




UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 4, 2009
To: Ernie May, Faculty Senate Secretary
From: Robert C. Holub, Chancellor 

As you know, the campus has been contemplating reorganization since we received news of the devastating budget situation in the fall of 2008. The Provost and I have consulted widely with faculty from all affected colleges and received dozens of emails from across the campus. We met several times with deans and held meetings with groups of distinguished faculty members from colleges that may be impacted by change.

I believe that the structures I am proposing make the most sense for the campus at this particular time. They will provide efficiencies in administration, considerable monetary savings, minimal disruption of faculty, programs, and departments, as well as the potential for exciting new collaborations in research and teaching. They will also demonstrate that we are taking the financial crisis seriously and that we are managing the campus effectively. I know that not everyone will agree, but I hope that faculty will put aside their personal preferences and work within the proposed structure toward the goal we all want: moving UMass Amherst into the upper echelon of public research universities in the country.

I propose the elimination of four colleges and their reconstitution as two colleges. The colleges to be eliminated would be the College of Humanities and Fine Arts; the College of Natural Resources and the Environment; the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The official names of the newly formed colleges will be left to the faculty in them. I will refer to them for convenience in this memorandum as the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) and the College of Natural Sciences (CNS).

My proposal places the following departments and programs in CHASS: Afro-American Studies; Art; Classics; English; History; Judaic and Near Eastern Studies; Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Linguistics; Music and Dance; Philosophy; Slavic and East European Studies; Theater; Women's Studies; Anthropology; Communication; Communication Disorders; Economics; Labor Relations and Research Center; Legal Studies; Political Science; Public Policy and Administration; Social Thought and Political Economy; Sociology; Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

My proposal places the following departments in CNS: Environmental Sciences; Food Science; Microbiology; Natural Resources Conservation; Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences; Stockbridge School of Agriculture; Veterinary and Animal Sciences; Psychology; Astronomy; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Geosciences; Mathematics and Statistics; Physics; and Polymer Science and Engineering.

I propose that Resource Economics be included in the School of Management.

In addition I propose that the School of Nursing retain its autonomy and have an associate dean or an executive director from among the current School of Nursing, but that it be administered through the College of Public Health and Health Sciences.

The governance of the two new colleges will be left entirely to the administration and faculty of the colleges. While neither the Provost nor I wish to micromanage the new colleges, we suggest as a first step that committees consisting of faculty, staff, and administrators from NRE and NSM for CNS; and committees consisting of faculty, staff, and administrators from HFA and SBS for CHASS should be formed to assist in the transition.

I would like a recommendation on this proposal from the Faculty Senate and would appreciate your taking the appropriate action to get such a recommendation to me. As we have previously discussed, it will be important to receive the Senate's recommendation by the end of the current semester.