

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2022; 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**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Paris Jeffries; Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Bates, Bhandari, Dyer, Epstein, Houle, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi

**Committee Members Absent:** Trustee Osterhaus-Houle

**University Administration:** President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; System Chancellor Newman; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco, Fuller, Moloney and Collins; Provosts McCarthy, Berger, Balasubramanian (Interim), Hartman and Flotte

**Faculty Representatives:** Professors Hoagland, UMass Amherst; Kim, UMass Boston; and Hurwitz. UMass Lowell

**Documents Used:**

- Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2021 (Open & Executive Session)
- Commonwealth Collegiate Academy of the University of Massachusetts, Doc. T22-001
- Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Chan Medical School, Doc. T22-002

Chair Paris Jeffries convened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. and stated that the Board continues to meet remotely under the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020. All necessary and required Action Items for Board vote in open session, and where required, in Executive Session will be addressed.

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.

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that he granted a request by System Chancellor Newman to record the discussion portion of the meeting. The participants consented to be recorded.

Chair Paris Jeffries provided instructions for the Zoom meeting.

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**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 November 17, 2021 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: a discussion item, one action item, four items for action in Executive Session, and reports from President Meehan and System Chancellor Newman.

**President's Report**

President Meehan commented on the University's contingency planning and adaptation since the pandemic noting the safety focus and acknowledging the leadership across the University. He spoke to the upcoming commencements noting the achievements of the Class of 2022 despite the mental health crisis facing college students, which is a top priority for the Chancellors and for college presidents across the nation.

President Meehan provided campus highlights. At UMass Amherst, Assistant Professor Marta Vicarelli, from the School of Public Policy and Economics Department, is working with peers from the University of Glasgow, the University of Costa Rica, and the United Nations University to inform strategies for the successful and inclusive post-pandemic recovery of coastal communities. At UMass Boston, the Office of Community Partnerships held an event on February 24<sup>th</sup> to explore ways the University can deepen its community connections through research, teaching and community engagement. At UMass Dartmouth, Professor of History, Brian Glyn Williams, presented a public presentation on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. At UMass Lowell, Associate Professor of Criminology and Justice Studies Christopher Harris is leading a U.S. Department of Homeland Security-funded examination of the insider threat posed by law enforcement officers who join militant far-right white supremacist and anti-government groups. At UMass Chan Medical School, Dr. Kristin Mattocks, Professor of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences and Associate Dean for Veterans was named to the Editorial Board of Women's Health Issues...the prestigious journal of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health at George Washington University.

President Meehan announced that the University received a \$330,000 planning grant from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation to support development of an early college pilot program, which System Chancellor Newman will present in detail. He thanked the System Chancellor for her leadership and the people on the campuses for their contributions on the effort.

**Discussion Item: The Commonwealth inaugurated program to support early college programs in the state's high schools**

Chair Paris Jeffries reported that the discussion focuses on a program to support early college programs in the state's high schools. The University of Massachusetts is applying for approval from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Higher Education to launch a pilot program in the Fall of 2022 from the Dartmouth and Lowell campuses. The Commonwealth Collegiate Academy (CCA) of the University of Massachusetts is intended to increase the college matriculation of first generation, low income, and students of color via remote

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‘live’ instruction that will enable students to complete 30 credits or one full year of courses that will simultaneously satisfy high school graduation requirements and UMass college credits.

System Chancellor Newman noted that five committees from across the UMass system worked to develop the University of Massachusetts’ Commonwealth Collegiate Academy and acknowledged Dr. Judith Evans, former superintendent of the Winchester Public Schools and a 30 year veteran of public high school education, for her support and serving as the consultant for the feasibility study completed in December. A grant from the Smith Family Foundation helped with planning the program.

System Chancellor Newman provided the background for the program. The University will be applying for an implementation grant for the project and expects to launch the program in the Fall of 2022 from the Dartmouth and Lowell campuses to a set of high schools in their respective regions. The Amherst and Boston campuses would be added thereafter. The CCAs five goals are to increase affordability and access to secondary education, especially for underserved students; to reduced remediation rates and costs; to improve enrollment in postsecondary education and increase student body diversity; to develop stronger alignment between educators and employers; and to improved job prospects for underserved students.

System Chancellor Newman provided an overview of state enrollment in early college programs. She noted that most of the existing programs are in the Gateway cities, are mainly served by community colleges, and UMass looks to complement, not replace, those existing programs. She also provided an overview of the planned course offerings.

System Chancellor Newman noted that the Dartmouth and Lowell campuses will serve as the program’s pilot leaders and introduced Michael Goodman, Professor of Public Policy and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives from UMass Dartmouth to discuss the campus’ plan. Professor Goodman provided the background for UMass Dartmouth’s partnership with K-12 district leadership in Fall River, New Bedford, Taunton, and Brockton. Letters of intent to participate have been received and MOUs are being developed. He discussed the two year schedule of course offerings being developed and noted the 3 early college pathways that emerged from the campus’ collaboration with district leaders in each community. STEM, with a Computer Science focus; STEM, with a Business focus, and Arts.

Professor Goodman stated that early college pathways are carefully selected to complement and not to compete with existing early programs currently offered by fellow public higher education institutions in the districts, and designed to align district interests and needs with campus strengths and instructional capacity.

System Chancellor Newman introduced Kerri Johnston, Dean of Enrollment Management from UMass Lowell. Vice Chancellor Johnston provided the background for UMass Lowell’s partnership with high schools in the northeast region of Massachusetts noting the campus’ selection process. She restated that the CCA seeks to complement, not replace the existing state-approved early college partnerships. She reported that Billerica Memorial, Methuen, and Dracut high schools confirmed their plans to participate in the program through signed letters of intent

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and/or signed MOUs. UMass Lowell is in the process of finalizing its course offerings and schedules and training sessions for both its faculty members and high school partner teachers.

Vice Chair Scheibel expressed her excitement for the program. She thanked System Chancellor Newman and the five committees involved. She commented on how this kind of innovative and thoughtful approach will help to address enrollment trends as the University looks to the future. She commended the campuses for their involvement with the program and offered to assist with that effort.

Trustee Ramos Gagliardi expressed her excitement and support for the program. She commented on the importance of specific pathways and the link to industry. She encouraged a link to the business community in both regions and offered to assist with that effort.

Trustee Epstein thanked System Chancellor Newman and commended the campuses for their work. He inquired about how the program may affect community colleges. System Chancellor Newman responded and noted how the campuses are collaborating with the community colleges.

Trustee Peyser also expressed his support and spoke to potential opportunity and impact the program will present statewide. He spoke to targeting underrepresented students earlier in order to provide access to them and set them up for success. He inquired about the program's selection and admission process to which System Chancellor Newman noted the plan to work with high schools.

**System Chancellor for Academic Programs Report**

System Chancellor Newman reported on her department's work to develop a system-wide research program for the five campuses. She stated that preparations are underway to apply for federal funding (\$100-200 million) of a Regional Innovation Accelerator, a grants program under the National Science Foundation. She then highlighted the UMass system's partnership with MITRE, a non-profit corporation that hosts federally funded Research and Development Centers and public-private partnerships in artificial intelligence, data science, quantum computing, health informatics, space security, cybersecurity and related fields.

System Chancellor Newman noted a related effort underway through the Biden administration from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), with Northeastern as the lead university. She noted UMass' critical role and introduced Carl Rust, the inaugural Executive Director of Industry Engagement and Business development discuss the project.

Executive Director Rust stated the goal of the EDA's regional challenge to help regional economies recover from the pandemic and to build economic diversity and resiliency to mitigate adverse impacts of future economic disasters. He discussed the proposal process and highlighted Northeastern's proposal entitled BioConnects New England which was the only finalist from Massachusetts focused on biomanufacturing. He noted that although UMass was not involved in the preliminary proposal it was invited to participate in in the full proposal once Northeastern was announced as a finalist. Mr. Rust noted the five ways that UMass is participating. As a drug product development and freeze-drying prototype facility at UMass Lowell; with a series of biomanufacturing internships and hands-on training for UMass Boston students at MassBiologics

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in Mattapan; as a biomanufacturing lab course at UMass Lowell that can be transferred to other campuses; and with the evaluation of the effectiveness of the BioConnects (BCNE) programs by Donohue Institute at Amherst. The EDA is expected to announce 20-30 awards between August and October 2022. He stated that UMass can build on and leverage for endless frontier opportunities in collaboration with MITRE given their similarities.

**Action Item # 1: Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Lowell, Chan Medical School, Doc. T22-002**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs at UMass Amherst, Lowell, and Chan Medical School. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Peters.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Associate Professor Elaine Ying Wang to the James P. O'Connell Endowed Professorship in Accounting at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of John Kaag, Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy to the Nancy Donahue Professorship in the Arts at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Jayant Kumar, Professor, Physics and Applied Physics to the Sukant Tripathy Endowed Chair at the University of Massachusetts Lowell for a five-year term.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Roberto Caricchio, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine as the Myles J. McDonough Chair in Rheumatology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Robert H. Brown, Jr., D.Phil., M.D., Professor of Neurology and Director of the Neurotherapeutics Institute as The Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chair in Neurosciences at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Michael P. Stauff, M.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopedics and Physical Rehabilitation, as the inaugural holder of The Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chair in Orthopedics at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Tiffanie Moore Simas, MD, MPH, MEd, FACOG, Professor and Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, for appointment to The Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chair in

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Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Joan M. Vitello, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAHA, FAAN, Professor and Dean of the Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing for appointment to The Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chair in Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Mary Ellen Lane, Ph.D., Professor of Neurobiology and Dean of the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences as The Donna M. and Robert J. Manning Chair in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Celia A. Schiffer, PhD, Professor and Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology, be appointed as the new Arthur F. and Helen P. Koskinas Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

Provosts McCarthy, Hartman and Flotte provided the background information for the appointments.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. There being none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Houle, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

**Consent Agenda**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel to place the Action Item on a Consent Agenda.

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for questions or comments. There being none, the Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Houle, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

**Executive Session Announcement**

Chair Paris Jeffries asked the Committee for a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 75, Section 4, for the purpose of considering Appointments with Tenure, UMass Chan Medical School; Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Dartmouth, Lowell, Chan Medical School; Transfer of Tenure, UMass Amherst; and Honorary Degrees, UMass Lowell and Chan Medical School. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Peters.

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The Secretary called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chair Paris Jeffries voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Scheibel; Trustees Epstein, Houle, Kunda, Lewis, Okwara, Peters, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

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 11:12 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees