Bigelow, UMass Amherst Student
- Nefeli Bompoti, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UMass Dartmouth
- Alberto Polanco, Student, UMass Dartmouth

- Pradeep Kurup, Distinguished University Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UMass Lowell
- Tieren Adams, Student, UMass Lowell
- Alexander Jacquart, Student, UMass Lowell

## **H. Executive Session**

1. 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 (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
2. 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.

---

**Note:** The above listings of matters before the UMass Board of Trustees are those reasonably anticipated by the Senior Staff, Secretary and Chair of the Board, and intended to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed due to circumstances not known in time to provide an adjustment to the publicly available agenda, and other items that are not listed, may also be brought up for discussion, to the extent such is permitted by law.

The UMass Board of Trustees, per its by-laws and to the extent permitted by law, may reserve time during the agenda of its regular meetings for public participation, and/or allow the meeting to be audio/videotaped. Individuals seeking to speak to the Board or audio/video tape the meeting should so inform the Office of the Secretary of the UMass Board of Trustees' office in writing, setting forth the purpose for which they seek to speak and/or audio/videotape the meeting, at least 24 hours before the relevant meeting. The Chairperson shall have discretion and determine whether said individuals shall be permitted to speak and, if so, for how long they may speak on the designated topic. The Chairperson may also exercise discretion and determine to waive the notice requirement set forth above and invite an individual(s) present at the meeting to address the Board.