



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST

Office of Research Affairs  
Research Administration Building  
70 Butterfield Terrace  
Amherst, MA 01003-9242

Office of the Vice Provost for Research

voice: 413.545.3428  
fax: 413.577.1728

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 19, 2008

To: Ernest D. May, Faculty Senate  
Paul T. Kosteki, Vice Provost for Research

From: D. R. Evans, Chair, Faculty Senate Research Council

Re: Analysis of impact of Curriculum Fee on Research at UMass

Attached please find a Memorandum which undertakes a retrospective analysis of the impact of the Curriculum Fee on research efforts at University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Research Council voted to share the memo in its present form in order to raise awareness of the issues and promote a wider dialogue about how the fee affects other parts of the university mission, including graduate education.

The Research Council through its Research Policy Committee has been involved in a study of the impact of the Curriculum Fee on various aspects of the research mission of the University for the past several years. The history of those efforts is summarized in the opening section of the attached Memorandum.

The Council however, noted that further analysis would be desirable which among other things would look at the relationship of RAs and Post-doctoral appointments to the number of tenure-track faculty at the time. Other areas worth further study include an analysis of the Ph.D.s awarded by the University and a better understanding of how the lack of growth in those numbers overall compares to the growth in research funding.

cc: Robert C. Holub, Chancellor  
Charlena M. Seymour, Provost  
Deans/ Chairs/Heads  
Linda Shea, Chair/Graduate Council