

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

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2025; 9:00 a.m.; via Zoom

**Pursuant to Sections 20 and 30A of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021,
as most recently amended by Section 1 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025,
as signed by the Governor on March 28, 2025**

Trustees Present: Chairman Karam; Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Haviari, Matias, Nicum, O'Brien, Oliveira, Osa-Agbontaen, Paris Jeffries, Raymond, Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman and Wu; and Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler)

Trustees Absent: Trustees Maguire Keches, Okwara, Ramos Gagliardi and Tutwiler

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

Faculty Representatives: Professors Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Todd, UMass Boston; Roscoe, UMass Dartmouth; Marchand, UMass Lowell; Walker, UMass Chan Medical School

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: December 16, 2024 (Committee of the Whole, Open & Executive Session)
- Meeting Minutes: December 18, 2024 (Open & Executive Session)
- Department of Defense, Exclusion from Personnel Clearance Requirements, Doc. T25-008

Chairman Karam convened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

He asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of Phil Johnston; a proud graduate of UMass Amherst, former member of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the UMass Building Authority, and a member of the UMass Foundation Board. The UMass community will greatly miss his leadership, wisdom, kindness and friendship. Chairman Karam expressed condolences to his wife, Beverly and the entire Johnston family.

Chairman Karam announced that the open session portion of the meeting will be audio and video recorded by a member of the media. He stated that the Board is meeting remotely, pursuant to Sections 20 and 30A of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, most recently amended by Section 1 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, an act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency, and signed by the Governor on March 28, 2025.

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 December 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole open and executive sessions and the December 18, 2024 Board meeting's open and executive sessions, and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Under the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, Open Meeting Law Guide and Educational Materials, General Counsel Lowy, under the delegation of the UMass Boston of Trustees, has determined that the December 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole and the December 18, 2024 Board of Trustees executive session minutes will not be released and should remain confidential because publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.

Chair's Remarks

Chairman Karam welcomed Trustee Juana Matias to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Matias is a UMass Boston graduate, former Massachusetts state legislator, a nonprofit executive, and a presidentially appointed federal administrator.

Chairman Karam thanked President Meehan, Chancellors, and the Administration and Finance teams for proactively managing the University through this moment. Their proactive financial management has been instrumental in maintaining operational stability and meeting the Board's requirement of 2% operating margin. He highlighted the work of the Advisory Working Group, which has led to an effort to enhance admissions sharing efforts across the campuses, identify growth markets, working with partners at EY Parthenon to develop an updated pricing strategy, and significantly improve our forecasting and reporting. This work has already yielded additional insight for leadership, and the Board, on the campus's enrollment efforts and successes, which allows for data-driven decisions in the years ahead as demographics continue to present challenges for higher education nationally.

Chairman Karam highlighted the partnerships between the UMass campuses and the community colleges. This continues to be a strategic priority for the University given the increase in students at community colleges through the MassEducate free community college program. President Meehan and Senior Vice President Nef Walker recently hosted a meeting between the UMass chancellors and provosts, and the community college presidents and provosts, to discuss strategies for improving the transfer experience and enhancing student success.

Student Trustee Report, UMass Boston

Trustee Raymond reported on both the progress and concerns at UMass Boston. Highlights included: UMass Boston's designation as an R1 research institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institution of Higher Education, a successful New England Counsel of Higher Education (NECHE) accreditation process, the ResilientMass Summit with Governor Healey and Mayor Wu, and Ary Garceau, a junior track and field student athlete from Dalton, who won the 2024-2025 NCAA Division Three Indoor Track and Field Women's 60-meter Hurdles National Championship. She also reported on students' concerns about federal instability and the future of higher education, including threats to diversity, academic freedom and financial aid. She called for transparency, communication and support from University leadership.

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Trustee Raymond spoke to the proposed tuition increases, expressing concern over the financial burden on students in an already unstable period. She applauded initiatives like the Beacon Pledge at UMass Boston, that commit to making higher education more affordable for Massachusetts residents but is concerned about what is to come in the Federal Student Aid Office that will make financial aid harder to access and administer. She urged the Board to continue to keep the affordability of the University in mind for both current and future students of UMass.

President's Report

President Meehan echoed Chairman Karam's remarks welcoming Trustee Matias to the Board.

President Meehan reported that the University, along with other research institutions, are navigating a rapidly shifting and challenging federal funding landscape, including an increase in recent visa revocations affecting international students at some UMass campuses and at universities across the country. Federal authorities have not notified the University directly, but staff have been proactive in identifying impacted students by monitoring immigration databases closely. The University is taking steps to ensure students are aware of this issue and urging them to review their visa status. The campuses are providing appropriate support and connecting students with external resources when necessary. President Meehan reaffirmed UMass' commitment to protect its international community and advocate for their protection in partnership with the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Attorney General Campbell and the Legislature.

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) recently decided to cap facilities and administrative costs at 15%, and threatened to immediately reduce research funding by more than \$60M. The University provided evidentiary support for a lawsuit co-led by Attorney General Campbell and 21 other state Attorneys General. While that effort was successful in securing a preliminary injunction, the University continues to experience a significant slowdown in federal grant funding and numerous cancellations. This is just one of five multi-state lawsuits co-led by the Attorney General that UMass has provided evidentiary support for.

Additionally, the federal government's desire to eliminate the Department of Education would potentially lead to disruptions that could impact students and the University's operations if the administration of federal financial aid programs such as Pell Grants and Student Loans are transferred to other agencies. In FY24, UMass received a total of \$961M from the federal government, including \$285M from NIH, \$92M of which was allocated to facilities and administrative costs that are critical to sustaining high-caliber research, \$423M in federally funded student financial aid, and approximately \$200M in research funds from other agencies like the National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, Department of Education and NASA. Approximately 10,000 of the University's employees have salaries that are at least partially supported by these funds, with more than 2,000 being full-time employees.

The disruption in higher education led Moody's to issue an advisory in March which downgraded the outlook of the entire sector from "stable" to "negative." President Meehan stressed that this environment requires strong financial management and while challenging, are necessary to maintain the integrity of the University's operations and ensure long-term financial sustainability. The University must also take steps to ensure consistent revenue streams, which makes the FY26

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state appropriation and other sources like tuition critical. With the proposed 3-3.5% increase for undergraduate students, UMass continues to remain below regional peers and the Higher Education Price Index and Consumer Price Index inflationary rates.

President Meehan reported that the FY25 Financial Aid Report showed that UMass funding financial aid reached a record of \$422M this year. He noted that more than one-third of in-state undergraduate students currently attend UMass tuition-free. The state's investment into the MassGrant Plus Expansion program also has significantly expanded state-funded financial aid to students. President Meehan is grateful to Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano and the Legislature for this support of students.

President Meehan celebrated recent achievements, including national recognition for the Unified Procurement Services Team (UPST), the proposed BRIGHT Act which will invest in the physical infrastructure of the campuses, a landmark \$35M gift from the Paul J. DiMare Foundation to the UMass Chan Medical School, the naming of the Kennedy Family Athletic Center at UMass Lowell, and a prestigious computing awards for UMass Amherst Professor Emeritus Andrew G. Barto.

Public Speakers

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

Carlos Pacheco, Labor Studies student at UMass Boston, expressed concern for UMass Boston's role in gentrification and displacement in the Columbia Point and Dorchester areas. He addressed the rising tuition costs, targeting out-of-state students, which has driven the housing costs and limited access for Black, Latino, and immigrant populations. He called for action to protect access to higher education and support for marginalized communities within UMass.

Standing Committee Reports:

Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

Trustee Scheibel reported that the Audit and Risk Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. 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 activities, and update on the Committee's priorities, as well as highlighted trends in the internal audit profession and how they are being adopted to better serve the University. Senior Vice President Calise and Assistant Vice President Packard provided an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) update, including how its framework is helping the University prepare for existing risks and challenges, including ongoing federal activities. Trustee Scheibel reported that KPMG's Uniform Guidance audit resulted in no findings.

Report of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

Trustee Paris Jeffries reported that the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs met on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. President Meehan gave his report followed by remarks from Senior Vice President Walker. The Committee considered and voted on one action item: Appointment to Endowed Chair at UMass Amherst. The action item was voted for inclusion in the Consent Agenda for full Board action today.

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There was one discussion item. Deputy Vice President Walker and Assistant Vice President Weaver introduced the discussion, and students from each campus presented on their faculty-led undergraduate research. The Committee then voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of considering three action items: Appointments with Tenure, Awards of Tenure and Honorary Degrees. The tenure items were also voted for inclusion in the Consent Agenda for full Board action.

Report of the Committee on Administration and Finance

Trustee O'Brien reported that the Committee on Administration and Finance met on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. Senior Vice President Calise and her team provided a comprehensive presentation on the potential impacts of the federal directives along with the planning and preparation underway to gather information, evaluate risks and scenario planning. The FY26 budget presentation in June will reflect implementation activities and action plans based on more information as federal guidance unfolds. The Committee also discussed the focused planning activities completed by campuses to assist in addressing the University's number one risk, enrollment.

The Committee considered and voted on five action items: Approval of Tuition and Mandatory Charges and Authorization to Approve Other Charges for Academic Year 2025-2026, Doc. T25-002; Approval of Changes to the Capital Projects List (related to the FY2024–FY2028 Capital Plan) – Approval of Cost Change (traditional project) Façade Phase 1B, UMass Boston, Doc. T23-047, as amended; Approval of Debt Refunding, Doc. T25-015; Naming of the Kennedy Family Athletic Complex, UMass Lowell, Doc. T25-001; and Approval of the Establishment of the Paul J. DiMare Foundation Endowment Fund and the Naming of the Paul J. DiMare Center, UMass Chan Medical School, Doc. T25-016. The action items were approved and placed on the consent agenda. The Committee also met in Executive Session.

Report of the Athletics Committee

Trustee Brunelle reported that the Athletics Committee met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. President Meehan gave his report highlighting accomplishments of each campus in the 2024-2025 school year. There were two information items: Athletics Director Schuman provided an update on UMass Boston athletics and Athletics Director Hendricks provided an update on UMass Dartmouth athletics. The Committee then voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the *NCAA v. House* proposed settlement.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Karam stated that on April 1, 2025 the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs approved and voted to place their action items 1-3 on the Consent Agenda and on April 2, 2025, the Committee on Administration and Finance approved and voted to place their action items 4-8 on the Consent Agenda for Board approval today. He then asked for a motion to approve items 1-8 on the Consent Agenda. It was moved by Trustee Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Wu. 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, Matias, Nicum, O'Brien, Paris Jeffries,

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Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman, Wu and Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler). Trustee Osa-Agbontaen voted against the motion.

VOTED: To approve the following votes listed as 1-8 on the Consent Agenda:

The Committee on Academic and Student Affairs approved items 1-3 on April 1, 2025.

1. Appointment to Endowed Chair, UMass Amherst, Doc. T25-009

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Elsbeth Neil to the Rudd Family Endowed Chair in Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2. Appointments with Tenure, UMass Amherst, Doc. T25-011

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Maria del Guadalupe Davidson in the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Katrin Erk in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Melinda Gonzalez-Bracken in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Gregory Kelly in the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Elsbeth Neil in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

3. Awards of Tenure, UMass Dartmouth, Chan Medical School, Doc. T25-012

To concur with the President in the awards of tenure to the following individuals in the following departments:

Dartmouth	Aneesa Baboolal, Crime and Justice Studies
	Sarah Caudill, Physics
	Wei-Shun Chang, Chemistry & Biochemistry
	Yuchou Chang, Computer & Information Science
	Faisal Chaudry, Law
	Anoosha Izadi, Management & Marketing
	Genevieve Kozak, Biology
	Gokhan Kul, Computer & Information Science
	Raina Lamade, Psychology
	Hangjian Ling, Mechanical Engineering
	Vanessa Lovelace, Crime and Justice Studies
	Toniqua Mikell, Crime and Justice Studies
	Anna Schierberl Scherr, Psychology

Banafsheh Seyed-Aghazadeh, Mechanical Engineering
Caiwei Shen, Mechanical Engineering

Chan Medical School Johanna Seddon, Ophthalmology & Visual Science
Amir Mitchell, Systems Biology
Yang Xiang, Neurobiology

The Committee on Administration and Finance approved items 4-8 on April 2, 2025.

4. Approval of Tuition and Mandatory Charges and Authorization to Approve Other Charges for Academic Year 2025-2026, Doc. T25-002

1. In accordance with Section 1A of Chapter 75 of the General Laws, and Policy T92-031, Appendix E, as amended to authorize the President to approve the individual Tuition and Mandatory Fee rates for the Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell campuses; provided that the Mandatory Student Activities Fees are pending student body approval and are subject to change. The Tuition and Mandatory Fees at each campus are as outlined below for academic year 2025-2026:

<u>Tuition & Mandatory Fees</u>	<u>Amherst</u>	<u>Boston</u>	<u>Dartmouth</u>	<u>Lowell</u>
Undergraduate (in-state)	\$18,487	\$16,558	\$16,233	\$17,665
Undergraduate (regional)	\$34,822	\$28,417	\$21,970	\$30,008
Undergraduate (out-of-state)	\$41,759	\$39,365	\$33,782	\$37,460
Graduate (in-state)*	\$18,822	\$16,114	\$17,534	\$17,036
Graduate (regional)*	\$34,777	\$27,671	\$22,963	\$25,280
Graduate (out-of-state)*	\$40,094	\$30,637	\$30,987	\$29,248
Graduate Law School (in-state)			\$32,581	
Graduate Law School (regional)			\$34,735	
Graduate Law School (out-of-state)			\$42,380	

*Amherst graduate rate based on 12 credits; Boston, Dartmouth, and Lowell graduate rate based on 9 credits.

2. In accordance with Section 1A of Chapter 75 of the General Laws, to establish and approve the following Tuition and Mandatory Fee rates for UMass Chan Medical School's graduate-only programs for academic year 2025-2026:

<u>Tuition & Mandatory Fees</u>	<u>FY26</u>
T.H. Chan School of Medicine (in-state)	\$44,911
T.H. Chan School of Medicine (out-of-state)	\$75,337
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing (in-state)	\$18,253
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing (NE regional)	\$22,223
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing (out-of-state)	\$24,317
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing Graduate Entry Program (in-state)	\$53,213
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing Graduate Entry Program (NE regional)	\$60,577
Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing Graduate Entry Program (out-of-state)	\$67,937
Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (in-state)	\$17,944
Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (out-of-state)	\$37,779

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3. And further, in accordance with Section 1A of Chapter 75 of the General Laws and T92-031 Appendix E, to authorize the President to approve final student housing rent and food service charges for academic year 2025-26.

<u>Room and Board</u>	<u>Amherst</u>	<u>Boston*</u>	<u>Dartmouth</u>	<u>Lowell</u>
Room	\$8,734	\$11,908	\$11,576	\$9,700
Board	\$7,992	\$6,650	\$6,110	\$5,850

**Board Only*

4. And further, to authorize the President to approve individual fee rates for other fees and fee/revenue based operations charges for all campuses.
5. **Approval of Changes to the Capital Projects Lists (related to the FY2024-FY2028 Capital Plan): Cost Change traditional project, Façade Phase 1B, UMass Boston, Doc. T23-047, as amended**

Pursuant to Trustee Policy T93-122, as amended, to authorize the following project under the **cost change 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	Cost Change	Funding Sources	
							Local Funding	State Funding
Boston	Façade Repairs - Phase 1B	Wheatley Hall	187,818,912	7,775,000	10,623,000	11,893,000	7,112,018	4,780,982
TOTAL			187,818,912	7,775,000	10,623,000	11,893,000	7,112,018	4,780,982

6. **Approval of Debt Refunding, Doc. T25-015**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 773 of the Acts of 1960, as amended ("Building Authority Enabling Act"), the University of Massachusetts Building Authority is a body politic and corporate and a public instrumentality of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth") created to aid and contribute to the performance of the education and other purposes of the University of Massachusetts (the "University") by providing buildings and other structures for the use of the University, its students, staff and their dependents and for lease to or use by an organization or association, in any form, of students or others the activities of which are a part of the activities at the University and subject to regulation by the Board of Trustees of the University (the "Trustees");

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Trustees it is in the best interest of the University for the Building Authority to restructure bonds when deemed desirable and refund bonds when market conditions are favorable; provided that such determination shall be subject to prudent financial analysis of potential loss; and

WHEREAS, the Building Authority's enabling act authorizes the Trustees, on behalf of the Commonwealth, to provide a Commonwealth guaranty of not to exceed \$200,000,000 outstanding principal amount of Building Authority Bonds;

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It is now recommended that the Board take the following action:

1. The issuance of refunding bonds by the Building Authority is hereby approved, in such amount and pursuant to such terms, including but not limited to restructuring the terms of debt service, as shall be approved in writing by either the President and the Senior Vice President for Administration & Finance and Treasurer of the University, acting alone (each, an "Authorized Officer").
2. Each Authorized Officer hereby is authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the University and the Commonwealth one or more contracts for financial assistance, management and services with respect to the projects refinanced by the Building Authority and the Building Authority refunding bonds issued in connection therewith and authorized herein. Each such contract may include the Commonwealth guaranty of all or a portion of such bonds, as determined by an Authorized Officer and within the limits prescribed by the Building Authority's enabling act.
3. Each Authorized Officer is hereby authorized to take such other action as deemed necessary or desirable to be done or taken to effectuate the matters hereby authorized, as conclusively evidenced by their doing the things or taking the action hereby authorized.
7. **Naming of the Kennedy Family Athletic Complex, UMass Lowell, Doc. T25-001**
To re-name the Costello Athletic Center to the Kennedy Family Athletic Complex at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.
8. **Approval of the establishment of the Paul J. DiMare Foundation Endowment Fund and Naming of the Paul J. DiMare Center, UMass Chan Medical School, Doc. T25-016**
In accordance with sections 1A(e) and 11 of Chapter 75 of the General Laws to establish the the Paul J. DiMare Foundation Endowment Fund at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further,

To name the New Education and Research Building (NERB) the Paul J. DiMare Center at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

Other Business: Department of Defense, Exclusion from Personnel Clearance Requirements, Doc. T25-008

Chairman Karam asked for a motion to approve the Department of Defense, Exclusion from Personnel Clearance Requirements, Doc. T25-008. This is a routine item updating new trustees on the exclusion list from personnel clearance requirement. It was moved by Trustee Brunelle and seconded by Vice Chair Burns. Chairman Karam asked for questions or comments.

With none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chairman Karam voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Matias, Nicum, O'Brien, Osa-Agbontaen, Paris Jeffries, Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman, Wu and Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler).

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 consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, including proposed and ongoing projects, as permitted under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21a, Purpose (6).

Chairman Karam stated that the meeting would not reconvene in open session and asked for a motion. It was moved by Trustee Wu and seconded by Trustee Scheibel.

The Secretary called the roll. Chairman Karam voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns; Trustees Brunelle, Colella, Delgado, Epstein, Matias, Nicum, O'Brien, Osa-Agbontaen, Paris Jeffries, Scheibel, Sullivan, Tolman, Wu and Mr. Moreau (representing Trustee Tutwiler).

The time was 9:41 a.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees