

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Research Council of the Faculty Senate
William Patterson, Chair
2007-2008
Minutes
September 7, 2007**

PRESENT: J. Adams, D. Evans, W. Gerace, J. Kent-Braun, M. Lowance, J. Miller, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, L. Sievert, J. Swinney, P. Utgoff, P. Kostecki, B. McCandless, N. Khan, J. Schafer, C. Sprague

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

The first order of business was to elect a new Research Council Chair for AY08. Prof. William Patterson, Natural Resources Conservation, was nominated, seconded and elected with one abstention. It was next moved to accept the Minutes of the June 1, 2007 meeting. This motion was accepted and the Minutes were approved as written. Chair Patterson asked all Council members to introduce themselves. He then thanked outgoing Chair Paul Utgoff for his previous service as Research Council Chair.

Vice Provost Paul Kostecki, representing the Provost, announced that the campus was awarded a Mellon Grant for mentoring. This award will be run out of the Center for Teaching. Also, a Teaching Commons is in the works where TAs and junior faculty can go to receive guidance on teaching and new technologies. The Teaching Commons will be located in the DuBois Library. Proposals will be sought for ideas about developing a “research commons.” The Research Council will be asked for suggestions. This will also be located in the DuBois Library. The Provost wanted to assure the Research Council that it’s memo of June 1, 2007 regarding the “Process for Allocation of Eight Faculty Positions Held in Research Pool” was taken very seriously and she is considering its recommendations.

Kostecki continued that his office and the Provost have discussed the development of a Research Innovation System for this campus which has been proposed by the Deans of Engineering, Management, and Natural Sciences and Math. This will include developing private sector relationships and an innovative mentoring service. He updated the Council on the sensitive research initiative which focuses on exemption to the Board of Trustee policy on publication restrictions. A more formal policy needs to be put into place and a draft policy is being developed and will be presented to the Deans Council, the Sensitive Research Advisory Group, and the Research Council.

Joel Martin, Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, introduced himself and asked to address the Research Council on research concerns of his faculty and offered advice on faculty interactions. He told the Council that he would take an active roll in developing research in CHFA.

Nigar Khan, representing the Graduate Dean, reported on the success of the May 2007 Graduate Commencement in spite of the active demonstrations against Andrew Card. She announced that – perhaps as a result of recent increases in the Curriculum Fee - the number of Research Assistants decreased by 10% in AY07. This represents and acceleration of a downward trend noted over previous years. Also, the Graduate School is working on tracking the advancement of all graduate students to determine progress toward degree.

Carol Sprague, Director of OGCA, handed out tables that gave cumulative award totals for FY07 and August 07 (FY08). Awards for FY07 increased significantly to over \$131 million and the total thus far for FY08 also shows an increase. Administration & Finance and OGCA will hold training session through Workplace Training and Development. The brown bag lunch series will continue for this academic year.

Director of Libraries, Jay Shafer, said that the library is reviewing print journals to determine what can be electronically accessed. This should save binding and shelf space costs.

Under Old Business, the Council discussed its ongoing interest in the web-based showcase which digitizes the work of faculty and provides electronic access to their work. Patterson has discussed with faculty and union reps the desirability of using the on-line form for Annual Faculty Reviews.

Chair Patterson explained for new members the Research Council's organization and committee assignments. The Policy Committee will be organized before the next meeting and Council members wishing to volunteer for this Committee should contact him asap. Patterson also suggested reviewing the policy for selecting the Chair-elect of the Research Council. A suggestion was made to invite the new Chancellor to a Research Council meeting.

Vice Provost Kostecki made one final announcement regarding the Annual Research Open House which will be held on Friday September 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the Research Administration Building.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.