

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
Paul Utgoff, Chair
2006-2007
Minutes
April 6, 2007**

PRESENT: L. Button, C. Clifton, A. Foulkes, W. Gerace, M. Lowance, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, J. Swinney, P. Utgoff, J. Zamora, A. Mangels, T. Butterfield, P. Cormier, P. KostECKI, M. Malone, B. McCandless, N. Khan, C. Sprague

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Minutes of the March 2, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Dean Michael Malone, representing the Provost, stated that in a recent additional allocation of 19 positions for "Phase III" of the Amherst 250 plan, a number of positions are being reserved for "Research and Scholarship" and to address spousal situations. Provost Seymour requests and welcomes input from the Research Council on how such allocations might best advance the research mission. Guidelines and principles, rather than specific recommendations are requested. These will be most useful for Phase III decisions if available in the next two months, but may still inform the conversation if received by the end of August 2007. In reviewing the charge for the Research Council (see <http://www.umass.edu/senate/councils/research.html>) Provost Seymour requests that the Council provide some process for regular, specific, campus-wide input with supporting data that address issues of broad concern to the faculty, in addition to immediate input on the Amherst 250 Phase III. The Provost is particularly interested in new specific opportunities to modernize our policies and procedures to enhance Research and Scholarship in the broadest terms, e.g., to emphasize the important role of the Humanities and other areas that have traditionally had less extramural funding. The Provost also respectfully suggests that this might present an opportunity for the Research Council to review their charge for timeliness and relevance to the current state of the campus and the national and international environment for research universities.

Vice Provost Paul KostECKI reported on and summarized the second annual meeting of the System-wide Research Council. This informational only meeting addressed research and development expenditures on the campuses as well as industry relations. KostECKI will meet with Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Joyce Hatch and Bruce McCandless to discuss a new State indirect cost rate and policy. Deans will be consulted about any new rates and policies. Updated the Council on the new investigator awards indirect cost discussions started at the last Council meeting, he reported that he has spoken to some of his counterparts at peer institutions as well as the NSF. He will report further after discussion with the Head of NSF Programs. The Vice Provost announced

that the President's Office has convened a system-wide Renewable Energy Task Force which has attracted great interest from the Governor and legislators.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, announced that he, Donna Marino, and Bruce McCandless have conducted ad comp training sessions with Deans' Office personnel and will put out revised guidelines to make following the complicated rules easier to understand. PeopleSoft HR upgrades will be occurring in the next 12 to 18 months with a "go live" date of November 2008. Kostecki and Mangels met with Department of Defense investigators to interview random PIs about knowledge of federal policies and guidelines.

Nigar Khan, representing Graduate Dean John Mullin, announced that departmental responses to the National Research Council survey are at 90%. A meeting with Blaustein, Utgoff, Patterson, Mullin, Kroner, McCandless, Khan was convened to discuss the impact of the Graduate Curriculum Fee on graduate student enrollments and research assistantships.

Tony Butterfield, representing the Graduate Council, reported that the last meeting of their Council was protested by GEO and the GSS because of circumstances regarding a Graduate Dean draft policy about NSF grants diversity funds to students on the "south" side of campus. Protesting students were concerned about diversity funding for students on the "south" side.

Carol Sprague, Director of OGCA, hoped all Council members had received the email about new OGCA work delegations. Dean Malone shared comments from one of his faculty PIs praising OGCA for its assistance in submitting a fast-lane proposal. Sprague reported on the successful first informational brown bag lunch about the OGCA process. She announced that more are planned all with different topics.

Paul Cormier, representing the Graduate Student Senate, updated the Council on a recent GSS meeting which supported an affirmative action campaign.

Leslie Button, representing the University Library, reported on the successful recent Digital Quadrangle Program.

The Research Policy Committee, chaired by William Patterson, is in the process of continuing its review of all research policies. Dean Malone suggested the Committee review a policy on Co-PIs. Bruce McCandless updated the Council on sensitive/restricted research working group which is still in the process of contacting other institutions about how they manage the exception process.

Paul Utgoff presented the 2005-2006 Research Council annual report. After discussion and suggestion to amend the section on FTE RAs and Post-docs, the Council voted unanimously to approve the annual report subject to the suggested amendments.

The Research Council adjourned at 10:27 a.m.