

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
William Patterson, Chair  
2007-2008  
Minutes  
March 7, 2008**

**PRESENT:** J. Adams, L. Button, C. Clifton, D. Evans, A. Foulkes, J. Kent-Braun, M. Maroney, J. Miller, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, L. Sievert, A. Mangels, L. Shea, P. Cormier, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, S. Coleman, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Schafer, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

The Minutes of the February 8, 2008 meeting were amended to change paragraph 5, sentence 3 to read:.....”The request was for *documents on primate protocols and daily care sheets*”. The Minutes were then approved unanimously as amended.

Chair Patterson introduced new Research Council member Michael Maroney from the Department of Chemistry.

Representing the Provost, Dean Malone thanked the Council on her behalf for its recent memo regarding UMAs flagship campus status. Also, the Chancellor search has developed a strong slate of candidates. Airport interviews are progressing and final candidates should be on campus in April.

Vice Provost Kostecki informed the Council that he was Chair of the System-wide Clean Energy Task Force (CETF). Kostecki, Marla Michel and Loren Walker put together a report to the Science & Technology Research sub-committee of the CETF that showed that 80-90% of system-wide energy development was actually Amherst-centric. At the final meeting of the Task Force it was decided to try to stay organized. UMB proposed that each campus match \$25,000 to keep the energy momentum alive.

The Greater Springfield/UMA Task Force met to focus on developing an Energy Research Center in Springfield with the goal of putting together a proposal to the Governor to develop Springfield and how UMA can help.

The \$95M allocated for the Life Science Building has passed by the House and will go to the Senate before being signed off by Governor Patrick. Also, the campus will fund \$12M for a new animal care facility which will replace the existing outdated building. Another science building appears to be in the capital improvement building plan. Discussion ensued about the dire need of renovations for several campus buildings including Bartlett Hall. A suggestion was made to invite, at some point, a representative from Campus Facilities and Planning to attend a Research Council meeting.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, brought the Council up-to-date on review of several electronic effort reporting systems. A&F hopes to have a system in place by Fall 2008.

At the last Council meeting it was announced that the State had retroactively increased the fringe benefit rate from 29% to 39%, Mangels announced that he has recently received notification from the State that this rate will now be decreased from 39% to approximately 25%. Also at the last meeting it was moved and passed that the Deans' Council proposal that risks be shared according to the 70-10-10-10 RTF allocation formula. Chair Patterson will write to VPR KostECKi indicating the Research Council's unanimous support for this proposal. We understand that the proposal will be forwarded to the Provost after coordination between Mangels and KostECKi.

Nigar Khan, representing the Graduate Dean, announced that the Graduate School is dealing with several incidents of graduate student violence. Also, the Graduate Council has approved a concentration in green building (centered in the Department of Natural Resources Conservation – CNRE). The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Graduate School is set for April 9.

Carol Sprague announced that proposals and awards are increasing with a year-over-year increase in awards of 16%. Sprague also reported that OGCA is very concerned about an increase in inaccurate information on Internal Processing Forms (IPF). KostECKi reminded the Council that the IPF is a legal document with serious ramifications for incorrect information. Concern will be voiced at a Research Deans meeting. Also, a new OGCA Training Series has begun. Enrollment is down from previous offerings.

Hilary Woodcock, University Research Compliance Officer, announced that the NIH Animal Use Assurance which had been conditional is no longer conditional and is good until 2010. The e-protocol for human subjects and animal use is just about ready to go as soon as security issues have been resolved.

Woodcock reported that she has received inquiries for animal use protocols and care sheets, and she is revisiting the issue of responding to these requests which would include developing a procedure with a cost estimate for redacted proposals. The Research Policy Committee is drafting a statement of support for PIs (see below) and will develop proposed procedures to address the overall issue.

Paul Cormier, representing graduate students, announced that the general strike has produced an agreement package tied to the increase in fees which has been passed.

Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries, handed out a recent article from Harvard which explains the dissemination of faculty research and scholarship to allow greater worldwide access. He also announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual digital quadrangle event entitled "Engaging the Web for Scholarship."

David Ostendorf, Chair of the Research Policy Committee, handed out a copy of a Board of Trustees “Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarly Activities” which appears to supersede an already established policy for dealing with charges of misconduct in research and scholarly activities on this campus. The RPC will look at the new policy further to determine if it undermines local policy.

Ostendorf stated that the Research Commons will be brought before the Council in April or May. Though not quite sure how it should be run, a Research Commons based in the Library at UMass Amherst would include mentoring and perhaps the use of the Emeritus Institute as integral parts of the Commons. Bill Patterson handed out information of Research Commons concepts at the University of Indiana.

Ostendorf presented the Council with a Statement of Support which in light of recent inquiries for information about animal protocols requires immediate action by the Council. After discussion and amendment the following MOTION for passed unanimously by the Research Council:

The Faculty Senate Research Council supports the recent actions of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Administration in exercising caution in the release of records of research protocols and animal care procedures involving nonhuman primates. All protocols and procedures reflect responsible research and care practices as monitored by the Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee (<http://www.umass.edu/research/aco/iacuc.html>). The Administration’s actions in exercising caution in releasing these records are justified given the possibility that such release would place University personnel in danger.

The Research Council is studying the adoption of an explicit policy governing the protection of responsible research conducted by the University. This policy could include the retention of information under conditions in which it is reasonable to believe that such release could put University personnel and property at risk of harm. It is evaluating a statement of Best Practices for Protecting Researchers and Research issued by the Society for Neuroscience (<http://www.sfn.org/skins/main/pdf/gpa/Best Practices for Protecting.pdf>) as a possible model for developing a policy.

The Research Council adjourned at 10:37 a.m.