

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David R. Evans, Chair
2008-2009
Minutes
October 3, 2008**

PRESENT: J. Adams, L. Button, K. Danai, D. Evans, J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, M. Maroney, J. Miller, W. Patterson, S. Rich, L. Sievert, M. Taunton, E. West, N. Khan, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, A. Mangels, B. McCandless, L. Shea, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock

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

The Minutes of the September 12, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Research Council members not present at the September meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

David Evans investigated Research Council representation on other Faculty Senate Councils and asked who from the Research Council currently served on these Councils.

Graduate Council – Linda Shea

Research Library Council – Jay Schafer, Leslie Button, Lynette Leidy Sievert

Program & Budget Council – Paul Kostecki

University Service, Public Service & Outreach Council – Dan Gerber, Chair of this Council, discussed its history and mission. The Research Council will be sent a 3-page white paper which describes Scholarly Engagement as defined by this Council. Scholarly Engagement is the creation, integration, application and transmission of knowledge for the benefit of external audiences and the University and occurs in all areas of the University Mission: research, teaching and service. The quality and value of Scholarly Engagement is determined by academic peers and community partners. A Research Council representative has yet to be determined.

The Research Council will meet with Chancellor Holub sometime this semester at a time to be determined. Items for discussion at the meeting will be addressed at the November RC meeting.

Michael Malone, representing the Provost's Office, reported that the senior campus administration completed a draft of strategic priorities and a number of associated near-term actions. This draft was reviewed on October 1 with the Deans Council and with the Faculty Senate Rules Committee. Following the review, other pertinent councils and committees will be engaged as appropriate. The Chancellor's Executive Management Team will provide leadership and oversight of these near-term actions and on developing this starting point into a longer range strategic plan and implementation. Input from the Research Council is important and welcome on several of these initiatives, with others likely as the process develops.

A. There will be a competition for faculty positions this year and interdisciplinary research initiatives will once again be an important aspect. Research Council input on the process for allocations last year was integral to the process then and further input is welcome as we move forward. This activity will be lead by the Provost's office in coordination with the deans of schools and colleges.

B. There will be a review of Centers and Institutes to document the level of activity and contribution to the research mission of the campus. This activity will be led by Vice Provost Kostecki.

Hilary Woodcock brought before the Council a request that the campus develop a policy requiring visiting scholars working in labs be required to obtain a UMass identity. This policy would require visiting researchers and scholars to comply with UMass rules and regulations. This request will be forwarded to the Policy Committee.

The Council referred to David Ostendorf's memo to Chair Evans regarding "Possible Council Items for AY08/09." A list of 32 concerns were raised by the Research Council at the September meeting. After collective and individual deliberation, three of the concerns emerged as possible priorities for this academic year session. Also listed with the three concerns are members of the RC who volunteered to serve on a task force specific to each issue.

1. **Curriculum Fee** – David Ostendorf, Nigar Khan, Steve Rich, Martha Taunton, Bill Patterson.
2. **Issues Raised by the new Effort Reporting System** – Andrew Mangels, David Evans
3. **Review of 1992 "Guidelines for Principal and Co-Principal Investigators"** – Jane Miller, Paul Cormier

Bruce McCandless handed out committee assignments for awards. Discussion took place about assignments to various committees. A table of assignments to non-award committees will be circulated with the minutes.

The Research Council adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Provost Representative - Michael Malone

Yesterday, the senior campus administration completed a draft of strategic priorities and a number of associated near-term actions. This draft will be reviewed on 10/1 with the Deans Council and with the Faculty Senate Rules Committee. Following these reviews, other pertinent councils and committees will be engaged as appropriate. The Chancellor's Executive Management Team will provide leadership and oversight of these near-term actions and on developing this starting point into a longer range strategic plan and implementation. Input from the Research Council is important and welcome on several of these initiatives, with others likely as the process develops.

1. There will be a competition for faculty positions this year and interdisciplinary research initiatives will once again be an important aspect. Research Council input on the process for allocations last year was integral to the process then and further input is welcome as we move forward. This activity will be led by my office in coordination with the deans of schools and colleges.
2. There will be a review of Centers and Institutes to document the level of activity and contribution to the research mission of the campus. This activity will be led by Vice Provost Kostecki.

Compliance Coordinator – Hilary Woodcock

I am fresh from a Departmental Safety Coordinators Meeting with a request that the campus develop a policy requiring visiting scholars working in labs be required to obtain a UMass identity i.e. researchers who are not UMass employees, or students. I would like to put this on the Research Council agenda. 10 minutes would probably be more than enough time to present this idea to the Council, provide background to the request and say why I endorse this, and request that the RC Policy Sub-committee review the idea and provide guidance.

I would ask the Research Council to consider endorsing this as a concept. As always, the devil will be in the details.