

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
David R. Evans, Chair
2008-2009
Minutes
March 6, 2009**

PRESENT: L. Clarke, D. Evans, C. Jacelon, J. Kent-Braun, M. Maroney, J. Miller, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, S. Rich, L. Leidy, M. Taunton, E. West, P. Cormier, E. May, B. McCandless, J. Schafer, L. Shea, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock, J. Mullin, M. Aelion.

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

Chair David Evans welcomed and introduced Marjorie Aelion, Dean of Public Health and Health Sciences, as a new member of the Research Council who will be representing the Provost.

The Minutes of the February 6, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

David Evans informed the Council that the Faculty Senate had approved the DuBois Center and the Visiting Scholar Safety Guidelines. Evans thanked all who approved by email vote the revised *PI/Co-PI Eligibility, Roles, Rights, Responsibilities and Obligations* document which will go before the Faculty Senate soon. Evans thanked Carol Sprague for her role in preparing the Guidelines document and hoped that she and VC for R&E, Paul Kostecki, would be able to attend the Faculty Senate meeting to present/explain the Guidelines.

The Faculty Senate is conducting its annual review of the by-laws of its Councils and Chair Evans asked if the Council wanted to make any changes to the by-laws. Evans read the Council's mission and after discussion no action was taken on revision. Because the Council will lose about a third of its members this year, it was suggested that nominations for new Council members would be welcomed by the Faculty Senate and names of interested faculty (including junior faculty) should be forwarded to David Evans. Mike Maroney agreed to look for a possible member from NSM to represent the Life Sciences.

David Evans, Bruce McCandless, Paul Kostecki and Mike Maroney attended a meeting of the Budget Task Force to explain and articulate the benefits of the 70-10-10-10 RTF sharing formula. They were asked why a structured formula was necessary and it was explained by the VCRE that, without a formula, all PI's would have to negotiate individually with the VCRE's office. Another point made to the Task Force was that RTF funds are valuable as they are not tied to contracts or the state's fiscal year. A 2006 study by the Council of Government Relations shows that UMA is not different or unique in having such a formula. Bruce McCandless will send the Council this report for their review. In a separate action item, Jane Miller volunteered to research the MSP MOU that determines/guarantees RTF share to PIs and report back to the Council.

Linda Shea presented the Graduate Council's report on the Reorganization Proposal. The Graduate Council was charged with looking at the impact of reorganization on graduate education. Shea asked the Graduate Council for specific examples on the impact. The merger between NRE and NSM drew favorable response from NSM citing the benefits of interdisciplinary collaboration and reporting to one dean. It was brought to the Research

Council's attention that a less than positive response from NRE faculty had not reached Shea or the Faculty Senate. Unfavorable responses were received from the merger between HFA and SBS as each was afraid of the lack of understanding for administrative support from the other. Miscellaneous concerns of Graduate Council members to the reorganization plan included not understanding exactly what the plan is or how it impacts savings. Also, maybe reorganization is not as important as departments suffering from underfunding, lack of morale, lack of resources and the curriculum fee. The Council also discussed where the land grant mission of the university fits into this reorganization and what the university might resemble a decade from now. The report ended with suggestions that the campus could better utilize technologies in the classrooms and better take advantage of the Five College network. Linda Shea will distribute the final report to the Research Council

The Council took up a lengthy discussion of criteria for enhanced research capability in new units and what these units should be doing to be effective in the support of the research environment. A summary of those ideas will be included in a section of the Research Council report on Reorganization requested by the Faculty Senate.

The Council engaged in a brainstorming process to generate ideas that would enhance the ability of the campus to secure sponsored research and carry it out effectively. The list of ideas was then used as input to the Council's report to the Faculty Senate on the proposed reorganization of UMass/Amherst.

Ernie May suggested that a possible Faculty Senate presentation be made of the research strategic plan.

David Evans gave a quick review of the Center for African-American Language and is seeking a volunteer to review the proposal. Also, the Chancellor's strategic plan may be on the agenda for the next Research Council meeting.

Andy Mangels spoke to the Council about the Duke University Administrative Costs PDF that he shared and that it represented a good example of the importance of having good administrative help and training to assist the PI's in understanding and following the rules.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

ACTION LIST – March 2009

Mike Maroney agreed to look for faculty from NSM to represent the Life Sciences whose name could be submitted for the Rules Committee to consider for the Research Council

Bruce McCandless will send the Council the CoGR report on use of indirect by other institutions.

Jane Miller will investigate what formal documentation exists with MSP about the RTF sharing formula with PIs.

Cynthia Jacelon – will look at the COACHE survey for issues that the RC might constructively explore in more detail.

Jenny Adams will take lead, supported by **Bruce McCandless & Lynnette Sievert** - Review of African-American Language Center proposal

David Evans, Bruce McCandless, Andrea Foulkes, and Lynnette Sievert were appointed by the Research Policy committee to act as a nominating/recruiting committee to find a new chair for the RPC to take over duties beginning in May, 2009.