

MASSACHUSETTS  
**HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL**

*Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action*

August 2003

Volume 26

Number 6

**Change at the University of Massachusetts  
SciTech Initiative Builds Steam**

**Bulger Steps Down as UMass President**

After a tumultuous 10 months of political jousting with high-level state political leaders, Congressional inquiries over his ties to his fugitive brother and debate over the future of the state's public university system, **University of Massachusetts President William M. Bulger** announced his resignation at a meeting of the UMass trustees on August 6. He will officially step down September 1.

Bulger, who had survived both an attempt by **Governor Mitt Romney** to eliminate the president's position and a referendum vote by the UMass trustees, chose to leave on his own terms to end what he felt were "political attacks" on the University. An interim president, possibly current UMass Amherst Chancellor **John Lombardi** or UMass Worcester Chancellor **Aaron Lazare**, will be named soon while a search process to select a new president gets underway.

**Bulger Leaves Improved UMass System Behind**

Bulger has served as UMass President since being appointed by former **Governor William Weld** in 1996. By almost any qualitative measure, UMass has improved under Bulger's leadership. Since 1996, Research and Development investment in science and engineering fields has grown from \$170 million to nearly \$300 million annually. UMass has become more entrepreneurial: the UMass system last year generated \$15 million in technology license income, up from \$500,000 the year that Bulger took over. The academic profile of the incoming students has improved in every way and UMass is now a top choice of valedictorians from public schools throughout Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts High Technology Council has enjoyed a strong working relationship with Bulger since his tenure as President of the Massachusetts Senate. The Council and Bulger did not see eye-to-eye on every issue, but generally worked in a cooperative and effective manner to make Massachusetts more competitive. While his leadership at UMass will be missed, he has positioned the system to compete with the best public universities from across the nation.

### **MassPort Model for UMass President's Search**

The next leader of UMass will be chosen by the 22-member board of trustees after a search process that will take 6-9 months. UMass trustees would be well served to follow the lead of the **Massachusetts Port Authority** board, which chose **Craig Coy** as its new CEO in the wake of MassPort's leadership change following September 11, 2001. MassPort directors established a list of specific qualifications and experience that were needed to run the authority and screened non-political candidates from across the nation. In a stark contrast to the hiring processes of previous MassPort heads, the first time Coy met the sitting Governor (Jane Swift) was after he had already been awarded the job.

Coy is a former CEO, Harvard MBA and Coast Guard officer with no direct ties to Massachusetts politics. He has restored public credibility and improved operational efficiency at Logan Airport in just over 18 months at MassPort's helm.

### **Coy: Runs Tight Ship at MassPort**

Coy's success has debunked the myth that only politically wired candidates can navigate the treacherous waters of running a quasi-public state authority. Coy has thrived by training a businessman's eye on implementing reforms and efficiencies while sidestepping political landmines. And as a new face on the Boston political scene, Coy entered the job with no significant political enemies ready to turn a setback at MassPort into a political opportunity.

For a majority of his tenure, President Bulger was the right leader to lend credibility to the UMass system. His efforts have helped position UMass to move to the next level – competing with systems in NY, Michigan and California.

### **Battelle to Lead SciTech Study**

On August 11, the Massachusetts *Science and Technology Initiative*, led by the Council and Mass Insight, officially announced the launch of a *Massachusetts Technology Road Map and Strategic Alliances Study*, designed to examine the state's current research and development strengths and potential technology growth areas for collaborations between industry, private universities, and the University of Massachusetts. The SciTech Initiative hired leading nonprofit technology firm **Battelle** for the project, which is scheduled to be completed by November 2003.

### **Road Map Will Serve as Biz Plan for Massachusetts**

In the press release for the launch, Council President Chris Anderson indicated that this would be a tangible action plan for the Commonwealth – not merely another report that sits on the shelf. “The success of the SciTech Initiative has focused Beacon Hill on technology issues more than anytime in state history. The next step will be to transform

Battelle's report into a long-term, technology-based economic development plan for Massachusetts."

### **Finneran's \$110 million Tech Plan Takes Shape**

The launch of the Battelle study is well timed because the debate over state investment in technology and higher education has been in full swing on Beacon Hill – thanks in large part to the work of the Council and Mass Insight. The latest – and perhaps most significant – example of the new-found focus on technology is **Speaker Thomas Finneran's** comprehensive economic development plan that focuses on state investment in the Bay State's natural strengths of technology and higher education.

The \$110 million package created a stir on Beacon Hill as the first significant economic development plan of the year. In particular, the Council supports the following elements of the plan:

- **Capitalization of the Massachusetts Research Center Matching Fund (\$20 million)** – The Council has been calling for the state to become an active partner in supporting federal Research & Development grant applications. Other states are investing funds for matching grants and Massachusetts has lost out on opportunities because the state has not worked collaboratively with its academic and business institutions. By investing in this fund, Massachusetts would have improved its access to the \$123 billion in federal R&D spending proposed by President Bush for FY 04. Massachusetts has an opportunity to create jobs and stir innovation in life sciences, renewable energy, homeland security, nanotechnology, IT and physical sciences if we can land our share of federal research dollars;
- **Capitalization of Technology Sector Growth Initiative (\$15 million)** – This will help foster industry growth throughout Massachusetts and help provide long term investment in various technology clusters;
- **Making the Investment Tax Credit Permanent** – Builds on successful House efforts to secure a five-year extension of the ITC in the FY 04 budget. This would provide much needed stability and predictability for employers looking to invest in their businesses. While Massachusetts cannot always compete on a cost basis with other states or nations, our other strengths keep us in the game provided state government maintains a stable and predictable tax structure;
- **Math, Science, Technology and Engineering Pipeline Grant Program** – The plan also includes \$5 million to create a program to increase the numbers of math and science teachers in the state's public schools and to attract more students to careers in science and technology.

The Senate will take up Finneran's plan formally in September. The Council has already been working with Senate leaders and members of the Romney Administration on the further development of a technology-based economic stimulus package.

### **Finneran Visits Brooks Automation**

A day after releasing his plan publicly, Finneran visited **Brooks Automation's** new state-of-the-art semiconductor fabrication facility in Chelmsford on July 10 for a discussion on technology issues with Council members. Finneran outlined his plan and hit on other important technology issues with **Brooks CEO Bob Therrien** and 20 other Council members. Finneran pledged that he is not done identifying ways that he can help make the state more competitive for technology employers and indicated that he will address the issues of building permitting and siting, health care, pharmaceutical price controls and more. Finneran pledged to continue working with the Council in support of the state's diverse technology economy.



Speaker Tom Finneran discusses technology issues with Brooks Automation CEO Bob Therrien and Council President Chris Anderson at the July 10 Council breakfast meeting.

### **High Tech Classic Ends After 20 Years, \$300K to Charity**

After 20 fun years and more than \$300,000 raised for charity (including the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation** and local technology scholarships), the High Tech Classic road race has hung up its running shoes for the final time. While the race, cosponsored by the Council and **Doubletree Guest Suites**, has ended, its legacy lives on through future scholarships that will encourage more students to pursue math and science careers.

The Council would like to thank Doubletree and former race partner Stouffer Hotel, as well as the Council members who generously supported the race. And of course the High

Tech Classic wouldn't have been as successful without the stalwart group of volunteers who each and every year made the race one of New England's best.