

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 626th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

A. ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN KULIK

(see attached)

QUESTIONS

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May raised the issue of the State's capital budget, wondering if there might be any potential for capital funding soon, especially with the winding down of the "Big Dig."

Representative Stephen Kulik expressed regret at not having an answer to this question, saying that, right now, all of the legislature is a little unenlightened about the capital spending plans of the Romney administration. Over the past six months, there has been a thorough review of the way capital funding has worked in Massachusetts, showing that the system in place for the past decade has worked rather well. In this system, there is a spending cap of about \$1.2 billion for capital projects every year. With this \$1.2 billion, the legislature allocates capital spending bonds to many different areas -- transportation, courts, higher ed campuses, prisons, roads, mass transit, etc -- and then the administration programs that money over the lifetime of the bond, which is usually 3 to 5 years. This system has worked well, but the administration has decided now to review the entire process and do away with the annual allocations to different agencies, instead pulling everything into the executive office of administration and finance, thereby causing projects to compete against each other for funding. For instance, a campus project would compete with a highway project that might compete with a courthouse. Under our Constitution, the legislature, unfortunately, is left out of the loop when it comes to setting spending priorities. They have agreed on the amounts that would go to different sectors every year, and some projects get earmarked, but a tremendous amount of power is given to the executive branch and excludes the legislative branch.

Senator Eric Einhorn noted that it seems to have been a long time since Massachusetts has had a governor who was friendly to higher education. He wondered what strategies UMASS could use -- through the legislature, the alumni association, and other campus organizations -- to try to reach Governor Romney and explain to him the significance of higher education.

Representative Kulik agreed with this point and added that it's hard to know what the Governor's plans are for higher education in the future. Romney's designated higher education advisor is already gone, so it is unknown who he is listening to at the moment. There have been rumors that he might even be looking to eliminate the Board of Higher Education, which could be another attempt at consolidating power into the Governor's Office. A continued effort to try to educate the Governor, to invite him to the campus and engage him in a discussion with students, is crucial for UMASS faculty and staff and others trying to win funding. He also needs to realize that people who go through the Massachusetts higher education system will usually end up staying in the state and becoming valuable working, tax-paying citizens of the commonwealth.

Senator Julie Brigham-Grette addressed members of the Faculty Senate with a request for a special motion to suspend the rules in order to acknowledge the retirement of Margo Crist, Director of Libraries. The motion to suspend the rules was adopted.

Whereas Director of Libraries Margo Crist

- has reshaped from the bottom up the vision and mission of the library system on this campus,
- has made a large positive impact on the networking of higher education libraries throughout the Commonwealth and on collaborations via consortia throughout New England,
- has nurtured a thoughtful blend of traditional and digital resources necessary for a competitive research university,
- has exercised innovative leadership, finding opportunity in adversity, and
- has announced her intention to retire as of January 1, 2004,

it is therefore

MOVED that the Faculty Senate acknowledge Margo Crist's dedication to the mission of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, her steadfast dedication to and advocacy for the libraries, and her remarkable skill and creativity in focusing people and ideas on common goals for the collective good of the University community. Her fine work will long be remembered and appreciated.

This motion was seconded and adopted by unanimous vote.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Vice Chancellor Joyce Hatch shared good news about a project about to begin next week. A "classroom blitz clean-up" is being organized with staff and Physical Plant personnel. This will include 30-35 classrooms, focusing primarily on Goessmann and Morrill and some in New Africa House. In 21 rooms, all furniture is being removed and replaced.

Vice Provost Paul Kosteki also expressed good news from the Office of Grants and Contracts, which is now running about \$7 million ahead in proposals compared to last year at this time. The number of proposals is down from 640 to 621, and they are \$8 million ahead in awards -- 454 instead of 434. Indirect cost recovery is also up as well.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May thanked all the senators and council and committee members for a very successful semester and offered a brief overview of topics currently in discussion in councils and committees: The Academic Matters Council, Graduate Council, and General Education Council's accomplishments include approvals of important programs such as those on the agenda today; The Athletic Council has been advocating for the Recreation Center and will also be deliberating the report on Division 1-A Football very soon; The International Studies Council is dealing with new international programs, a couple of which are on today's agenda, and they are also dealing with the new fee which the International Programs Office was obliged to impose; The Research Council is deliberating the issue of research cost recovery -- for which they've sent out a questionnaire to all PI's -- and the adequacy of financial reports to PI's; The Research Library Council recently met with Chancellor Lombardi to discuss the circumstances of the library which has dropped from an ARL rank of 77 in 2001 to 105 in 2002 and which, in comparison to BC, BU, Northeastern, UCONN, and UNH, appears to rank somewhere above only UNH; The Campus Physical Planning Committee heard a report from Judy Steinkamp and endorsed a report on continued development of the bikeways; Steinkamp also presented an update on the space audit of the entire campus, saying that visits to all departments have been completed and, in February, will be followed up with more visits to certain departments that have issues; preliminary findings are that 47 percent of class enrollments are in 14 spaces, which is more extreme than any other campus that the space consultants have seen; based on past practice, there would seem to be a strong need for more auditoria, but only if this is the way UMASS will want to teach in the future, so this is a serious issue that the Senate might want to get involved in; classrooms are sorely lacking in the technological infrastructure that students and faculty find attractive and fundamental; The University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee has been discussing the implementation of SPIRE and keeping the heat on the administration to fix the glitches; the Rules Committee continues to meet approximately every two weeks to coordinate the workflow of the Senate and set the agenda for Senate meetings; it also meets approximately every other week with the Chancellor and Provost and other staff to discuss current issues, including the declining percent of state support to higher ed, high-level administrative interim appointments and full searches, research cost recovery, problems with SPIRE, the undergraduate advising tracking system, the cost of athletics, the overall competitiveness of the campus, and enrollment growth.

3. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

Delegate to the Board of Trustees Brian O'Connor, as representative to the campus in the Presidential Search Committee, reported that on Wednesday, December 10th, the entire Committee met for about 4 1/2 hours to discuss the applicants. They plan to meet again in mid-January for possible interviews.

4. Representative of the Graduate Student Senate

Representative of the Graduate Student Senate Tsoaledi Thobejane announced that the GSS had a productive semester, having allocated 50 childcare vouchers to applicants and achieving success in the opening of the Graduate Student Lounge. GSS has also been inundated with many calls and emails about how to resolve the issue of the \$65 fee for international students, so they are looking at ways of resolving the matter amicably with the International Programs

Office (IPO). On the 10th of December, the GSS had its final meeting where a motion was passed vowing to try to absolve the new \$65 fee.

GEO / ALANA International Student Coordinator George Liu addressed the Senate in order to respond to the contents of an email to all international students explaining the basis for the fee. He also spoke on his personal experience with the issue, saying that there are currently three major concerns among members of the international student community: 1) the "surveillance" of international students, which this fee seems to be directly linked to, and which is not a welcome "service" but an enforced precaution; 2) the implied notion that there is a budget crisis in the IPO which is separate, or more extreme, than on the rest of the campus, and therefore another justification for the \$65 fee; and 3) the further implication of a "fee for service" funding model which seems to single out students of color. Liu finished by saying that such discrimination only contributes to students' perception of UMASS administration's seemingly "xenophobic" attitude, which will most likely only succeed in decreasing international student enrollment and, ultimately, hurt campus diversity in that respect.

QUESTIONS

Senator Mokhtar Atallah expressed concern about Printing Services in Whitmore, saying that the level of professionalism seems to have declined. Of prime concern is the facility's combined proximity with the Peter Pan Bus Lines ticket counter and the idea that student employees might be seeing exams submitted for printing.

Senator Einhorn directed a question to Chancellor Lombardi, asking that he clarify the status of discussions regarding Division 1-A Football.

Chancellor John Lombardi responded that the Trustee Ad Hoc Committee made a report which is available online. They have concluded that, at this time, UMASS Amherst and the system in general is not in a position to move to Division 1-A Football because neither the required financial base nor the conference opening necessary for Division 1-A Football is available at the present time. The issue is still open for future discussion when the aforementioned obstacles can be overcome. Designated administration have been instructed to develop a plan for the UMASS Amherst Intercollegiate Athletics Program, which could become financially self-sufficient and high quality in production. That process will evolve over the next three to four months, as a new Athletic Director is appointed and the necessary campus constituencies come together over the issue. Eventually, the plan will have to be reported back to the Trustee Ad Hoc Committee for recommendation to the Athletic Committee of the Board of Trustees, who will then make whatever determinations it sees fit.

Senator Richard Bogartz thanked representatives of the GSS and assured them that the Rules Committee is planning a discussion of the "new fee issue," to which graduate student speakers and representatives from the IPO will be invited.

Director of International Programs Frank Hugus remarked that he shares the sentiment of some of the comments made by GSS representatives today, adding that the fee was imposed with a "heavy heart," but also in the knowledge that it was a financial maneuver essential to the survival of international programs. Only about an eighth of the fee goes to the aforementioned SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) surveillance services.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council, Academic Priorities Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning Establishing A Five -College Certificate in Logic, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-013 with Motion No. 13-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of A Five -College Certificate in Logic, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-013.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning Revised Requirements for the Earth Systems Major in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-014 with Motion No. 14-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the changes to the requirements for the B.S. degree in
14-04 Earth Systems, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-014.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning Creating Two Major Tracks in French & Francophone Studies in the Department of French and Italian Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-015 with Motion No. 15-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the changes in the requirements for the B.A. degree in
15-04 French and Francophone Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-015.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning A Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Art, the University of Massachusetts Amherst International Programs Office and the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica Venezia, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-016 with Motion No. 16-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Agreement to establish a study-abroad program
16-04 between the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Art and the Scuola Internazionale di Grafica Venezia, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-016.

Deputy Provost John Cunningham questioned the awarding of three credits for keeping a journal, wondering if maybe it should be variable from one to three credits.

Chair of the Art Department Ron Michaud replied that students produce a visual journal which is then reviewed by a faculty committee and awarded credit based on the quality of the journal.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

5. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning A Proposal for University of Massachusetts Amherst Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica for Social and Behavioral Science Majors, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-017 with Motion No. 17-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Proposal for University of Massachusetts Amherst
17-04 Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica for Social and Behavioral Science Majors, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-017.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

6. Special Report of the General Education Council concerning Recommended General Education Designations, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-018 with Motion No. 18-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education Designations in the curriculum
18-04 areas, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-018.

Senator Roland Chilton asked if there has been a recent study of the gradual growth of General Education courses, wondering if we have more than we need.

Deputy Provost Cunningham commented that there has been no such study, to his knowledge, but there also doesn't seem to be a great surplus of courses. Many students are taking gen ed courses as free electives, and this poses a problem for students seeking to enroll in the courses for gen ed requirement, but this is not a result of any shortage or surplus of gen ed courses.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

7. Special Report of the General Education Council concerning Proposed New General Education Designation: "Science Interdisciplinary" or "SI," as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-019 with Motion No. 19-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the revision of the interdisciplinary aspect of the General
19-04 Education program, as described in Sen. Doc. No. 04-019, with an effective date of implementation of
Fall 2005.

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May commented that approval of this proposal will result in a change which will be an improvement for a great number of undergraduate students in the way that they complete their general education requirements.

Senator O'Connor also voiced his support for the approval of this proposal.

Deputy Provost Cunningham echoed the aforementioned sentiments, adding that the change will affect 39 percent of all graduates, but also a higher percentage of graduates in non-science areas.

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May suggested that UMASS work to secure lab experience for every undergraduate who takes the general education curriculum in science.

Academic Matters Council Chair John Jenkins agreed with Secretary May and related the General Education Council's past failed efforts to secure this requirement, saying that the unaffordable construction of new facilities and hiring of faculty have always been hindrances in the issue.

Senator Christine King expressed a need for incentives encouraging faculty to develop more interdisciplinary science courses.

Former Chair of the General Education Council Ralph Faulkingham stated that the Council has always very strongly encouraged faculty to develop interdisciplinary courses, despite the fact that sufficient incentive isn't offered. New course proposals aimed at gen ed designation are also encouraged.

Senator Atallah added that approval of this proposal will not increase pressure on SI courses, as the other courses offered in Physical and Biological Sciences have the capacity to absorb a third course in that area. He also voiced agreement with the notion that more of these courses need to be developed.

Senator King suggested proposing to the Gen Ed Council and the Center for Teaching the idea of workshops on the development of interdisciplinary courses.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

8. Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-020 with Motion No. 20-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as
20-04 presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-020.

Senator Marilyn Billings made a motion to amend the document by adding Professors Nikki Stoia, Stephen Olbrys, and Jose Mestre to the report. This motion was seconded and adopted.

Motion 20-04 was seconded and adopted as amended.

The 626th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:52 p.m. on December 18, 2003. The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
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ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN KULIK

Good afternoon, everyone. It's nice to be with you again. I always enjoy these chances to come by and chat with you, and I look forward to any comments you may have about the current political scene -- the budget scene and Beacon Hill. We congratulate you on the completion of this semester, and also congratulate you all on your good work to bring about the contracts funding and honoring of the commitment that was made to you and other employees in public higher education in Massachusetts. It was a hard-fought victory that was achieved because of the unity of the faculty with the other higher education staff and because of the focus, timing, and commitment to show up at the State House and advocate strongly for honoring that commitment. We're so glad that it was able to be done with a very serious commitment from legislative leadership to see the rest of that commitment through in terms of the retroactive funds coming through when they are available.

I want to talk a little about what remains to be done and where we may be going in the next year with the budget situation which so closely affects this campus and all of public higher education. We're not finished yet with the issue of the contract funding and the \$10 million appropriation which was in the supplemental budget and which is a very important matter for this University. The Governor did veto that. I was very disappointed that he did, and disappointed by the reason that he gave. He said he didn't want to support it because he didn't know how the University would spend \$10 million dollars, which I was a little surprised to hear from someone who's been in office for about a year. Perhaps he has not had the time to focus on the impact of successive years of budget cuts here and the impact of people leaving university service due to early retirement and layoffs. It would be very easy to spend more than ten times the \$10 million here in an effort to catch up with some of the backwards steps we've made in the past few years. So I was very disappointed in that, but I'm very optimistic that when the legislature reconvenes in January, that that will be one of the vetoes that is taken up. I believe the legislative leadership is committed to overriding his veto, and I believe that that will happen in a fairly strong bipartisan way as well. I was very surprised that he did that, because the reason for putting that money back in the supplemental budget was to try to bring some equity to the level of cuts between the state and community college system and the university system which was more severe. The \$10 million gets us about halfway to closing that gap. We could've gone all the way, but we are still in a difficult financial situation. I just think it was very shortsighted of the Governor, and I think it probably says a lot about his view of public higher education. He hasn't quite yet grasped what it's all about. I hope that when we see his budget submissions in House One in January, we will get a clearer understanding of where he stands right now on the issue of public higher ed. On the contracts issue, we're also very troubled by what he has said and what he hasn't explained very thoroughly about his comments -- that he views this less as a long-term contractual obligation than a bonus of some sort because higher ed employees have gone without raises for so long. It's a very puzzling comment. Clearly, the intent of the legislature is that that money gets built into the base appropriation that should be coming to the University and all of higher ed for fiscal year 2005. To do any less would mean serious further cuts that would have to be made on this campus. So, I think, if the Governor follows through on these initial comments he has made, he is in for a real battle with the legislature over that. Again, we've used the word "commitment" a lot in this struggle, and I think that the majority of the legislature -- both Democrat and Republican -- feel very strongly that this was a significant downpayment on a long-term commitment that we plan to follow through with regarding funding in the base appropriation for the University and a commitment to continue working towards achieving the earliest possible resolution of the retroactive issue. So we will know more about the Governor's true intentions in about a month from now, when we do see his budget. I did hear today that his Secretary of Administration and Finance, Eric Kriss, met with community college presidents his morning and indicated that they may see some additional increase in their appropriations in House One, but there was a reaffirmation of the Governor's intent not to fund the contracts at the community college level. Tomorrow he is meeting with the state college presidents and will be delivering a similar message. I think the battle lines are drawn and the stage is set to deal with that issue early in the new year.

So what are we looking at as we look towards fiscal '05, which will kick off when the Governor releases his budget? I think we're looking at an improving economic situation in the state. Tax revenues are coming in higher for the first five months of fiscal '04 than anticipated at a pretty good clip -- about \$250 million or so over our expectations for fiscal '04. While it may be very tempting to want to spend that money right now, we really need to keep hold of it for fiscal '05 because we do face a structural deficit in the commonwealth that, by most accounts, will give us a shortfall for fiscal '04 with at least \$1 billion. That's a lot of money, but it's not the \$2 billion we were dealing with in fiscal '04, and it's not the \$2 billion for the next fiscal year that most people were thinking we would face just a couple months ago. The Senate

Chair of Ways and Means came out with a very thorough analysis of where he thought the budget would be going in fiscal '05 and had very good reason to think we were looking at a \$2 billion shortfall, and that's on top of the \$3 billion in cuts that have been made to the state budget over the last couple years, in addition to the almost complete use of our \$1.2 billion dollars or so in reserve fund. We have seen a complete free-fall in state tax revenues which we're, just now, going to recover. We're probably facing one to two more difficult years which, with the budget season starting, indicates to me that we probably can't expect any significant increases in appropriations in any particular area. We have the areas of the budget that have been driving increases -- which are Medicaid, Debt Service, and Pension obligations -- really driving our shortfall at this point. With revenues declining, those are areas of the budget that increase which we have very little control over. There is not much we can do about something like Debt Service. We can refinance some of our long-term debt, and that's been going on. We can delay our obligations into the unfunded pension liability, and that's going to be on the table this year, but it has long-term consequences. We're supposed to fully fund our pension system, which is important to all of you who will someday avail yourselves of that system. It's supposed to be fully funded by 2028. We can delay that, but we do that at a cost; we lower the cost of what we're paying now into the pension system to free up some cash that would be used in our operating budget, but we simply make it a more expensive proposition in the long-term and delay by a decade or so when we get to fully funding that unfunded liability. So that has long-term issues for capital spending in Massachusetts in the rates we pay when we borrow for capital improvements and so forth. It's a very serious matter. Some people think it's ok to do that, others don't. I think it will be a big part of the budget debate this year. I do think we have a reasonable shot at holding a line against any further cuts this year. I wouldn't be surprised if the Governor's budget might have a level-funding component absent the commitment to the contracts. It may look like level funding, but last year the Governor's budget had a lot of gimmicks in it that made it look like it was a balanced budget, but it really wasn't, because a lot of the savings that he projected were not real savings. They had to do with what I would call "gimmick-y" types of accounting tactics and also major reorganization proposals he had made, particularly in higher education at the state community college level but also in the court systems. Those numbers just didn't really materialize. He was proposing, in his House One budget last year, that there would be about \$2 billion worth of savings that he could then allocate to meet some of our other operational obligations, but that just never happened. I suspect we may see a similar tactic from him coming out in January, and it's up to us and the legislature to actually sift through what's real and what isn't real and come up with a responsible budget, but I don't anticipate seeing a lot of increases.

Therefore, what does that mean for you folks? I think we would be very lucky if we could hold the line on any further cuts. Doing that is going to take an awful lot of work on your behalf -- directly and indirectly through us and the legislative delegation -- but I was very heartened this year by the effort you all put forth toward the contracts. The unity with other collective bargaining units throughout higher education was an important example of what can be accomplished when people work together. I think that's important to do for fiscal year '05 when we're talking about the appropriations to the University. If we could shift that kind of lobbying effort and focus onto the operating budget for the University, then I think we could probably hold our own this year and maybe even see an increase in the budget because, in fact, higher ed has been cut more deeply than any other single component of the state budget over the last three or four years. So there is some catching up to do. There is an awfully good argument to be made that even though we're not out of the budgetary woods yet, if we could begin making some strategic investments into the areas that were cut the deepest, then this is a good year to do it as revenues are beginning to climb a little bit and we're looking at perhaps being out of the fiscal crisis in, say, fiscal year '07. We're not talking about big increases, but I think it's worth the effort -- especially the effort for you to stay organized with your colleagues around the state and also with the other unions here on campus. If we can get them to be as motivated about the operating budget as they had been about fulfilling the commitment on the contracts, I think this was a very successful effort that we can build on. Many more of my colleagues are aware today of higher education and what's going on around the commonwealth campuses right now than they were five or six months ago. I think you've heard a number of us say, over the years, that higher education is not high on the radar screen for an awful lot of our colleagues. That's unfortunately true, but we have an opportunity now to build on the success of this latest lobbying effort and move into the budget season in January.

So that's my advice: to try to stay organized and to work with all of us in the local delegation. Speaking of the local delegation, there is a reception with most of us from the Hampshire / Franklin area this afternoon from 4 to 5:30 that is being hosted by the campus unions over in Campus Center 101. You're all welcome to stop by and say hello to any of the senators or representatives from the area. It's just a very informal kind of gathering with the intent of the union leadership to thank the delegation for our efforts and talk about where we go from here. So I just wanted to throw that little advertisement out there in case you have time to stop by after this. I'd be happy to take any questions or comments now if we have time.