

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST•BOSTON•DARTMOUTH•LOWELL•WORCESTER

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

Tuesday, April 22, 2003; 8:00 a.m.

Board Room

One Beacon Street - 26th Floor

University of Massachusetts

Boston, Massachusetts

Committee Members Present: Chair White; Trustees Austin, Boyle, Briggs, Dawood, Kennedy, Powers and Sheridan

Committee Members Absent: Trustee Giblin, Lankowski and Mahoney

University Administration: President Bulger; General Counsel O'Malley; Vice Presidents Botman, Chmura, Gray and Julian; Ms. Layton, Associate Vice President; Chancellors Lombardi, Gora, MacCormack and Lazare; Provosts Seymour, Fonteyn, Curry and Wagner; Ms. Evaneski, UMASS Dartmouth

Faculty Representatives: Professor Disch, UMASS Boston; Professor Carter, UMASS Lowell

Chair White convened the meeting at 8:07 a.m. and introduced the first item on the agenda for action **Consideration of Minutes of the Prior Meeting of the Committee.**

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 21, 2003 meeting of the Committee.

The next item was the **President's Report.** President Bulger indicated that today's meeting would focus on the assessment methods used to improve the academic quality on the campuses.

President Bulger reported on the academic quality at the University. Professor Jim Kurose, from the department of computer science at the Amherst campus, received the highly prestigious Taylor L. Booth Education Award from the Institute of Electrical Electronics Engineers Computer Society. The award is the highest education honor given by the society. Professor Jim Kurose was also a recipient of the President's Public Service Award last year.

Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor from the department of geosciences at the Amherst campus, has been named among the "Fearless Fifty: America's Fifty Rated Innovators Over The Age of 50." She was chosen by AARP (the American Association of Retired People).

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The School of Education at UMASS Lowell won a three-year \$1 million grant from the United States Department of Education for helping teachers in the Merrimack Valley integrate technology into their classrooms. President Bulger appreciates UMASS Lowell's commitment to the K-12 system and communities surrounding the campus.

The University of Massachusetts Medical School has again been ranked in the top 10% of the nation's 125 medical schools by *Weekly News Magazine* and *U.S. News World Report*, and was listed as America's best graduate school. The Medical School is ranked 12th in the increasing competitive primary care school category. For the fifth straight year, the Medical School has earned the 'Top 50 Ranking' on the overall list of research schools, and continues to become one of the fastest growing research schools in the United States.

Faculty from the University's five campuses generated over \$290 million in sponsored research in 2002 compared to \$140 million a decade ago. President Bulger thanked the faculty for their important contributions to the Commonwealth.

UMASS Dartmouth underwent a focused evaluation visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges to review the campus' financial condition, look at campus assessment, planning strategies, appraise the facilities, planning operations, and evaluate its graduate program. The campus had a very positive visit.

President Bulger reported that the first-time freshmen six-year graduation rate at UMASS Boston is 35% and not 28% as previously reported by the media. The campus continues to have a very strong graduation rate for its transfer students to comprise the majority of the undergraduates on the campus. President Bulger congratulated Chancellor Gora, faculty and students.

The next item was the **Vice President's Report**. Vice President Botman echoed President Bulger's remarks that the campuses recognized the need to address the fiscal realities. Chancellors, provosts, and student affairs personnel are conducting thorough mid-year evaluations with the intention to preserve academic excellence while maximizing resources available.

Vice President Botman updated the Committee on activities taking place within the department of Academic Affairs.

The department of Academic Affairs along with the Deans of Education from the campuses worked on a system-wide symposium that took place last Friday. The forum was entitled Mathematics and Science Education, and provided the University and K-12 faculty an opportunity to discuss with community leaders the current need in math and science education across the state.

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On June 3rd the University will hold its Third Annual Five-Campus Neuroscience Symposium entitled Neurotransplantation: The Genetics of Language Disorders and Alzheimer's Disease.

The President's Annual University Scholars Reception will be held on May 29th at the State House. High school headmasters nominated 375 students, and over 270 scholarships were offered.

Vice Presidents Botman and Chmura, and Lynn Griesemer, Executive Director of the Donahue Institute, met with Doug Foy, the state's environmental policy leader, to discuss expanding the current partnership the University has with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Vice President Botman then announced that Provost Curry is stepping down at the end of the academic year to become the Director of the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center (ATMC) in Fall River. She thanked him for his contributions and dedication to the University.

Chair White encouraged the Trustees to attend the University Scholars Reception and thanked Provost Curry for his contributions.

Vice President Botman introduced the discussion item **Evaluating the Academic Experience**. She announced that the 2003 Report on Annual Indicators will be mailed to the Trustees, and would be discussed at the May 6th Committee of the Whole meeting. Today's presentation will preview the performance indicators that relate to the academic experience.

Vice President Botman reported that the four primary levels of assessment and quality improvement at the University are: individual courses, individual faculty, programs and departments, and the campus as a whole.

- The assessment processes by which faculty are reviewed include: the annual performance review, tenure reviews, post-tenure review or periodic multi-year review (PMYR) and review by one's peers for research and publication purposes;
- The assessment processes at the program level include: the Academic Quality Assessment and Development review (AQAD), accreditation, and benchmarking; Under Chancellor Lombardi's leadership, the Amherst campus has shifted to a new assessment driven resource allocation model for academic departments designed to emphasize the core mission of research and teaching.

Vice President Botman reported that the processes that take place on the campuses constitute the core work of quality assessment and improvement in the academic area. Other kinds of accountability measures at the University include accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE),

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Alumni Surveys, and the Annual Indicators of the Performance Measurement System.

Ms. Layton then provided highlights from the Performance Measurement System and the 2002 Alumni Survey.

Highlights from the academic quality and student success indicator included:

- High school GPA and SAT scores of entering freshmen continue to rise;
- UMASS campuses have high pass rates on licensure and certification exams;
- Research and Development funding in science and engineering continue to increase;
- The 2002 National Survey of Student Engagement questioned seniors as to how they would evaluate their entire educational experience at an institution;
- Freshmen retention rates have been stable over the past five years on the campuses;
- Graduation rates range from 35% at the Boston campus to 61% at the Amherst campus.

Highlights from the 2002 Alumni Survey included:

- Most of the recent UMASS graduates are currently in the workforce;
- Three-quarters of alumni work in Massachusetts;
- 38% of graduates had completed or were enrolled in a degree program; and 35% are pursuing non-degree education;
- Alumni report high levels of satisfaction with how UMASS prepared them for further education and employment;
- UMASS had a major or moderate impact on student skills and abilities;
- 96% of recent alumni are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the quality of their education;
- 91% of alumni would choose to attend UMASS again; 94% would recommend UMASS to a friend or family member.

There was then a question and answer session.

Provost Seymour reported that for the first time, she would be presenting top students on campus with the ‘Leaders of the 21st Century Award’ during commencement ceremony at the Amherst campus. The award is to honor the students’ experiences and contributions made while attending UMASS Amherst. Trustee Powers is among the recipients.

Trustee Dawood then acknowledged Trustee Briggs for addressing Peter Nessen at the Student Leadership Conference in response to the Governor’s reorganization plan.

The next item on the agenda for action was **John W. McCormack School of Policy Studies, UMASS Boston**. Chancellor Gora reported that this request represents a reorganization on the campus pooling together valuable resources from a range of degree programs that focus on policy studies, and will generate a \$6 million endowment and three endowed chairs.

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It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the establishment of the John W. McCormack School of Policy Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. (Doc. T03-028)

The next item was the **Alcohol and Drug Policy, UMASS Dartmouth.**

It was moved, seconded and

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

To approve the revisions to the Dartmouth Alcohol and Drug Policy, Doc. T93-116, as amended.

The next item was **Appointment to Named Professorship, UMASS Amherst.** Provost Seymour reported that Dr. Clydesdale is an expert in the area of physical and chemical properties of food. Dr. Clydesdale has an extraordinary level of productivity and impact in his field of study that goes beyond the high level of expectation. He is the author and co-author of over 360 scientific articles and 20 books, and is recognized as a worldwide authority in the area of food science.

It was moved, seconded and

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

To concur with the President in the appointment of Fergus M. Clydesdale as a Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. (Doc. T03-025)

Chair White then announced that the Committee would enter into **Executive Session** to consider **Transfer of Tenure, UMASS Worcester** and **Appointment with Tenure, UMASS Amherst** and **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston, UMASS Worcester** and **Appointment with Tenure, UMASS Boston.** He indicated that the Committee would not reconvene in open session.

It was moved, seconded and

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VOTED: To enter into **Executive Session** for the purpose of considering **Transfer of Tenure, UMASS Worcester** and **Appointment with Tenure, UMASS Amherst** and **Awards of Tenure, UMASS Amherst, UMASS Boston, UMASS Worcester** and **Appointment with Tenure, UMASS Boston.**

Chair White voted for the motion as did Trustees Austin, Boyle, Kennedy, Powers and Sheridan.

The time was 9:40 a.m.

Zunilka Barrett
Staff Associate