

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

Monday, September 16, 2024; 2:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting

**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 Brunelle; Vice Chair Burns (UMass Board); Trustees Delgado, Maguire Keches, Raymond and Sullivan; Chairman Karam (UMass Board)

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Lewis

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Lowy; Senior Vice President Calise; Chancellors Reyes, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller and Chen; Athletics Directors Schuman, Hendricks and Coutts; Deputy Athletics Director Britton

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: November 29, 2023 (Open Session)
- Meeting Minutes: February 29, 2024 (Open & Executive Session)

Chair Brunelle convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m. and reminded the Committee that the Governor of Massachusetts issued an executive order on March 12, 2020, which had 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 with adequate and alternative means of access available. 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 meeting.

Consideration of Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee

Chair Brunelle stated that the Committee received a copy of the meeting minutes from the November 29, 2023 open session and the February 29, 2024 open and executive sessions. He stated that if there were no comments or corrections, the minutes were approved.

Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 30A and under the Office of The MA Attorney General, Open Meeting Law Guide and Educational Materials, General Counsel Lowy, under the delegation of the UMass Board of Trustees, has determined that the Executive Session minutes will not be released at this time, and should remain confidential because publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.

Chair's Report

Chair Brunelle welcomed the new Athletics Committee Student Trustee member, Abigail Raymond, and Athletic Directors, Ryan Bamford, Jacqui Schuman, Lori Hendricks, and Lynn Coutts. He also thanked Board of Trustees Chairman Steve Karam for supporting the reinstitution of the Committee, noting the reestablishment of the Athletics Committee last year to make sure that Trustees are well-informed about the major issues facing collegiate athletics across the country, including Title IX, Name-Image-Likeness (NIL), and most recently the NCAA litigation. He wants to assure the Committee that the University is closely monitoring the *NCAA v. House* proposed settlement, and while there are more questions than answers at this time, he knows that we will be poised to respond appropriately when the time comes.

President's Report

President Meehan welcomed UMass Boston Student Trustee, Abigail Raymond, to the Board and thanked the Trustees serving on the Athletics Committee and the Athletic Directors, whose leadership will help the university's athletic programs maintain their strong competitive positioning and whose positive guidance to the student-athletes ensures that they are prepared to succeed both on and off the field. The University is well-positioned to effectively navigate the opportunities that will arise in this evolving landscape.

President Meehan congratulated the Chancellors and Athletics Directors on the many successes of their athletics programs in the 2023-2024 academic year and highlighted a few accomplishments from each campus.

UMass Amherst's Women's tennis won their third Atlantic 10 Championship; women's lacrosse won the Atlantic 10 regular season title; three coaches won the Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year Award.

UMass Boston's Women's lacrosse completed their inaugural season and earned their first win; women's tennis won the Little East Tournament Championship; several teams were Regular Season Little East Conference Champions.

UMass Dartmouth's Head football coach, John Sylvester, was selected for the prestigious NCAA/NFL Football Coaches Academy; Cameron Rodgers, a member of the track and field team was named First Team All-American for 400-Meter Hurdles and 110-Meter Hurdles and was named Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year for a third time (the only student-athlete in LEC history to win the award three times); women's volleyball, football, and baseball were all Little East Conference champions.

UMass Lowell's Men's cross country and men's outdoor track and field both won America East Championship titles; James Kotowski qualified for the Olympic trials in javelin; field hockey was America East's Regular Season Champions and won its first ever Kennedy Cup.

President Meehan welcomed new Athletic Director at UMass Lowell, Lynn Coutts.

Informational Item

Chancellor Chen welcomed and introduced UMass Lowell's new Athletic Director, Lynn Coutts. She comes to UMass Lowell after serving as associate vice chancellor and deputy director of athletics and the Senior Woman Administrator at the University of Denver. While she was there, men's ice hockey won two NCAA championships. She has had success at every level, as an All-American softball pitcher at UMaine and later head softball coach at her alma mater, earning Coach of the Year in her final season. She has also run a successful business for over a dozen years. Athletic Director Coutts thanked the Committee for the welcome, and looks forward to working with everyone.

Executive Session Announcement

Chair Brunelle asked for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to the collective bargaining or litigation as permitted under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21a, Purpose (3); and to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law necessitating confidentiality, as permitted under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21a, Purpose 7, and Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 4, Section 7, clause 26, subclauses (d) and (u), since public disclosure in an open meeting would compromise the purposes for which the executive session is being called and have a detrimental effect on the University.

Chair Brunelle stated that the meeting would not reconvene in open session and asked for a motion. It was moved by Trustee Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Delgado.

The Secretary called the roll. Chair Brunelle voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Burns (UMass Board); Trustees Delgado, Maguire Keches, Sullivan; and Chairman Karam (UMass Board).

The time was 2:13 p.m.

Chelsey L. Burke
Assistant Secretary to the Board