

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David R. Evans, Chair
2008-2009
Minutes of Special meeting with Chancellor Holub
November 20, 2008**

PRESENT: J. Adams, L. Button, L. Clarke, D. Evans, A. Foulkes, J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, M. Maroney, J. Miller, L. Sievert, M. Taunton, E. West, P. Cormier, N. Khan, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, A. Mangels, E. May, B. McCandless, J. Schafer, L. Shea, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Research Council Chair David Evans welcomed and thanked Chancellor Holub for meeting with the Research Council. Evans gave a quick overview of the role and composition of the Research Council. He updated the Chancellor on recent Council activities which included policy documents on restricted research, data ownership, research and scholarship of engagement, curriculum fee, defining the roles of Principal and co-Principal Investigators and guidelines for new effort reporting system. Also, the Council offered advice on priority and criteria for the 250 plan, protecting faculty using animals in research, Research Commons, and flagship campus status. The Council also reviewed Faculty Research Grants and Conti Fellowships and engaged in data collection relevant to the research enterprise.

The Chancellor thanked the Research Council for giving him an opportunity to address them. He looked forward to working with the Council and stated that he hoped to help faculty realize their potential with regard to research. In answer to the Council's question regarding vision for research and engagement which was raised by the convocation address indicating that faculty must "attain new and higher levels of published research and scholarship, as well as grant activity," the administration is here to support and enhance faculty research. He would try to bring out best by connecting faculty in new ways such as finding ways to link their expertise with other faculty.

The next question addressed by the Chancellor concerned metrics appropriate for the campus to use in measuring the levels of scholarship and grant activity. The Chancellor responded that research is traditionally measure by research expenditures, but that fails to capture many kinds of research activities. He asked the Research Council for their advice on indicators to us. He also noted that research is increasingly not connected just with a solitary PI. It is now much more engaged with ventures, industry and educational missions of the University community and community at large which reflect more of a reality in the 21st century.

When asked what strategies the Chancellor would use in maintaining and growing the research enterprise of the University during this challenging period, he responded that he would support whatever is needed for the campus to realize its potential and would look toward the VCR, PIs and Research Council for guidance.

He was also asked to expand on the concept of "Engagement" in the new title for the VCR. The Chancellor responded that research could no longer be isolated from the community and society. He wants research to lead to engagement with the local community, to produce new programs, to improve the quality of education and life on campus as well as in the larger society. Research should be contributing to our educational mandate as well as developing new knowledge.

Mason Lowance, English, asked how the Humanities and Fine Arts could more visibly participate in the research endeavor. The Chancellor realized that measurement of activity in HFA is different because there are ways other than grants to measure participation such as publications, shows, exhibitions.

Jay Schaefer, Director of Libraries, asked the Chancellor about the search for a permanent VCR and whether or not some sort of a dowry would be available as an incentive to search candidates. The Chancellor stated that he intends for the VCR to have control over a significant amount of dollars for start-up or incentives. He also noted that to date members of the campus community were being asked to serve on a search committee and a search firm was being sought. The Chancellor stated that UMA is a great opportunity, a good place to work and thus they should be able to find people anxious to work here.

Jenny Adams asked about the implementation of 1 credit seminars and how it would enhance research on this campus. The Chancellor responded that a similar program worked at both Berkeley and Tennessee and that faculty would get dollars for research money (approximately 2K/semester which would be put in their RTF accounts) which could be used, for instance, to support travel used for research purposes. He hoped to start the seminars by Fall 2009.

Paul Cormier, graduate student representative, asked if alumni engagement in Research Council is feasible. The Chancellor said that many alumni are involved in the research mission but would not likely be able to attend Council meetings. However alumni input is always be welcomed and a good deal of it takes place at the school/college level through various advisory boards.

When asked how he would put priorities on areas of excellence in research, the Chancellor responded that he would want faculty and administrators involved in reviewing proposals to help select the most promising areas. He hoped to see a wider variety of PIs involved as well.

The issue of funding for centers and institutes was brought up and what support the University gives these organizations. VCR Paul Kosteki stated that centers and institutes come under the Provost office and are mandated to be self-sufficient and a benefit to the University.

When asked how the budget cuts could affect the University, the Chancellor stated that it would make faculty hiring more difficult. The campus would not be able to hire the number of faculty it would like. Funding from external agencies is expected to be at least flat if not worse. We are not anticipating much growth and industry will be more cautious about its support. The campus infrastructure will be difficult to maintain over the next few years. However, the Chancellor would protect areas that support the University mission. Research and development would be important to maintain. This is a very serious budget situation because it extends well beyond Massachusetts.

Finally, when asked for some good, positive feedback, the Chancellor responded that the faculty are creative. There are much excellent research and scholarship throughout the university. He noted that UMass ranked 18th among public institutions in awards for faculty, well above its general ranking among public institutions.

David Evans thanked the Chancellor for meeting with the Research Council and said he would always be welcome at regular meetings of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.