



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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August 13, 2015

President Martin T. Meehan
University of Massachusetts
Office of the President
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110

Dear President Meehan:

First, let me once again offer congratulations as you begin your service as President of the University of Massachusetts system. You were an extraordinary chancellor, and I am looking forward to working with you in your new role, where I am sure you will excel.

As you know, on July 17, 2015, Governor Baker signed into law the Fiscal Year 2016 state budget. I am pleased that that the final budget includes several major appropriations and initiatives affecting the University of Massachusetts.

With respect to appropriations, UMass will receive \$531.8 million in state funding in FY16, marking a \$20.6 million, or a 4%, increase over the FY15 final spending. As you know, the Senate pushed hard for a substantial increase in the University's annual state appropriation, and those efforts bore fruit in the final budget.

I know that the University had requested more money than was allotted in the final budget, and we both recognize the need to keep pushing to supplement the University's appropriation. I will make it a priority to address the University's continuing funding needs.

In the meantime, I am hopeful that the University will use its increased FY16 appropriation to ease the financial burden of a college education on its hard working students and their families. Whether this fall or next spring, I hope that the trustees will revisit the proposed student charges and provide some relief in light of the increase provided.

With respect to tuition, I am tremendously pleased that we finally put into law a critical change that will allow the University to retain student tuition rather than direct it to the General Fund. I want to thank you for the key role that you played in that victory. It was certainly baptism by


fire as we worked through the details in your very first week on the job! After decades of effort, your role was critical in helping us achieve this important policy advancement.

This simple yet major change will have positive implications for the University and its students. Now, UMass will join the other states that allow for tuition retention, leading to greater transparency and integrity in the bills that the University sends home to students and their families.

This is a fundamental change that I have personally championed for over 20 years, and I am so proud that it is finally law. I know that you will embrace and utilize the new law, allowing UMass to offer true and honest comparisons with its peer institutions, and working to ensure that the University remains a national leader in both educational excellence and affordability.

I look forward to working collaboratively with you to advance the interests of the University and its students for many years to come.

Sincerely,


STAN ROSENBERG
Senate President
Hampshire, Franklin & Worcester District