

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

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

Wednesday, May 25, 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, Kunda, Peyser (joined at 10:15 a.m.) and Ramos Gagliardi

Other Trustees: Trustees Burns

Committee Members Absent: Trustees Houle, Lewis, Okwara, Osterhaus-Houle and Peters

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 and Kim, UMass Boston

Documents Used:

- Meeting Minutes: March 30, 2022 (Open & Executive Session)
- Assessing the outcome of the pandemic: enrollment, retention, migration to remote learning, physical and psychological health impacts, and graduation, Doc. T22-021
- Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering, UMass Amherst, Doc. T22-022
- Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Chan Medical School, Doc. T22-023

Chair Paris Jeffries opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. He acknowledged the senseless gun violence plaguing the country, and the victims and their family.

Chair Paris Jeffries stated that the Board continues to meet remotely under the Governor's executive order issued on March 12, 2020 and extended until July 15, 2022. The Committee will address all necessary and required Action Items for Board vote in open session and in Executive Session.

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 the Committee meeting.

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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 provided instructions for the Zoom meeting.

Discussion Item: Assessing the outcome of the pandemic: enrollment, retention, migration to remote learning, physical and psychological health impacts, and graduation

Chair Paris Jeffries reported that the discussion focuses on assessing the outcome of the pandemic. Particularly, its effects on enrollment, retention, migration to remote learning, physical and psychological health impacts, and graduation. He then called on Chancellor Newman to begin the discussion.

System Chancellor Newman noted the purpose of the discussion to take a look at how the UMass system fared in its efforts during the pandemic and introduced Ismael Carreras, Chief Data Strategist and Director for Academic Affairs and Economic Development, to begin the discussion.

Mr. Carreras discussed key metrics that look at the impact of COVID-19 at the University of Massachusetts. He discussed the system's five-year undergraduate and transfer admissions metrics (applications, admits and enrolled students), fall enrollment trends, and retention rates (2015-2021). System Chancellor Newman. System Chancellor Newman discussed retention rates concerns and challenges moving forward when the campuses return to normal functioning, and discussed faculty staffing and staff levels (FY18-FY22).

System Chancellor Newman then called on the Provosts to discuss 'silver linings' (new programs, processes, and ideas) developed on the campuses during the pandemic. She acknowledged and thanked Provosts McCarthy and Balasubramanian. It was their last meeting in the provost role. The two new provosts will be welcomed over the summer.

Provost McCarthy discussed changes to the academic calendar as an infectious control measure at UMass Amherst.

Provost Berger discussed Pronto, an app adopted to increase communication and coordination at UMass Boston.

Provost Balasubramanian discussed the development of instructional and web-based tools to effectively deliver the curriculum and programs at UMass Dartmouth.

Provost Hartman noted that a number of workshops were launched to assist students, and discussed the launch of CELT, the Center for Learning and Teaching, an initiative to assist faculty with preparing and delivering their courses at UMass Lowell.

Provost Flotte discussed telehealth education and its impact at the UMass Chan Medical School.

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Chair Paris Jeffries then turned to the official business of the agenda. He announced the meeting's agenda: the discussion item, two action items, two public speakers, two items for action in Executive Session, and reports from President Meehan and System Chancellor Newman.

President's Report

President Meehan reported on commencement season acknowledging the Class of 2022. This year's nearly 20,000 UMass graduates will join the University's 330,000 alumni.

President Meehan reported on the University's research enterprise, ARPA-H (the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health), and OTCV (Office of Technology Commercialization and Ventures) Awards.

It was announced last week that the University's research enterprise grew to \$752 million in fiscal year 2021 shattering the previous year's high of \$687 million, and growing nearly 20 percent over the past five years. The recent growth which took place in the middle of the pandemic was driven by the UMass Chan Medical School, where total R&D reached \$347 million... a 25 percent increase over the previous year. The President congratulated Chancellor Collins.

President Meehan also participated in a meeting last week with Governor Baker, Richard Neal, Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee and MassBio CEO Joe Boncore. The meeting convened three dozen Massachusetts business, civic and higher education leaders at the UMass Club to rally support to bring a new federal agency headquarters, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), devoted to high-risk high-reward biomedical research, to Massachusetts.

An announcement will be made today for seed funding for the 10 most innovative researchers across the five campuses who are developing technology with potential to be commercialized. They include technologies that can reduce patient and health-care worker exposure to drug-resistant bacteria, detect important ocean data, and determine genetic disorders linked to autism. The President thanked Carl Rust, the Executive Director of Industry Engagement and Business Development, for overseeing the initiative.

In closing his remarks on the multi-dimensional impact of the University of Massachusetts, President Meehan paraphrased historian David McCullough...*the two words, University and Massachusetts come together at one amazing place ... the University of Massachusetts*. The President stated that that should be celebrated as the University finishes another academic year.

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 March 30, 2022 meeting's Open and Executive Session and asked for any corrections. With no corrections, the minutes were approved.

System Chancellor for Academic Programs Report

System Chancellor Newman highlighted campus projects that were supported with the assistance of Carl Rust. Adam Grabell from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences and

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Tauhidur Rahman from the Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences at the Amherst campus created EarlyScreen, a lab-based game that detects the presence of psychological disorders in preschool children. The tool will help caregivers differentiate between normal misbehavior seen in children and serious symptom that need follow up. Weile Yan from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Lowell campus is developing sustainable technologies for more efficient lithium-ion batteries to recycle them (LIBs) recycling technologies.

Jie Song from the Department of Orthopedics and Physical Rehabilitation at the Medical School developed StaphShield, a coating that will release antibiotics to prevent bone infection. A technology that kills bacteria before it has a chance to colonize an implant or invade surrounding bone. Milana Vasudev from the Department of Bioengineering at the Dartmouth campus and her team are developing a technique that detects exosomes shed by ovarian cancer cells that will significantly improve the diagnosis of the deadly disease.

System Chancellor Newman reported that the proposal for an incubator grant to inaugurate the Early College program, the Commonwealth Collegiate Academy, has been submitted. UMass Lowell and UMass Dartmouth will lead the program as pilots and engage seven high schools in their geographic regions.

System Chancellor Newman thanked the outgoing Student Trustees for their service.

Action Item # 1: Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering, UMass Amherst, Doc. T22-022

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi.

To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Provosts McCarthy presented the specifics of the Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering at UMass Amherst.

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, Kunda, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

Action Item #2: Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs, UMass Amherst, Chan Medical School, Doc. T22-023

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to approve the Appointments to Named Professorships including Endowed Chairs at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Chan Medical School. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi.

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To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Erin Baker as Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Alice Y. Cheung as Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Ramesh Sitaraman as Distinguished Professor in the Manning College of Information & Computer Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Fousseni Chabi-Yo to the Berthiaume Endowed Professorship in Business Administration for a term of 5 years at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Eric H. Baehrecke to the Our Danny Cancer Fund Chair in Biomedical Research II at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Jeanne B. Lawrence to the Leo P. and Theresa M. LaChance Chair in Medical Research at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

And further, To concur with the President in the appointment of Professor Allen Mullen to the Mary C. DeFeudis Chair in Biomedical Research at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

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

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, Kunda, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

Consent Agenda

Chair Paris Jeffries asked for a motion to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda for the Board meeting on June 2nd. The motion was moved by Vice Chair Scheibel and seconded by Trustee Ramos Gagliardi to place the Action Items on a Consent Agenda.

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, Kunda, Peyser and Ramos Gagliardi.

Chair Paris Jeffries then asked for comments on the discussion item presented at the beginning of the meeting. Trustee Ramos Gagliardi asked about student support programs on the campuses as

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related to decreasing retention rates. System Chancellor Newman spoke to the programs to support student mental health and emotional needs on the campuses. A brief discussion ensued and Vice Chair Scheibel asked System Chancellor Newman to report back to the Committee on the work being done on the campuses to address the retention issue at a future meeting.

Public Speakers

Gary Siperstein, Director of the Center for Social Development and Education from UMass Boston and Mark Spolidoro, Director of Camp Shriver at UMass Boston spoke about Camp Shriver. Mr. Siperstein introduced the nationally recognized program that began in 2006 to the Committee. Mr. Spolidoro highlighted the camp's summer program on the Mount Ida campus of UMass Amherst.

President Meehan thanked the speakers for acknowledging the tremendous collaboration on the campuses, thanked Chancellor Subbaswamy and Jeff Cournoyer for their work, and spoke to the Mt. Ida campus serving as an asset to all of the UMass campuses.

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; and Awards of Tenure, UMass Amherst, Boston and Lowell. He announced that the Committee would not reconvene in open session. The motion was moved by Trustee Epstein and seconded by Vice Chair Scheibel.

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, Kunda, 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 11:26 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Secretary to the Board of Trustees