

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Wednesday, November 4, 2003; 4:00 p.m.

Worcester Room

Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center

222 Maple Avenue

Shrewsbury, Massachusetts

Trustees Present: Vice Chair Giblin; Trustees Austin, Fatemi, Karam, Robert Mahoney, Marcalo, O'Shea, Rainey, Reed and White

Trustees Absent: Chair Fey; Trustees Boyle, Bukhari, Cassel, DiBiaggio, Dubilo, Kennedy, McCarthy, James Mahoney, Moes and Sheridan

University Administration: President Wilson; General Counsel O'Malley; Vice Presidents Chmura and Lenhardt; Chancellors Lombardi, Gora, MacCormack, Hogan and Lazare; Ms. Harrington, Associate Vice President

Faculty Representatives: Professor O'Connor, UMASS Amherst; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Guests: David McLaughlin, Principal Investigator, UMASS Amherst Engineering Research Center; Deborah Boisvert, Project Director, Boston Area Advanced Technological Education Connections (BATEC) at UMASS Boston; Bal Ram Singh, Principal Investigator, UMASS Dartmouth Center for Botulism Research; Paul Wormser, Senior Advisor, Konarka Technologies (UMASS Lowell renewable energy start-up company); Michael Czech, Professor and Chair of Molecular Medicine, UMASS Worcester, and Principal, Arais (UMW biotech start-up company); William Guenther, President, Mass Insight; Mitchell Horowitz, Director of Strategy, Technology Partnership Practice, Battelle

In the absence of Chair Fey, Vice Chair Giblin convened the meeting at 4:06 p.m. and welcomed Trustee William O'Shea to the Committee.

Vice Chair Giblin thanked Chancellor Lazare and his staff for their hospitality.

Vice Chair Giblin reported that today's discussion would focus on the University's Role of Science and Technology in the Economic Development of the Commonwealth.

Under the **President's Report**, President Wilson introduced the participants for today's discussion item: David McLaughlin, Principal Investigator, UMASS Amherst Engineering Research Center; Bal Ram Singh, Principal Investigator, UMASS Dartmouth Center for

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Botulism Research; Michael Czech, Professor and Chair of Molecular Medicine, UMASS Worcester and Principal at Arais; Paul Wormser, Senior Advisor, Konarka Technologies and Deborah Boisvert, Project Director, Boston Area Advanced Technological Education Connections (BATEC) at UMASS Boston. He also introduced Mitchell Horowitz, Director of Strategy, Technology Partnership Practice, Battelle and William Guenther, President, Mass Insight who will provide An External View of UMASS' Role in Science and Technology.

President Wilson reported that this year's focus is on Research and Education at the University of Massachusetts, as the Economic Development engine for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Each of the campuses represents a certain research aspect for the Commonwealth. Highlights of why the campuses bring regional distribution and how it connects into Commonwealth-wide strategies for regional economic development include:

- UMASS removes financial, geographic and temporal barriers to high quality education. Temporal barriers include the ability to deliver education anytime, anywhere via UMassOnline;
- UMASS ignites innovation-based economic development in every region with a total of \$300 million in research;
- 85% of UMASS graduates remain in Massachusetts;
- UMASS is an engine that develops innovation economies of affordable regions in Massachusetts;
- Resources at UMASS include 58,000 students, \$300 million in research, and \$20 million in research licensing revenue;
- UMASS is an anchor for development. The Worcester Research Park has created 2,000 jobs; UMASS has two incubators developed in Fall River and Lowell; and economic development alliances have been developed...the Southeast Mass. Partnership and the Western Mass. Regional Technical Alliance.

President Wilson reported that the University is growing and demonstrates a steady upward trend in research and in licensing revenue. He then highlighted recent successes for the University: the Engineering Research Center at UMASS Amherst, a \$40 million project; the Boston Area Technological Education Connections, also known as BATEC at UMASS Boston, at \$3 million; the Botulism Research Center at UMASS Dartmouth for \$8 million, part of a \$17 million grant split with Tufts University; the Lowell campus is a finalist for the Nanotech Manufacturing Center; and the Worcester campus has received a \$16 million grant for an Immunology and Biodefense Center.

President Wilson reported that there is increasing recognition of the University's Role in Science and Technology in corporate Massachusetts and at the State House.

There was then a panel discussion on **Leading Science and Technology Initiatives at the UMASS Campuses.**

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David McLaughlin, Principal Investigator, UMASS Amherst Engineering Research Center reported on the grant to detect and predict hazardous weather. The core leaders in the project's proposal were Jim Kurose, Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science, and Mathematics, and Gregory Phillips, staff member, College of Engineering.

Trustee Mahoney congratulated Professor McLaughlin and asked him to describe the biggest economic impact the grant will have on the University and the state. The grant will help in the recruitment of students, faculty and staff; if successful, the technology can lead to a multi-million dollar contract; Massachusetts companies will have a Mass insight based on student/companies collaboration.

Bal Ram Singh, Principal Investigator, UMASS Dartmouth reported on the grant for the Center for Botulism Research.

Michael Czech, Professor and Chair of Molecular Medicine, UMASS Worcester, and Principal, Arais reported on Arais a UMASS Worcester biotech start-up company. The company owned by CytRx, a California biotech company, will take advantage of Dr. Craig Mello's RNAi technology.

Paul Wormser, Senior Advisor, Konarka Technologies, a UMASS Lowell renewable energy start-up company, reported on the solar technology to convert light into electricity. He thanked Lou Petrovich of the Research Foundation, Chancellor Hogan, Howard Burke, and the Boston campus for their collaboration on the project.

Trustee Austin indicated that the University must work on selling its success stories in order to grow as a system.

Deborah Boisvert, Project Director, Boston Area Advanced Technological Education Connections (BATEC) at UMASS Boston reported on a higher education collaborative to develop an Information Technology workforce at UMASS Boston.

William Guenther, President, Mass Insight and Mitchell Horowitz, Director of Strategy, Technology Partnership Practice, Battelle provided **An External View of UMASS' Role in Science and Technology**.

Mr. Guenther reported on the Technology Roadmap Study. The key focus of the study is to address the capability of Massachusetts to prevail in an international competition for research, innovation and talent, and learn how to position the University of Massachusetts as a research powerhouse.

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Mr. Horowitz provided further insight into the University from the Roadmap Study, and provided some good and bad news. Highlights included:

- Massachusetts remains a leader in research and development both in the universities and industry;
- Massachusetts is not a “one-trick” pony – there are multiple sectors of science and technology;
- There is existing or emerging strength across the state;
- The research and development base at UMASS is growing faster and producing new resources;
- There are enormous opportunities for continued leadership in research and development;
- Much of the current success depends on past infrastructure, investments;
- Diversity of the state’s research and development base needs to be recognized;
- The change in corporate research and development calls for more strategic alliances and more partnerships with universities and corporations;

Trustee Mahoney requested clarification for the purpose of the Roadmap Study.

Mr. Guenther indicated that one of the objectives of the study is to help develop an understanding of technology strengths within the University and industry side. He noted that the report would be coming out in December.

President Wilson thanked the participants, and referenced (directed) the Committee to a press release highlighting an action agenda. Highlights included:

- Ongoing dialogue with the Speaker, the Governor, and the Senate President;
- Secure support of the state’s Industry-based Technology Council;
- An Incubator Conference at UMASS Dartmouth on November 12th at the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center;
- Establish a President’s High Tech Advisory Council;
- Create a Science and Technology Initiatives Fund to strengthen system-wide collaboration and strategic alliances;
- Create a CVIP Development Fund to move technologies closer to commercialization.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate