Chair Johnston convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m. and highlighted today’s agenda.

Chair Johnston welcomed Cara Weismann, new student Trustee from the Medical School and President Caret to the Committee meeting. The Chair noted that while he attended the May meeting as President-elect, this is the President’s first official Trustee meeting.

The next order of business was a motion to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 25, 2011 meeting of the Committee.

President Caret gave his Report noting that he has moved aggressively to begin developing relationships with key organizations that are partners with UMass in Science, Technology and Research efforts (e.g., Mass Life Sciences Center, Mass Business Roundtable) and that he has
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already begun advocating for strategic resources to be invested in UMass (e.g., a proposed $100M R&D matching grant fund).

The President also reported impressive progress on some key fronts – including $36.5M of earnings in technology licensing, a strong start to the UMass Innovation Institute for applied R&D that is being piloted at Amherst, and the start of construction of the Mass Green High Performance Computing Center in Holyoke.

Vice President Chmura gave the FY 2010 R&D Expenditures Report (Doc. T11-067) which outlined the University’s progress in research. Data presented was provided by the UMass campuses for NSF’s annual survey of R&D expenditures and compiled by Neena Verma from the Office of Institutional Research in the President’s Office. The University reported R&D expenditures of $543M in FY2010, an 11% increase over the previous year and the first time in history that we broke the half a billion dollar mark on R&D.

Vice President Chmura pointed out that the fiscal climate is very uncertain, particularly at the federal level where the majority of the University’s research funding is received. Thus, sustaining these levels of growth going forward is probably not a reasonable expectation.

The Vice Chancellors and Vice Provosts for Research and Engagement from the campuses discussed strategies they are pursuing to ensure the University continues to “hold our own” in R&D spending. These included efforts to support the R&D matching grant legislation noted by President Caret; attract industry R&D through the new UMass Innovation Institute; pursue opportunities with private foundations; expand efforts in international R&D; and increase collaboration, both among UMass campuses and with private universities to pursue major new R&D opportunities.

The next item was a Panel Discussion on the UMass Dartmouth Bio-Manufacturing Center (Doc. T11-066). Chair Johnston first announced that Chancellor MacCormack will be stepping down at the end of this academic year. Chancellor MacCormack commented that it was an honor and privilege to have served in leadership roles at the University, both at UMass Boston and UMass Dartmouth.

The panel highlighted the Bio-Manufacturing Center being developed by UMass Dartmouth in Fall River. The Center is being designed as a resource for companies making the transition into bio-manufacturing, an education and training center for current and future workforce, and as a facility for bio-manufacturing research. The speakers all noted this is an exciting initiative that is critical to the South Coast’s economic future.

Trustees expressed they are impressed by the growth of research enterprise that was highlighted at this meeting and asked to explore opportunities for Trustees to visit campus research sites to increase understanding of these centers.
Chair Johnston thanked the Panel for their presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Assistant Secretary to the Board