

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David Ostendorf, Chair
2004-2005
Minutes
September 17, 2004**

Present: R. Keen, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, S. Scarpati, J. Schafer, L. Sievert, S. Sturgeon, P. Utgoff, E. Vanetzian, J. Zamora, A. Mangels, T. Butterfield, P. Kostecki, B. McCandless, C. Sprague, M. Malone, N. Khan, H. Woodcock, D. Reckhow, T. Gaumnitz

First order of business was the election of the chairperson for the coming year. Dave Ostendorf was nominated, seconded and unanimously approved a chair.

The minutes of the June 4th, 2004 meeting were then moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

The next item was comments by administrative officers present:

Speaking for the Provost, Mike Malone, the newly appointed dean of the School of Engineering, updated all on the recently completed search for the director of CVIP. He reported that the original search was abandoned after the remaining candidate for the position was not highly supported by the central CVIP office.

Vice Provost Paul Kostecki announced that the search has been resumed with the aid of an outside search firm and the search committee will be meeting next week to firm up the schedule for interviews. Paul next announced the reinstatement of the FRG program and his plan for the creation of a new program to support national level conferences to be hosted at Umass. He is proceeding to get input on these plans and will bring them to the Research Council when the plans have been vetted with Deans and selected faculty. When the discussion of amount of funding was discussed he was urged to consider a percentage basis rather than an absolute amount. Finally he announced the move of the sponsored research area is completed and an open house will be planned for early October inviting the research community to view the new facilities.

Jay Schafer interjected to announce the jointly sponsored Colloquium of the RLC and RC. It is titled "Freedom of Speech & Speech for Free" with the title presentation being made by Peter Gilver on Oct 15th, 3-4:30 PM Cape Cod Lounge, SUB.

Andy Mangels announced the new hire and appointment of a budget director, David Murphy.

Nigar Khan speaking for John Mullen reported the discontinuation of the \$65 Foreign Student fee. She indicated that foreign student application were down 40%. She will be participating in a first ever recruiting trip to India to promote graduate education at Umass. The program to extend

participation at foreign conferences by a few days for recruiting purposes will continue. John Mullen has agreed to pay per diem for the added days.

Tony Butterfield, on behalf of Graduate Council, stated that a new fee for applying to graduate school by foreign students was announced at their meeting. They intend to further discuss this new fee at their next meeting and will keep the RC informed.

Carol Sprague reported that Sponsored research Award Dollars were down for the first two months of the new year compared to last. The numbers reported were \$12,475,198 received as of end of August this year compared to \$18,519,407 the year before. Proposal Dollars were \$28,679,773 as of August this year compared to \$29,503,324 the year before. Discussion ensued to explain the drop with all agreeing that two months was too short a period to draw any trend conclusions. The numbers will be watched carefully.

Hilary Woodcock reported that all recent compliance inspections have been successful. She also announced that a new online compliance system has been identified and will be implemented during the next semester.

The meeting next turned to a presentation by Dave Reckhow who highlighted the efforts of TEI in promoting and initiating interdisciplinary research activities. He presented information on 7 different efforts and commented on their status.

Finally the annual report of last year's activities was taken up for review and approval. After discussion an edited version was move seconded and voted for acceptance with one nay vote and one abstention. The report will now be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for their action.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35AM.