



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 5, 2012

BY HAND DELIVERY

Robert L. Caret, President
University of Massachusetts
Office of the President
225 Franklin Street
33rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear President Caret:

I am disappointed to learn the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees will vote this week on a proposal to increase student fees by 4.9% in the coming school year.

I trust you know that I strongly support the mission of the University. I am committed to strengthening state funding for UMass. And I have great respect for you and your leadership as President.

But the timing of this fee increase is not good for students and their families. Like the rest of state government, UMass must demonstrate that it is doing more with less before asking more from students. And I am not convinced that UMass has yet done enough to find efficiencies and reduce costs so that any new revenue is dedicated to teaching and learning.

Robert L. Caret, President

June 5, 2012

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In addition, Congress's failure to act means that student loan costs may increase dramatically, exacerbating the financial challenges many students face in getting the education they need.

I have directed Secretary Reville to vote against the proposed fee increase. Whether or not the proposal passes, I suggest you initiate a comprehensive analysis, with independent support, of efficiencies and cost savings that may be captured throughout the system. Once complete, you should share it with your board, with the public and with me. I believe we will all need that kind of work completed to support the case for more funding next year and beyond.

We share a common goal for the University of Massachusetts, and I look forward to working with you to get there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Caret". The signature is stylized with a large, rounded initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

*Nice to speak with
you. Consider my
suggestion seriously.*