

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
William Patterson, Chair  
2007-2008  
Minutes  
November 2, 2007**

**PRESENT:** J. Adams, C. Clifton, D. Evans, A. Foulkes, W. Gerace, J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, L. Sievert, P. Utgoff, A. Mangels, P. Cormier, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Donais

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Minutes of the October 5, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Vice Provost Kostecki updated the Council on the recent visit to campus of Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, Richard O'Connell. Also present at this meeting, at which were discussed life sciences and UMass/Springfield initiatives, were: the mayors of several Western Massachusetts communities (including Springfield, Northampton, Greenfield, Easthampton); town managers and planners; and several state representatives and business leaders. Kostecki stated that one of Chancellor Cole's top priorities is greater Springfield initiatives. He passed out a copy of a brochure made available to the group entitled: *Greater Springfield and UMass Amherst: The Power of Connection*.

Kostecki also announced that the Clean Energy Working Group, which represents all UMass campuses, was meeting today to continue discussions of a UMass white paper benchmarking clean energy research initiatives. He continued by reporting that the Research Area is developing podcasts for commercial ventures and intellectual property proposals. The first one will cover biofuels. Nick DeCristofaro, Director of CVIP, is accepting suggestions for potential podcast topics. Also, animal space issues are becoming critical and discussions are ongoing involving the Vice Chancellor for A & F, Campus and Facilities Planning, Animal Care, Research Affairs and his office.

Bruce McCandless announced that submissions for the first round of FRG submissions are received. The Committee will be meeting soon to review and decide recipients.

Engineering Dean Mike Malone, representing the Provost, said that the Provost thanks the Research Council for its input and advice on A250 hires. The Provost would also like the Council's input on a Research Commons which would be housed in the Du Bois Library. Specifically what would a Research Commons embody? She would also like the Council's input on what would an office do that deals with innovation. Bill Patterson will ask the Research Policy Committee to address these last two issues.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, announced that the Effort Reports discussed by Will Shea and Jacqui Watrous at the last Council meeting, have been mailed out and are due back today. He requested that faculty pay close attention to the cost share commitments. Discussions continued on what 100% feedback actually

means. Mangels fielded questions and carefully explained how the government expects grant commitment be certified. Frequency of effort reporting was discussed with pros and cons considering everything from monthly to yearly reporting. Discussions on this topic will continue after review of the initial reports.

Nigar Khan, representing the Graduate Dean, announced that the Graduate School will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a dinner on April 9, 2008. The Graduate Dean is asking each Dean to select outstanding 3 alums - 1 alum from each College/School will be selected to be honored at the dinner. The RA vs. post-doc issue has been discussed by a committee made up of John Mullin, Paul KostECKi, Bill Patterson, Linda Shea and Nigar Khan. The Committee will collect data on the history/trends of Curriculum Fee over the past 3 years; RAs by College/School; funding sources for RAs; study of peer institutions including finding out if the curriculum fee goes back to PIs or is distributed in other ways; number of individuals hired as 03s to do research. A suggestion was strongly made that the Graduate School involve PIs as it researches the Curriculum Fee issue.

Jen Donais, Associate Director of OGCA, reported that the number of awards is still very high. The campus is 50% ahead of the same quarter last year. OGCA is in the midst of its busiest proposal period. Grants.gov submissions still struggle with the submission time line. The Workplace Learning workshops are very popular with long waiting lists. OGCA's educational efforts are addressing many of the issues/problems presented at the Research Council.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Bruce McCandless will finalize the Sensitive Research proposal for presentation to the Research Policy Committee. The Research Council should see the proposal at its December meeting.

The Research Policy Committee (RPC) has addressed the issue of successor to the Chair of the Research Council and presented the following:

**MOTION:** The Research Policy Committee shall act as a nominating committee and present to the Council a slate of nominees for the position of Chair elect at the last meeting of the fall semester. Election of chair elect (to serve as Chair of the Council in the next academic year) will occur at the next meeting of the Council (i.e., the first of the spring semester).

The MOTION was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The RPC will present the Council with a slate of nominees for Chair-elect at the December Council meeting.

The Research Council adjourned at 10:34 a.m.