

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
William Patterson, Chair
2007-2008
Minutes
February 8, 2008**

PRESENT: J. Adams, L. Button, C. Clifton, K. Danai, D. Evans, A. Foulkes,
J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, J. Miller, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson,
L. Sievert, J. Swinney, M. Taunton, A. Mangels, L. Shea, P. Cormier,
M. Malone, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Schafer, C. Sprague,
H. Woodcock

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

The Minutes of the December 7, 2007 meeting were amended to include David Evans and Linda Shea as PRESENT. The Minutes were then approved unanimously as amended.

Chair Patterson announced that Bill Gerace has taken medical leave from the University this semester and has resigned from the Research Council and as chair of the Research Policy Committee. Dave Ostendorf has agreed to assume chairmanship of the Research Policy Committee. Patterson reported that Prof. David Evans has been nominated by the Research Policy Committee to serve as Research Council Chair-elect (for 2008-2009). The Council voted unanimously to approve Prof. Evans as Chair-elect.

Representing the Provost, Dean Malone thanked the Council on her behalf for the recent memo regarding UMAs flagship campus status. The Provost has also requested updates on the Research Commons and the possibility of adding an innovation/commercialization person to the staff of the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. The system is in the midst of setting Curriculum Fee rates for next year and the Provost is sensitive to concerns raised by the Research Council. A chart illustrating a four-year study of RA and post-doc headcounts/FTEs, and PhD enrollment and curriculum fee collections was distributed. Josh Kroner (Graduate School) will provide projections for the current year. Further discussion was tabled until the next RC meeting.

Bruce McCandless, representing Vice Provost Kostecki, reported that for the last two months there has been an increased level of activity from outside groups regarding animal rights issues. The University has received several Open Records Law requests by a local animal rights group for information on faculty involved in research involving primates. The request was for documents on primate protocols and daily care sheets. The University's legal office has provided advice with respect to our obligations with respect to open records information requests. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research has considered this advice and remains concerned about the security and safety of the campus and its faculty. After some discussion, the topic was tabled so that the Research Policy Committee could carefully consider all issues with the goal of

developing a policy for responding to requests for this type of information. Research Policy Committee Chair Ostendorf asked Council members to forward comments and concerns directly to him.

The Vice Provost also wished to remind the Council that the research executive staff meets monthly with Deans to discuss issues and bring all parties up-to-date on issues of mutual concern. At the last meeting of this group, discussion centered on the retroactive fringe benefit rate increase from 29% to 39% which would and does create great budget problems. At the Deans Research meeting, the Deans voted unanimously that the University share these costs up to 70%. Dean Malone stated that the Provost is supportive of this action. The Research Council supports the idea of proportional sharing of responsibility, and it was MOVED that risks be shared according to the 70-10-10-10 RTF allocation formula. The motion was approved unanimously.

McCandless continued the Vice Provost's comments with an update of the Chancellor search. Airport interviews are underway with hopes of bringing 3-to-4 candidates to campus in April. As in the past, the Research Council will likely be invited to participate in candidate interviews. Patterson asked Council members to think about issues or policy concerns to bring before the candidates during these interviews.

Finally, the Vice Provost reported that his office will continue to assert more campus independence in dealing with intellectual opportunity activities.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, announced that A&F will publish a directory allowing department heads and faculty to find out where to go to get things done. This directory will define many policies such as RTF, indirect cost.

Nigar Khan, representing the Graduate School, reported that the University contract offer has been rejected by GEO. The Chancellor is meeting each week with graduate student representatives. On another matter, the Graduate School is excited to be participating in the Cotutelle Program -- an inter-university agreement by which advanced graduate students work with separate educational institutions in two different countries to obtain a degree from each.

Linda Shea, Chair of the Graduate Council, announced that the Graduate School Fellowship deadlines have been extended to February 19. Also, the 100th Anniversary of the Graduate School will be celebrated on April 9 and will culminate in a dinner that evening which will award medals to a distinguished alum from each deanship.

Carol Sprague reported that recently several IPFs came in with wrong deadlines. OGCA encourages PIs and departments to be more vigilant in reviewing the deadlines. OGCA is also having great difficulty in receiving final reports from PIs who have left campus, including faculty, post-docs and adjuncts. Carol distributed tables showing that awards are up from this time last year.

Paul Cormier, graduate student representative, reviewed for the Council the issues that stalled the GEO contract talks.

Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries, notified the Council that effective April 7, 2008, principal investigators must ensure that electronic versions of any peer-reviewed manuscripts arising from NIH funding and accepted for publication after 4/7/2008 are deposited in PubMed Central (PMC); NIH's digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. Institutions and investigators are responsible for ensuring that any publishing or copyright agreements concerning submitted articles fully comply with this policy. Carol Sprague announced that this information has been sent to all active PIs.

Under Old Business, Chair Patterson announced that the Research Policy Committee will, at the request of VPR Kostecki, develop ideas and consider policy issues regarding a proposed Emeritus Institute.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.