

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
William Patterson, Chair
2007-2008
Minutes
May 2, 2008**

PRESENT: J. Adams, D. Evans, J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, M. Maroney, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, L. Sievert, M. Taunton, N. Khan, P. Kostecki, M. Malone, A. Mangels, B. McCandless, J. Schafer, L. Shea, C. Sprague, H. Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The Minutes of the April 4, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Mike Malone, representing Provost Charlena Seymour, reported that the Provost thanks the Research Council for their advice on “A Research Commons for the University of Massachusetts” as described in the April 22, 2008 memorandum from Council Chair Patterson. He continued that many of the suggested activities are very worthwhile but they will ultimately require the identification of new space and, because that will take some time, the Provost suggests that at least some of the activities be started immediately to provide a “virtual research commons” and begin developing the collegiality that a Research Commons would ultimately foster and sustain. The Provost proposes that a pilot program of Research Mentoring activities involving research active faculty, both new and recently retired, be targeted to begin in September. To better define and expedite this pilot program, including some grant awards for faculty mentoring projects, the Provost will form an ad hoc Research Commons Committee made up of Paul Kostecki, Vice Provost for Research; Mike Malone, Dean of Engineering; William Patterson, Chair of Research Council; Richard Rogers, Assoc. Provost for Academic Technology; Jay Shafer, Director of Libraries; Mary Deane Sorcinelli, Assoc. Provost and Director of Faculty Development. If it is practical to locate and select one or two junior faculty to begin a mentoring project this summer, the Provost will be pleased to support this.

Paul Kostecki reminded all of the Annual Research Recognition dinner on May 14th. He also announced that UMass Chief Attorney, Paul Stern, has accepted a position in Florida. Stern worked with the University on many intellectual property issues and the Office of Research wishes him all the best in his new endeavors.

Nigar Khan, representing the Graduate Dean, updated the Council on three successful symposia recently supported by the Graduate School.

Linda Shea, Graduate Council Chair, reported that the Graduate Council had not met since the last Research Council meeting. She also reported that the Graduate School’s 100th anniversary was a very successful and very well attended event.

Carol Sprague, OGCA Director, updated the Council on current award information which shows that the number of FY08 awards processed are up more than 8% over this point last year and the dollar value of awards is up over 19% from this time last year. She also pointed out that OGCA award staff has not increased since 1997. She announced that the proposed graduate curriculum fee increases are 5.04% for residents and 16.28% for non-residents. Also the GEO Health rate is estimated to increase by about 10%.

Hilary Woodcock, University Compliance Officer, announced that the e-protocol people will be on campus soon and the animal usage and human subject packages will go live this summer. E-protocol is also looking at a grants management package for the campus.

Chair Patterson spoke about concerns received regarding fire drills interrupting ongoing research. The Research Council's Policy Committee will discuss this issue and explore solutions for uninterrupted research. He also mentioned briefly implementation of the Sensitive Research evaluation procedure, and that Brian Harvey, Provost's Office, is working with the Faculty Senate/MSP Executive Advisory Committee on a draft of an outline for a campus strategic plan. Patterson represents the Research Council at EAC meetings.

Jay Schafer, Director of Libraries, spoke about collaboration between the Offices of Research, Outreach, Graduate School, and Libraries to support a two-year resident librarian position to work on ScholarWorks and the showcasing of faculty research accomplishments.

Dave Ostendorf, Chair of the Research Council's Policy Committee, updated the Council on three ongoing activities of the Policy committee. They are working on wrapping up the proposal for W.E.B. Du Bois Center. The proposal will be sent electronically to the Council. The draft Trustee Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarly Activities has been addressed by the Policy Committee and comments submitted to the Vice Provost for Research for action. Also, the Policy Committee will revisit the Research Council's memo of four years ago which addressed the Curriculum Fee. The Committee will discuss several issues regarding the increase in Curriculum Fee including examining how the increase rate was computed and how this will affect the growth of research. Information will be gathered from Graduate School Business Manager Josh Kroner and Director of Office of Institutional Research Marilyn Blaustein.

Vice Provost Kostecki introduced invited guests UMass Amherst Police Chief Barbara O'Connor and Detective Lt. Robert "Chip" Thrasher. Chief O'Connor and Lt. Thrasher were invited to the Council to discuss the protection of researchers and research. Chief O'Connor made it very clear that the campus police understand the importance of research to the University's overall mission and how important a secure and safe research environment is to researchers. A question and answer period followed. Chief O'Connor emphasized that her office is always willing to work with individual researchers regarding laboratory and personal security issues. Her office works closely on and off campus with the FBI, ATF and the Joint Terrorism Task Force to keep all apprised of events and activities that may represent a security concern. The Chief handed out

information dealing with crime prevention suggestions for animal research. It was suggested that it might be helpful if the Research Council wrote a letter reiterating the importance of and support for security concerns on campus. Chair Patterson indicated that he will include an offer of any and all assistance that the Chief might deem appropriate including support for initiatives on the part of her office which will directly address security concerns of the faculty.

Marla Michel reported that the Research area is looking to revamp its web site and will send an e-survey in the next few months for research faculty. Also, the 2009 Research Report is being put together and her office is looking for “connecting” story lines. Please email her with suggestions.

Chair Patterson acknowledged the excellent work of the Library staff in developing the MacConnell Photographic Map Collection in the Library’s Map Room. Forestry Professor William MacConnell’s pioneering research on 20th Century landuse change in Massachusetts was celebrated at the Library on April 25th.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.