

**Doc. T91-100, as amended**

*Passed by the Board of Trustees on September 5, 1991*

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY-LAWS**

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**PREAMBLE**

These By-laws shall govern the proceedings and acts of the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts. The University shall consist of five campuses at Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester. Its principal office shall be the President's Office at One Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

**ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION & OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Composition and Functions**

The composition, functions, duties, powers and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees shall be as provided and authorized by the laws of the Commonwealth as in effect from time to time.

**Section 2. Officers of the Board**

The Officers of the Board shall be a Chair, and one or two Vice Chairs, all of whom shall be Trustees, and a Secretary. These Officers, with the exception of the Chair, shall be elected by the Trustees at their annual meeting, upon nomination by the Trustee Governance Committee as provided in Article IV, Section 1(a) and shall hold office until the next annual meeting or until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

**Section 3. Duties of Officers**

The Chair, Vice Chair(s), and Secretary shall have the duties, functions, powers and responsibilities as prescribed by the laws of the Commonwealth, these By-laws, votes of the Board of Trustees and parliamentary custom.

**Section 4. Compensation**

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.

**Section 5. Attendance**

If any member, either elected or appointed, is absent from four regular meetings in any calendar year, exclusive of July and August, his or her office as a member of said Board shall be deemed vacant.

**Section 6. Remote Attendance**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30A, section 20, and as adopted by the Board by vote of December 14, 2011, trustees may attend any meeting remotely and shall be entitled to fully participate, including casting a vote, at the meeting. Remote attendance will be permitted subject to the following provisions and regulations issued by the Office of the Attorney General.

- (a) Any member may request permission of the Chair of the Board, or the chair of any committee, special, ad hoc, or sub-committee or task force, to attend and participate in the meeting remotely.
- (b) A quorum of the body, including the chair, must be physically present before any member shall be permitted to attend by telephone.
- (c) A member shall be permitted to attend remotely if the respective chair determines that it would be unreasonably difficult for a member to physically attend due to personal illness or disability, emergency, military service, or geographic distance.
- (d) At the start of the meeting, the chair shall announce the name of any member who will be participating remotely and the reason for his/her remote participation. This information shall also be recorded in the meeting minutes.
- (e) All votes taken during a meeting in which a member participates remotely shall be by roll call vote.
- (f) A member participating remotely may participate in an executive session, but shall state at the start of any such session that no other person is present and/or able to hear the discussion at the remote location, unless presence of that person is approved by a simple majority vote of the public body.
- (g) Any meeting at which a member is participating remotely shall comply with regulations issued by the Attorney General.

## **ARTICLE II: MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Section 1. Annual Meeting, Regular and Special Meetings**

- (a) *Annual Meeting* – The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be in September, effective September, 2007.
- (b) *Regular Meetings* – Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held in the months of April, June, September, December, effective 2015, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) *Special Meetings* – Special Meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the Chair, or the President of the University, and shall be called by the Secretary upon written request of any five voting Trustees.
- (d) *Time and Location* – The time and place of all meetings shall be designated by the Chair of the Board, unless otherwise specified by these By-laws. All meetings shall be held within the Commonwealth.

### **Section 2. Notice**

- (a) *Regular Meetings* – Notice of the regular meetings of the Board shall be sent to each Trustee at least six days prior to the date fixed for said meeting, which notice shall state the time and place thereof.

- (b) *Special Meetings* – In the case of a special meeting, notice of the time, place, and purpose(s) of the meetings shall be sent to each Trustee at least two days prior to the date fixed for said meeting.
- (c) *Waiver of Notice* – Notwithstanding any provisions hereof to the contrary, no notice of any meeting need be given to any Trustee who waives the same by written waiver executed before or after the meeting. Waivers so executed shall be filed with the records of the meeting.

### **Section 3. Agenda of Regular Board Meetings**

A written agenda of matters to be considered at each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be sent to each Trustee at least six days prior to the date fixed for said meeting.

A Chancellor may provide notice of items for the agenda of said meeting for the President's consideration with a copy to the Secretary, at least thirty-one days before the date fixed for said meeting.

Items and all supporting material to be included in the agenda of said meeting, except for recommendations by standing or other committees of the Board, shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary at least nineteen days before the date fixed for said meeting by the President. Any exception to these requirements shall require a written request to and approval by the President; provided, however, that any Trustee may submit an item to the Secretary upon informing the Chair of the Board of the University.

Members of the public wishing to speak on an agenda item shall forward a request to the Secretary no later than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting. The Chair shall have complete discretion in granting or denying request to speak.

### **Section 4. Consent Agenda**

By a vote of a majority of Committee members present at any Committee meeting, action item(s) may be placed on a consent agenda for regular Board meetings. Any item so designated as a consent agenda item by the Committee shall be so designated in the agenda of a regular Board meeting provided to the Board of Trustees. Unless any Trustee objects to the inclusion of an item on the consent agenda by notifying the President before the Board meeting, all items designated as a consent agenda item in the agenda shall be included in the consent agenda for approval by a single vote by the Board of Trustees without discussion of individual items.

### **Section 5. Quorum**

In accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 75, nine Trustees shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Board. A lesser number may adjourn any meeting to a future date without further notice. A majority of the voting members of any committee shall constitute a quorum. "Committee" as used in these Bylaws includes any standing or special committee, and any sub- or ad hoc committee or task force.

### **Section 6. Order of Business**

Unless otherwise determined by the Chair of the Board, the following shall be the order of business at regular meetings of the Board:

- I. Call to Order

- II. Consideration of the Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)
- III. Chair's Report
- IV. President's Report
- V. Consent Agenda
- VI. Reports of Standing Committees
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Consideration of Honorary Degrees (when applicable)
- IX. Trustee Governance Committee Report (at annual meeting)
- X. Public Participation - as recommended by the Open Meeting Law.

**Section 7. Executive Sessions**

- (a) By a vote of a majority of the voting Trustees present at any meeting, the Board may enter into executive session, closed to the public, for the purpose(s) listed in (e) below, consistent with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law. The body must first convene in public session before taking any vote for executive session. The vote shall be taken by roll call and the purpose(s) of the session and the reason(s) why it is to be confidential shall be announced before the executive session. The presiding officer shall state before the executive session whether the meeting will reconvene in open session after the executive session.
- (b) The Board shall maintain accurate records of its executive sessions, setting forth the date, time, place, members present or absent, and actions taken at each executive session.
- (c) The records of any executive session may remain secret only so long as publication may defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session.
- (d) All votes taken in executive session shall be taken by roll call and shall become part of the records of said executive session.
- (e) Executive Sessions may be held only for the following purposes and any other purposes as may be provided under the Open Meeting Law, chapter 30A, sections 18 to 25 or under the University's enabling statute, chapter 75, et seq.; or under any other federal or state law:
  - i. To discuss the reputation and character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual, or to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, an officer, employee, staff member, or individual. The individual to be discussed shall be notified in writing at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session, except that notice shall be waived by written agreement of the parties. An open meeting shall be held if the individual involved requests in writing that the meeting be open. If an executive session is held, the individual shall have those

rights as established by Chapter 30A, section 21(a) of the General Laws, in addition to any other rights the individual may have from any other source, including but not limited to collective bargaining agreements. The exercise or waiver of any rights under this provision shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights of the individual.

- ii. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.
- iii. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body, and the chair so declares;
- iv. To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices.
- v. To investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to discuss the filing of criminal complaints.
- vi. To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the University.
- vii. To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or specific law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.
- viii. To consider the award of honorary degrees.
- ix. To consider award of tenure to a member of the faculty.
- x. To consider or interview applicants for employment or appointment by a preliminary screening committee if the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants; provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any meeting, including meetings of a preliminary screening committee, to consider and interview applicants who have passed a prior preliminary screening.
- xi. Any other purpose permitted by law.

### **ARTICLE III: COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

#### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

There shall be six standing committees of the Board of Trustees:

- The Executive Committee;
- The Compensation Committee;
- The Committee on Academic and Student Affairs;
- The Committee on Administration and Finance;
- The Audit and Risk Committee; and
- The Athletics Committee

## **Section 2. Members of Standing Committees**

- (a) The Board of Trustees at its annual meeting shall elect the Chairs of each standing committee, and may elect Vice Chairs of said Committees, other than the Executive Committee. After consultation with the Chair of each standing committee, the Chair of the Board shall appoint the members of each such committee, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Vice Chair(s) of the Board of Trustees, the Chairs of each of the standing committees of the Board, a voting student Trustee, and such other members of the Board as may be appointed by the Chair of the Board.
- (c) The Chair of the Board shall be the Chair of the Executive Committee and a voting member ex officio of each standing committee.
- (d) The President of the University shall be a non-voting ex officio member of each standing committee.
- (e) If, for any reason, a vacancy occurs in a standing committee, or its chair, the Chair of the Board shall appoint a successor. A successor so appointed shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- (f) In the event that a member of a standing committee declares his/her inability to serve for a period, the Chair of the Board shall appoint a substitute who shall serve during such period, or until the next annual meeting of the Board of Trustees.

## **Section 3. Committee Meetings**

- (a) *Time and Location* – Committee meetings may be held at any time and place designated by the Chair of the Committee, the Chair of the Board, the President of the University, or three members of the Committee, after consultation with the President.
- (b) *Non-Trustee members* – With the concurrence of the Chair of the Board and the President, non-trustees may be appointed as non-voting members of any committee except the Governance and Compensation committees. No more than two members of any committee may be non-trustees.
- (c) *Notice* – The Secretary shall send a notice of the time and place of the meeting to each member of such committee at least six days prior to such meeting.
- (d) *Waiver of Notice* – Notice need not be given to any member who waives such notice in writing before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting.
- (e) *Assignment of Agenda Items/Joint Meetings* – Should any matter be an appropriate subject for consideration by more than one committee, the President, after consultation with the respective chairs of said committees and the Chair of the Board, shall determine to which committee or committees the matter shall be referred, and whether a joint meeting shall be held.
- (f) *Executive Session* – By a vote of a majority of members present at any committee meeting, the committee may enter into executive session, closed to the public, as provided in Article II, Section 7 of these By-laws for the purpose(s) stated therein.

#### **Section 4. Agenda of Committee Meetings**

- (a) A written agenda of matters to be considered at each meeting of a committee of the Board shall be sent to each committee member at least six days prior to such meeting.

Preliminary notice of items to be included in the agenda of said meeting shall be submitted by a Chancellor to the President with a copy to the Secretary at least thirty-one days before the date fixed for said meeting.

Items and all supporting material to be included in the agenda of said meeting shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary at least nineteen days before the date fixed for said meeting:

By the President of the University; or  
By any member of the Trustee Committee; or  
By the Director of Internal Auditing.

Any exception to these requirements shall require a written request to and approval by the President; provided, however, that any Trustee may submit an agenda item to the Secretary upon informing the Chair of the Committee.

- (b) Each Committee, as a standing agenda item, shall reserve fifteen (15) minutes for public participation. Individuals seeking to speak to a Committee should so inform the Trustees' Office about the topic they wish to address. Generally, the subject should be related to an item on the meeting agenda. Speakers will be allowed at least 3 minutes to address a Committee but the Chair has discretion to permit additional time. The speaker's presentation may be supplemented by written material provided to the Secretary.

#### **Section 5. Responsibilities of Standing Committees**

The Chair of the Board may appoint sub-committee(s), including ad hoc committees, task forces or other bodies of any standing or special committee to assist the full committee in carrying out its duties and responsibilities. Sub-committees shall be assigned to a full standing committee or to a special committee.

- (a) Executive Committee – The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility of considering, reviewing, and making recommendations to the full Board on matters affecting the Board, the University and its general administration.
- (b) Compensation Committee – The Compensation Committee shall meet annually to consider information pertaining to the compensation of the President and Chancellors and to issue guidelines consistent with the Executive Compensation Policy.
- (c) Committee on Academic and Student Affairs – The Committee on Academic and Student Affairs shall have the responsibility of considering, reviewing and making recommendations to the full Board on matters concerning academics and students at the University including but not limited to:

- i. Policies involving academic programs and research, including the quality, character, and scope of instruction and research, admissions, financial aid, graduation, curriculum, degrees, support programs, and public service activities;
  - ii. Policies involving student affairs, activities, and services;
  - iii. Policies involving faculty status; other than collective bargaining issues or personnel policies;
  - iv. Policies designed to strengthen the University's overall research and development enterprise; policies in support of the strategic growth of the University as a high-quality, globally oriented, state-responsive public research university;
  - v. President's recommendations for award of tenure;
- (d) Committee on Administration and Finance – The Committee on Administration and Finance shall have the responsibility of considering, reviewing, and making recommendations to the full Board on matters relative to the administrative operation and fiscal management of the University and the responsibility of considering, reviewing and making recommendations to the full Board on matters relative to financial control and auditing of the University including but not limited to:
- i. The annual state budget request and the annual operating budget including the allocation of funds to the campuses and other operating units of the University;
  - ii. The annual financial statement(s) of the University and the campuses;
  - iii. Tuition and fees and student fee and major trust fund budgets;
  - iv. Investment policies, grants and contracts policies, and compensation policies;
  - v. Property, real and personal of the University including its acquisition, disposition, management and control;
  - vi. Capital budgets and bond financing;
  - vii. Information technology policies and plans;
  - viii. Personnel matters including policies on personnel, labor relations and collective bargaining policies and agreements;
  - ix. Affirmative action policies and implementation;
  - x. Administrative redesign policies and implementation.
- (e) Audit and Risk Committee – The Audit and Risk Committee shall have the responsibility of considering, reviewing and making recommendations to the full Board on all matters relative to auditing including but not limited to:



- i. Initiation of audits;
  - ii. Audits of the University, its components and affiliates;
  - iii. Review and approve the selection of external audit firms and the deployment of auditors pursuant to the Audit Protocols;
  - iv. Solicitation and receipt of advice from individuals who, in the sole judgment of the committee, shall qualify as “financial experts,” as defined by Section 407 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, and regulations promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under that section.
- (f) *Athletics Committee* – The Athletics Committee shall have the responsibility of considering and reviewing and making recommendations to the full Board on matters concerning intercollegiate athletics at the University including but not limited to:
- i. Master athletic plans including athletic affiliations and overall athletic development; and
  - ii. Policies involving athletic departments, activities and services.

**Section 6. Committee of the Whole**

The Chair may convene the Board as a Committee of the Whole to discuss, review, consider and receive information concerning any matters affecting the University. The Secretary shall send a written notice of the time and place of the meeting to each member at least six days prior to such meetings. A written agenda of matters to be considered shall be included with said notice. Items to be included in the agenda shall be determined by the Chair upon recommendation of the President.

The Chair may assign a member to chair a meeting of the Committee of the Whole or may chair the meeting. A quorum of the Committee shall be nine members and any action taken by the Committee shall be forwarded as a recommendation to the full Board.

**ARTICLE IV: SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Trustee Governance Committee and Special Committees**

- (a) *Trustee Governance Committee* – There shall be a Trustee Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees. The committee shall consist of not less than three nor more than five members. The committee members and committee chair shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board in June of each year, effective 2007. Said Committee shall serve until the appointment of a new Committee in June of the following year.

This committee shall be responsible for ensuring the effective composition and workings of the Board of Trustees in carrying out its responsibilities for the University.

The duties and responsibilities of the committee shall be to:

- i. Assess the requirements and representatives of the membership of the Board and, as appropriate, identify for the Chair and President recommendations regarding the composition of the Board.
  - ii. Nominate candidates for election as officers of the Board and as chairs of the standing committees.
  - iii. Oversee the development and implementation of the Board's program for new Trustee orientation and ongoing Trustee development.
  - iv. Assess and, as appropriate, recommend to the Chair and President changes in the committee structure of the Board.
  - v. Periodically undertake a self-assessment of the effectiveness of the Board.
  - vi. Take on other assignments regarding the membership, structure and operation of the Board as assigned by the Chair.
- (b) *Other Special Committees* – The Chair may establish and appoint other special committees from time to time to have such duties as he or she may determine.

#### **ARTICLE V: SEAL OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The Common Seal of the University and of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a flat faced circular die with the words "University of Massachusetts" and the date "1863" and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth cut or engraved thereto.

#### **ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS**

The Trustees shall have the power to amend, alter or repeal these By-laws, from time to time, by affirmative vote of a majority of the whole Board as then constituted, provided that notice of the proposal to make, alter, amend, or repeal the by-laws was included in the notice of the meeting of the Trustees in which such action takes place.

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*December 3, 1997*  
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