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**STATEMENT FROM JOHN V. LOMBARDI, CHANCELLOR, ON REVISED  
TIMETABLE FOR DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

AMHERST, Mass. – Chancellor John V. Lombardi of the University of Massachusetts Amherst issued this statement today regarding the university's draft action plan to improve campus diversity:

“The University of Massachusetts Amherst has received a number of suggestions and comments on its Draft Proposal in response to the Commission on Diversity. Given the importance of this effort and the wide range of comments provided, the campus will extend the comment period and provide additional information to clarify the various ways we can respond to the recommendations of the Commission.

In response to requests from various constituencies for more time to consider these issues, the revised schedule will be as follows:

- **March 31:** Post proposal from the Student Government Association on the Campus Diversity Web site ([www.umass.edu/campusdiversity](http://www.umass.edu/campusdiversity)).
- **April 6:** Post Chancellor's Q & A on issues raised by various commentators on the Diversity Commission Report and on the Draft Campus Proposal on the Campus Diversity Web site.
- **April 11:** Post Revised Campus Proposal on the Campus Diversity Web site.
- **April 22:** Close comment period for responses.
- **April 29:** Post Revised Final Campus Plan for Implementing Recommendations of the Commission on Campus Diversity with budget and implementation schedule on the Campus Diversity Web site.

As noted before, the response to the Commission's report will require both immediate and long-term action. It will require investment. And, it will require clear indications of performance goals and measures.

There are many voices speaking to these issues, and there are substantial differences of perspective about the most effective way of achieving the goals outlined in the Commission's report. Nonetheless, these are fundamental concerns of the campus

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**Chancellor's Statement, Page 2**

that affect us all. Everyone I have spoken with or heard from, whatever their perspective on the various alternatives, shares the same objective of improving the campus' effectiveness in developing and supporting a diverse learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff.”

John V. Lombardi

Chancellor  
March 28, 2005