

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
Paul Utgoff, Chair  
2006-2007  
Minutes  
December 8, 2006**

**PRESENT:** I. Agha, L. Button, C. Clifton, K. Danai, D. Gilbert, W. Patterson, L. Sievert, J. Swinney, M. Taunton, P. Utgoff, J. Zamora, A. Mangels, T. Butterfield, E. Glogowski, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, E. May, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Schafer, C. Sprague

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes of the November 3, 2006 meeting were approved after minor corrections: Page 1, last paragraph, 7<sup>th</sup> sentence should read “Paul *also* reported that the outside consultants engaged to review the intellectual property (IP) policy will present *their* findings.....”

Chair Utgoff reminded Council members that the late start for this meeting was to accommodate the Provost’s schedule. Provost Seymour will join the Research Council at 10:00 to discuss and answer questions about faculty mentoring.

Vice Provost Kostecki handed out a description of new IP procedures for the Amherst campus which he believes will expedite licensing agreements for the campus. Advice and comments will still be sought from the system CVIP and legal offices but once the campus CVIP office has arrived at a recommended agreement for intellectual property commercialization, it will forward the proposed agreement to the Vice Provost for Research who will review the agreement and forward through the Provost to the Chancellor for approval or return it to the campus CVIP office for further review. The materials forwarded will include any written comments by the system CVIP office of system legal office relevant to the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement. Kostecki explained that this will be a significant change in the way we do business on the Amherst campus.

Representing Administration and Finance, Andy Mangels announced that the University is preparing for an upgrade in the PeopleSoft Finance system. The system will be down for about 3 weeks in January and should be back up by January 22, 2007. Shut down and cut-off dates will be sent shortly to departments and PIs. Human Resources is not part of the upgrade. Also, his office will speak with Dean’s offices about a more thorough review of additional compensation approvals.

Nigar Khan, reporting for the Graduate Dean, stated that the Graduate School hosted a dinner for current and former Fulbright Fellows on November 29. The event drew about 130 guests, including 65 faculty Fulbright recipients and 24 graduate student recipients from other nations who are studying at UMass Amherst. Tony Claudino, Director of Fulbright Student Program Outreach at the Institute of International Education in New York, was the featured speaker. He described various Fulbright programs ranging from the traditional 1-year program to the new 2-week program.

Tony Butterfield, representing the Graduate Council, reported that they had been concerned that the February 1<sup>st</sup> Graduate School deadline for Fall applications may be too late and was

preventing the University from getting top candidates. The Graduate Council discovered, however, that departments may move up and establish their own deadlines.

Director of OGCA, Carol Sprague, reminded the Council that she had sent an earlier email with the good news that the numbers of proposals, awards, and indirect cost was up over the same time last year.

Director of Libraries, Jay Schafer, announced that, now that the big deck project has been completed, another construction project will disrupt the Library in the coming months. HVAC work will begin in late Spring and will continue through the Summer of 2008. He anticipates that all construction will be completed by Fall 2008. A Library study group has been formed to study ways to expand student space.

Research Policy Committee Chair, Bill Patterson, stated that the Committee had reviewed a draft questionnaire which will survey faculty about how they have adapted to the Curriculum Fee. Bruce McCandless stated that the survey/questionnaire will be sent to faculty within days. The Committee was in the process of reviewing accessibility of research policies. They also reviewed a Paul Kosteci memo regarding a Restricted Proprietary Working Group.

Provost Charlena Seymour was introduced to the Research Council. She thanked everyone for rearranging their schedules so that she could meet with them to discuss faculty mentoring. She explained that the Provost's Office is responsible for all faculty issues and wants to get various types of mentoring activities going. NSF has awarded the University a significant grant that requires faculty involvement and there appears to be more and more of a demand to establish mentoring programs. Associate Provost for Faculty Development Mary Deane Sorcinelli's office has become involved in mentoring activities. The Provost's office has recently been awarded a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a Pilot Study on Mutual Mentoring. The Provost introduced Associate Provost Sorcinelli and Director of New Faculty, Jung Yun, to present and discuss the Mutual Mentoring Initiative which will respond to the needs of new and underrepresented faculty.

Sorcinelli explained that the idea of Mutual Mentoring was developed by a series of one-on-one meetings with faculty, chairs, deans and administrators; focus groups with first and second-year pre-tenure faculty; by written feedback from early career faculty at the Tenure Preparation Seminar and at the New Faculty Orientation; an electronic survey; with interviews with Five College Inc. staff; and site visits to Brown University, Harvard, USC and the University of Virginia. Mutual Mentoring is a non-hierarchical system of mentoring that encourages all members of the UMass community to teach and learn from each other. Mutual Mentoring differs from traditional mentoring in that it encourages a broad network of multiple, diverse mentors, including chairs, senior faculty, peers, and librarians.