

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

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

Monday, May 9, 2022; 10:00 a.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 Extended to July 15, 2022**

Trustees Present: Chairman Manning; Vice Chair Peters; Trustees Bates, Burns, Epstein, Houle, Karam, Kelleher, Kunda, O'Brien, Osterhaus-Houle, Paris Jeffries, Peyser, Scheibel, Tolman, Woolridge and Wu

Trustees Absent: Trustees Bhandari, Dyer, Lewis, Okwara and Ramos Gagliardi

University Administration: President Meehan; General Counsel Leone; Chancellors Subbaswamy, Suárez-Orozco and Moloney

Chairman Manning convened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. and reminded everyone that the Governor has allowed for meetings to be held remotely. He then reminded the Trustees to unmute themselves for the Roll Call vote, and asked that they state their name when they move and second the motion for vote.

Chair's Remarks

Chairman Manning stated that it was a great day to announce a new chancellor for the Lowell campus. He acknowledged and thanked Chancellor Moloney for her nearly 40 years of remarkable service to the University. He thanked Trustees Houle and Okwara for their service on the Search Committee, and thanked Trustee Burns and Jerry Colella for co-chairing the Committee.

Chairman Manning commented on the challenges public higher education is facing noting that UMass Lowell is not exempt from those challenges and highlighted the campus' national rankings, research funding, private support, and its 100,000 plus alumni around the state, the nation, and the world. He commented on the significant challenges the UMass campuses will have to deal with going forward around enrollment, the budget, and the impact of inflation. He stated that it was a new moment in time for a new leader and new ideas at UMass Lowell and expressed his excitement to appoint that person.

Report of the University of Massachusetts Lowell Chancellor Search Committee

Trustee Burns expressed her gratitude and thanked the Search Committee members for their commitment, expertise, and passion. She thanked her co-chair and friend, Jerry Colella. She then reported that the Committee was established on January 27 and directed by Chairman Manning and President Meehan to identify leaders with a track record of effectiveness and a commitment to working with the community to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of the region.

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Trustee Burns reported that the search was comprehensive and inclusive. The Committee held 8 forums attended by hundreds of stakeholders to learn about the needs and aspirations of the UMass Lowell community, and the qualities that they want in a chancellor. Isaacson Miller, the search firm, communicated with 127 prospective candidates and interviewed 37 candidates. The Committee then interviewed 8 candidates leading to 3 finalists. At its final meeting on April 27, the Search Committee unanimously voted and presented the finalists to President Meehan for his review. The finalists were Julie Chen, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development, UMass Lowell; Alan Dorsey, PhD, Dean, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia; and Paul Tikalsky, PhD, Dean, College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, Oklahoma State University.

Trustee Burns thanked everyone who participated in the search process. She stated that the Committee met its goal to provide an outstanding pool of finalists for a position that is absolutely critical to the future of UMass Lowell, its students, and the community it serves.

President's Recommendation on the Appointment of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell

President Meehan thanked Search Committee co-chairs Mary Burns and Jerry Colella, and the rest of the Committee for a great job and for putting forward a strong set of finalists aspiring to lead UMass Lowell. He reported that following the Committee's submission of the finalists each finalist was invited to the campus for a day of meetings, held in person and over Zoom, with students, faculty, staff, senior leadership, alumni, and community stakeholders. The attendees were urged to provide confidential feedback on the finalists via an online form or via email to the President.

President Meehan echoed Chairman Manning's comments on the challenges colleges and universities across the nation are facing and noted that UMass Lowell is not without its challenges but is well-positioned in Lowell thanks to the leadership of Chancellor Moloney. President Meehan thanked Chancellor Moloney for her nearly 40 years of service at the University in her many roles.

President Meehan stated that the candidate who best meets the criteria to lead UMass Lowell is Dr. Julie Chen, currently the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development and a professor of mechanical engineering at UMass Lowell. He then provided the background for Dr. Chen who joined UMass Lowell's faculty in 1997, highlighting her career accomplishments and her work as the Chief Research Officer directing UMass Lowell's nearly \$95 million research enterprise. He stated that her vast experience in all the areas will determine the success of the university in years ahead, and with her deep commitment to empowering students and communities through education and innovation, Dr. Chen is the right person to lead UMass Lowell at this moment.

With great enthusiasm, President Meehan recommended Dr. Julie Chen for the position of Chancellor at UMass Lowell.

Appointment of the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Doc. T22-014

Chairman Manning asked for a motion to appoint Dr. Julie Chen as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell; and further to authorize the President to enter into a contract with Dr. Julie Chen for the Position of Chancellor in accordance with the most recent recommendation from

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the Compensation Committee, which met before the special Board meeting. He reminded the Trustees to unmute themselves for the Roll Call vote and state their name when they move and second the motion.

The motion was moved by Trustee Burns and seconded by Trustee Epstein.

Chairman Manning then asked for comments on the motion. Trustee Burns expressed her support for the motion and commented on the outstanding person Dr. Chen is. Chairman Manning commented and stated that he couldn't be more proud as an alum. Trustee Houle commented on students' positive comments and support for Dr. Chen.

Trustee Scheibel thanked the Search Committee and co-chairs Mary Burns and Jerry Colella for their hard work and noted the involvement searches require. Trustees Osterhaus-Houle, Epstein, Paris Jeffries, and Tolman echoed the comments and support for Dr. Chen, and thanked the Search Committee for its work. Trustee Burns thanked the President's Office staff and the search firm, Isaacson Miller, for their work.

The Secretary then called the roll with each Trustee asked to vote yes or no. Chairman Manning voted for the motion as did Vice Chair Peters; Trustees Burns, Epstein, Houle, Karam, Kelleher, Kunda, O'Brien, Osterhaus-Houle, Paris Jeffries, Peyser, Scheibel, Tolman, Woolridge and Wu.

The motion passed unanimously.

VOTED: To appoint Dr. Julie Chen as Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

And further,

To authorize the President to enter into a contract with Dr. Julie Chen for the Position of Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell in accordance with the most recent recommendation of the Compensation Committee.

Chairman Manning congratulated Trustee Paris Jeffries for the groundbreaking on the Embrace project on the Boston Common. Trustee Paris Jeffries, thanked the Chairman and the UMass family and noted that the project is being spearheaded by two UMass alums.

Dr. Chen joined the meeting and Chairman Manning congratulated her on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Chen thanked Chairman Manning, the Board, and President Meehan, and commented on the great honor that it is to accept the position. She stated that UMass Lowell has the spirit and drive to make sure it continues to expand opportunities for its students and thanked President Meehan and Chancellor Moloney for the foundation they set at UMass Lowell. She thanked the faculty, students, alumni and supporters. Dr. Chen looks forward to leading the campus and noted her belief in its mission as a nationally recognized research university and gateway city. A university that provides the highest level of education and opportunities for a very diverse population, and one that really supports economic development in the region.

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Dr. Chen commented on the challenges ahead and noted that she looks forward to continued collaborations with the partnerships that have been created. She thanked President Meehan and Chancellor Moloney for their leadership and guidance, the Search Committee and co-chairs Mary Burns and Jerry Colella for their work, acknowledged Trustee Houle for serving on the committee during his last semester before graduating, and thanked the UMass Lowell campus for its impact. Dr. Chen thanked her spouse, Susu Wong, for her support.

Chairman Manning again congratulated Dr. Chen on behalf of the Board and extended their support to her in the new role.

Chairman Manning thanked the Board for making themselves available for the meeting. There being no further business, he adjourned the meeting.

The time was 10:28 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett

Secretary to the Board of Trustees