

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, May 24, 2005; 11:30 a.m.

Library Reading Room

University of Massachusetts

285 Old Westport Road

North Dartmouth, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair Austin; Trustees Armstrong, DiBiaggio, Murphy, Pearl, Pham, Sheridan and White; Chair Karam

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chair Cassel; Trustees Boyle, Kennedy, Labrecque, Mahoney and Moseley

University Administration: General Counsel O'Malley; Associate Vice President Harrington; Vice Presidents Gray and Julian; Chancellors Lombardi, Motley and Hogan; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Esposito and Wooding; Vice Chancellors Scheid and Titus; Mr. Palmer, Financial Aid Director, UMASS Dartmouth; Ms. Ernestine Whiting-Settles Financial Aid Director, UMASS Boston

Faculty Representatives: Professors May and O'Connor, UMASS Amherst; Professor Tirrell, UMASS Boston; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Guests: Dr. Joseph Krupczynski and Robert Cichocki, UMASS Amherst; Dr. Adan Colon-Carmona and Sheridan Channer, UMASS Boston; Dr. Mark Santow and Patrick O'Connor, UMASS Dartmouth; Dr. Juliette Rooney-Varga and Alex Loriaux, UMASS Lowell

Chair Austin convened the meeting at 11:31 a.m. and announced that President Wilson was unable to attend today's meeting. He then announced the passing of Chancellor MacCormack's father last night and asked for a moment of silence.

Chair Austin then asked for a motion to **Consider the Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee.**

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 15, 2005 meeting of the Committee.

Associate Vice President Harrington then gave the **President's and Vice President's Reports.** On behalf of President Wilson she first thanked everyone who participated in the President's Inauguration at Symphony Hall on May 12. More than \$11 million in new funding

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for the University was announced at the event resulting from several major partnerships and state matching funds. Governor Romney also pledged \$40 million towards the reconstruction of the UMASS Boston Parking Garage. The President's Medal was also awarded to Senator Kennedy, a long-time friend and supporter of the University.

Today's meeting would include a discussion of the important role of research in higher education from the educational perspective research contributes to the University. Faculty and undergraduate students will share their research experience in the undergraduate realm.

To emphasize the important role of research, the 11th Annual Massachusetts State-wide Conference on Undergraduate Research was held on April 25 at the Colonnade Hotel in Boston. More than 400 students representing 20 campuses in the state's public higher education system presented their academic work.

UMASS Amherst's School of Education was ranked 4th in the *U.S. News and World Report* to schools granting doctorate degrees in education; the College of Engineering placed 4th out of the 6 specialties in the top five 50 rankings of the best graduating engineering schools in the country.

UMASS Medical School placed 4th in primary care among the nations 124 accredited medical schools. It is also among the top 50 in securing research funding.

A team of 15 graduate and undergraduate students at UMASS Amherst from the Collaborative Adaptive Censing of the Atmosphere Program are designing, building, and testing an experimental radar system designed to transform the ability to monitor rainfall. The project is supported by a National Science Foundation grant.

UMASS Boston celebrated 40 years as Boston's public university with a Gala Fundraiser on April 20th. Three alumni were also honored at the event for their public service. The campus also hosted several forums this year on issues with national significance such as Social Security Reform and the War in Iraq with participation by Senator Kennedy and Representatives Steven Lynch, Barney Frank and Marty Meehan.

On April 15 UMASS Dartmouth announced a \$1.5 million endowment to support the Portuguese American Archives housed in the campus library. UMASS Dartmouth also received two gifts which create two new scholarship endowments of \$1 million and \$500,000.

A number of students at UMASS Dartmouth are competing in two national competitions: a Solar Decathlon sponsored by the Department of Energy, and the Defense Advance Research Project.

The third University of Massachusetts Bioinformatics Conference was hosted by UMASS Lowell on April 29. UMASS Lowell has also signed an agreement with *WBZ* to broadcast the

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results of the University of Florida's poll on radio and television. The poll will provide policy majors, media, and the general public with voter opinion on public policy and leadership.

At UMASS Worcester, Professor Craig Mello was elected as a member in the esteemed National Academy of Sciences. He is the school's first member to receive one of the highest honors accorded to the sciences. Professor Mello has also received two other prestigious scientific accolades – Brandeis' 2005 Lewis R. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Medical Research, and the Canadian government's 2005 Gairdner International Award. Both awards shared with colleague Andrew B. Fire recognized his work for the discovery of RNAi.

Chair Austin introduced the first item for discussion, **The Research University: Students on the Cutting Edge**. Research is an extremely important role for the University, both for its academic mission as well as its economic development mission. Research and scholarly activity is a distinguishing characteristic of the University. Faculty research brings new knowledge and exciting discoveries into the classroom in ways which demonstrate the qualities of learning to students. Research universities offer students the opportunity to participate in research with faculty, an opportunity that enriches their educational experience and provides valuable learning to support choice of majors and/or their careers. A research university adds value to the undergraduate experience.

Chair Austin indicated that faculty and students representing the four undergraduate/graduate campuses would discuss their views on the way research has contributed to their classroom teaching and educational experiences.

Associate Vice President Harrington reported that research benefits the research agenda of the University and impacts the economic development. Research also impacts graduate and undergraduate education. As a public research university we can not forget about the impact that we have on creating accessible affordable graduate education.

In 1989 the Saxon Report called for the creation of a world-class public university in Massachusetts. The report recognized that public higher education played a unique role in responding to the needs of the Commonwealth in the areas of broadly educated workers, the creation of new knowledge, and ensuring access to quality graduate education. The recent report of the Senate Task Force on Public Education stated that 16 years after the Saxon Report the case for a world-class public education is even more compelling.

The University of Massachusetts is responding to the need of education for 40,000 undergraduate students and over 12,000 graduate students, and enrolls more than one half of all graduates in Massachusetts' public institutions and enrolls the 2nd largest number of graduate students in Massachusetts behind Harvard University. The University enrolls 75% of the graduate students who are students of color in the public higher education system and 15% of the graduate students of color enrolled either in a public or private university in Massachusetts.

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Among private and public research universities in Massachusetts, UMASS is the 3rd largest producer of graduate degree recipients behind Harvard University and Boston University. Among research universities in Massachusetts, 16% of the graduate degree recipients come from UMASS and 11% of the minority degree recipients from research universities come from UMASS. Among doctoral degree recipients UMASS is only 2nd to Harvard University in the number and percent of minority degree recipients. Twenty percent or 1 in 5 of all doctorate degree recipients are from UMASS and 25% of the minority doctoral degree recipients are from UMASS.

The University is an avenue of access for graduate students. As a research university UMASS is engaged daily in the creation of new knowledge. A critical component of the research university are the graduate students who both learn and participate in research with faculty. What is often overlooked is the educational benefit research universities offer to undergraduate education.

In the late 1980s a Consortium of Research Universities released a document entitled '*Values Added*' which addressed the undergraduate education at research universities, and affirmed that there is a value added to the undergraduate experience at research universities.

The participants then introduced themselves: Dr. Juliette Rooney-Varga, UMASS Lowell; Alex Loriaux, UMASS Lowell; Patrick O'Connor, UMASS Dartmouth; Dr. Mark Santow, UMASS Dartmouth; Robert Cichocki, UMASS Amherst; Dr. Joseph Krupczynski, UMASS Amherst; Sheridan Channer, UMASS Boston; and Dr. Adan Colon-Carmona, UMASS Boston.

Chair Austin welcomed and thanked the panel for participating in today's discussion.

Dr. Santow from the Dartmouth campus talked about the design of courses and how research and teaching are related.

Dr. Krupczynski from the Amherst campus talked about how the research process exposes students to questions that explore social and moral conditions.

Dr. Rooney-Varga from the Lowell campus talked about using high-tech approaches in research and teaching. It is important for the University to do a better job getting the word out about what we do. Getting the word out will bring a high quality population of students to the University.

Dr. Colon-Carmona from the Boston campus indicated that research is intrical to any university system. He talked about incorporating research projects into the classroom.

Robert Cichocki from the Amherst campus talked about how critical and necessary engaging in the research process is to the undergraduate experience.

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Alex Loriaux from the Lowell campus talked about his experience returning to the classroom and how research has given him a tremendous interest in biology. His experience in the classroom has bridged the gap between learning and real life experiences.

Sheridon Channer from the Boston campus talked about how his experience in the classroom helped with understanding what the research process is and how it has better prepared him for graduate level education.

Patrick O'Connor from the Dartmouth campus talked about how his experience motivated him to take an active role in the Springfield community. Professors like Mark Santow and Brian Williams, who use their own personal research to teach, have changed the classroom experience for many students at UMASS Dartmouth.

Trustee DiBiaggio asked if the campuses have the same fundamental responsibility to engage in research, and if there are resources available for seed grants for students to engage in research and for young investigators to begin the process. Associate Vice President Harrington indicated that this is a critical issue and suggested having a future meeting with the Provosts to discuss Trustee DiBiaggio's research related questions.

Committee members then thanked the participants and noted the importance of the student research experience.

Chair Karam announced the intent to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Research and Technology. Trustees John Armstrong and William O'Shea would serve on the Committee. He then asked the participants how they looked at directed research that yields economic development in Massachusetts.

Dr. Krupczynski from the Amherst campus indicated that after working on a number of research projects he is discovering that one of the keys to unlocking some aspect of economic development is the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration. Community involvement in research is also very important.

Dr. Colon-Carmona from the Boston campus indicated that the majority of UMASS students stay in Massachusetts after graduating which helps promote the economic development perspective.

The next item was **Performance Measurement System – Academic Indicators**. Associate Vice President Harrington reported that an in-depth report of the Performance Measurement System Annual Indicators would be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting. She reported on the indicators related to academic quality, student success and satisfaction, and access and affordability.

The academic quality of incoming students across the University's system remains strong.

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Academic quality is a mixture of SAT scores and/or high school GPA, which tells how well the University is doing with its incoming freshmen. The average SAT scores at UMASS Amherst continue to rise, and the number of students with an average GPA of 3.0 is also increasing. There is a steady increase in high school GPA at UMASS Boston, and the SAT scores have slightly declined. The average high school GPA at UMASS Dartmouth continues to rise and the SAT score remains steady. At UMASS Lowell the average high school GPA continues to rise, and the SAT score remains steady and higher than its peers.

Student success is frequently indicated by the first-year retention rate which shows the number of first-year students who return for their second year. It is also measured by graduation rate which is measured six years after a cohort begins in an institution. The one-year retention at UMASS Amherst has slightly dipped and is below its peers and the graduation rate has remained fairly stable at 60%. Retention is a priority for the Amherst campus and new strategies are being developed to increase retention. Chancellor Lombardi reported that the retention rate is down because the campus has not been successful with its first-year programs in connecting the activities of Student Affairs with the activities of Academic Affairs and the common programs that focus on student success. Connecting the activities of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs is critical to student academic success. This is the campus' goal and it is in the process of implementing change. Financial Aid at UMASS Amherst is significantly better than many of its peers.

The freshmen one-year retention rate at UMASS Boston remains steady at 71%, while graduation rates have slipped. The campus believes that the new Campus Center will have a long-term impact on retention and graduation rate. In addition, the campus is putting major focus and activity into the area of retention as far as the three key elements of their strategic plan and focusing on increasing the retention and graduation rates.

The retention rate at UMASS Dartmouth has changed in the last few years which may be attributable to housing issues. The graduation rate has remained steady and the campus is focusing on improving its retention rate. UMASS Lowell's retention rate has remained steady, while graduation rates have shown an increasing trend in the last five years to the highest graduation rate since the entering cohort of 1988. Graduation and retention rates are not valid indicators for UMASS Worcester.

One of the questions that often arise in terms of access and affordability is the tuition and fees and the percentage of family income. The University remains at 12% of state-wide median family income compared with an average of 42% of the state's private universities and 14% for other New England public universities.

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Eighty-seven percent of undergraduate students are citizens of Massachusetts. By contrast, 26% of students enrolled in the state's private universities are from Massachusetts. UMASS undergraduate enrollment includes 21% of students of color compared with 19% of the state's population of high school graduates and 14% of those high school graduates who intend to enroll in a four-year college or university. Relative to undergraduate students of color, the 21% enrollment rate has remained relatively stable for the past five years. While the percentage remains stable, enrollment of students of color is increasing across the system.

Trustee DiBiaggio asked if there is a difference between the retention rates and graduation rates for minority students versus non-minority students. Associate Vice President Harrington indicated that this information could be obtained from the campuses.

The next item was **Financial Aid Report**. Associate Vice President Harrington reported that this information represents a high-level view of financial aid and overall spending activity for fiscal years 2001, 2004 and 2005 which is estimated. Financial aid is the area where we match students in a personal circumstance and a personal goal with the goal of the institution, and it is a place where a lot of factors such as student personal resources, the institution's resources, state and federal policies regarding financial aid come into place.

Of the 32,000 Massachusetts undergraduate students attending UMASS in fiscal year 2005, 73% applied for financial aid and 27% of undergraduates did not apply. Of those who applied for aid, 79% were determined to have financial need according to the federal government standards, and 98% of those needy students received some financial aid.

It is estimated that in fiscal year 2005 university students will receive over \$339 million in need-based and other financial assistance. This includes all aid distributed to students who are determined to have financial need and all aid based on considerations other than need such as academic or athletic merit (i.e., non-need based aid). The amount for fiscal year 2005 is nearly \$37 million or 12% more than fiscal year 2004 and 56% more than fiscal year 2001.

The majority of financial aid programs are funded by the federal government. Sixty percent of all aid distributed at UMASS is federally funded, 10% is state funded, 17% comes from the University's institutional funds, and 14% comes from other sources such as private scholarships and alternative loans. Between fiscal year 2001 and 2005 funding from all sources increased except for state funding which decreased by 4%. The increase in federal dollars is primarily loan fund increases. Other sources of aid have increased especially alternative loans.

On average, UMASS is able to meet 89% to 94% of financial aid need across the system, with a system average of 91% of need. Depending on the campus, between 42% and 83% of UMASS undergraduates graduate with some debt. Undergraduate students graduating from UMASS average between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in debt.

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The next item for action was **Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, UMASS Boston**. Vice Chancellor Titus reported that the Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct for the Boston campus streamlines the appeals process by eliminating the current process which addresses academic dishonesty and misconduct. This centralizes the appeals process to allow for consistency and fairness of sanctions on campus.

Major changes to the Code of Conduct include new violations of professional ethics, unauthorized use of chemicals, dual submission of course work, clarification of PDA technology during exams, stalking, and conduct occurring in off-campus field work. New sanctions include counseling/training/community service, restrictions and trespass, and sanctions held in abeyance. The current Code of Conduct has four levels of appeals and the new Code has two levels.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To recommend that the Board take the following action:

To approve the revisions to the Code of Student Conduct at the University of Massachusetts Boston. (Doc. T94-059, as amended)

Trustee Murhpy then requested an opportunity to discuss the University's Response to the Commission on Campus Diversity. He indicated that Chancellor Lombardi's proposed recommendations raises several questions which appear to be in violation of Trustee Policy on University Governance and other Trustee Policies on Student Constitution. Trustee Murphy requested that this issue be added for discussion at a future Board meeting.

Chair Austin indicated that the Committee is not prepared to discuss the issue at this time. Members of the Committee do not have in-depth information to rely on, support the claim, or to defend the University's action. Chair Austin indicated that he would allow a representative to speak on the issue.

Chancellor Lombardi declined to speak on this matter.

Jefferey Napolitano, the Student Government Association's Secretary of Public Policy and Relations, then read a statement on behalf of the newly elected Student Government Association at the Amherst campus.

Chair Austin requested that Associate Vice President Harrington receive a copy of the statement, and that a written request be made to discuss this issue at a future Committee meeting. He then requested that any future items to be discussed by the Committee be submitted for review in a timely manner.

Chair Austin then announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst, Worcester; Awards of Tenure,**

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UMASS Amherst, Boston, Worcester; and Transfers of Tenure, UMASS Lowell.

He indicated that the Committee would not reconvene in open session.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of considering **Appointments with Tenure, UMASS Amherst, Worcester; Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, Boston, Worcester; and Transfers of Tenure, UMASS Lowell.**

Chair Austin voted for the motion as did Trustees Armstrong, DiBiaggio, Pearl, Sheridan and White. The time was 1:34 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate