

**University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Research Council of the Faculty Senate  
Paul Utgoff, Chair  
2005-2006  
Minutes  
October 14, 2005**

**PRESENT:** J. Adams, T. Butterfield, C. Clifton, K. Danai, A. Foulkes, D. Gilbert, N. Khan, P. KostECKi, M. Lowance, M. Malone, A. Mangels, E. May, B. McCandless, J. Mullin, D. Ostendorf, W. Patterson, S. Scarpati, C. Sprague, L. Sievert, J. Swinney, M. Taunton, P. Utgoff, H. Woodcock, J. Zamora

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

**COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:**

Marla Michel, representing the Provost's representative, introduced herself and announced that her office (formerly Industry Liaison and Economic Development) has changed its name to Research Liaison and Development. On behalf of the Provost she announced that two new deans' searches had begun: Isenberg School of Management and College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Also the search for a permanent Vice Provost for Research is underway.

Marla Michel, also representing the Vice Provost for Research, stated that the Provost is supportive of the web-based showcase which will list faculty research and scholarly accomplishments. This will be looked at by Susan Pearson and Brian Burke. The union will also have input. Paul Utgoff added that he and Laura Jensen (VP of MSP) had worked through the issues during June and early July, and that the necessary understandings remain in place. Principally, MSP would like to broaden the set of AFR categories that will be included. Research Council had anticipated and welcomed such a possibility in April when the policy recommendation was approved. Marcie Williams, Vice President for Academic Affairs, is working on a web page based on the relationship researchers have internationally in order to capture a comprehensive view of what the campus does internationally. The Research Area will be publishing a new annual report that will include not just numbers but spotlight research more.

Andy Mangels, representing Administration and Finance, reported that the FY03 retroactive pay increases after having been vetoed by the Governor were overridden by the Legislature and will be into union employees' hands in the near future. He announced that the OIG/HHS is investigating the Worcester campus which has received a scathing report. Asked if Amherst were investigated how would we do, he replied that we would probably be all right.

Graduate Dean John Mullin announced that the thesis/dissertation on a disk is up and running and the system is working. The old “pink” sheet for graduate admissions has been retired and the entire process will now be electronic. A consortium of three Indian universities, UMass Amherst and several other universities has been established and an MOU is being prepared. The Graduate School is looking at potential graduate certificate programs in Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies and Film Studies.

Dean Mullin stated that the Graduate Council is looking to put together a sub-committee to study the length of time from admission to Ph.D, noting that some doctoral students exceed their statutes of limitation by several years. The Research Council hoped that any discussion of teaching and research assistantship issues would take into account state vs. grant funding.

OGCA Director Carol Sprague distributed a draft of the Sponsored Research Annual Report which, she announced, will only appear on our web page. She also passed out current funding figures and noted that we are up about \$7M from this time last year. Bruce McCandless stated that indicators are that future funding may prove more difficult in light of Katrina, flooding, and Iraq.

Hilary Woodcock, Research Compliance Officer, handed out a copy of her office’s Compliance and Research Protection News. She announced that the USDA inspection over the summer went well. The IACUC will come up with procedures for the handling of complaints regarding animal use and welfare. EH&S is revamping the lab safety manual. Dr. Woodcock asked if the Research Council or research community wanted to review the draft manual when available. The Research Policy sub-Committee will discuss whether it, another sub-committee or the VPR should review the manual.

Research Policy Committee Chair Lynette Leidy Sievert referred to the sub-committees minutes of the first meeting this academic year which were distributed earlier. Noting a number of items for Council discussion, she stated that one of her Committee’s main focuses will be the mentoring of junior faculty. The Council’s Responsible Conduct of Research will coordinate several issues related to research ethics and misconduct. It was pointed out that the October 20 meeting of the Faculty Senate will be an open discussion regarding student plagiarism and it was hoped that several Research Council members would be able to attend. The Council’s Research Centers Committee will discuss whether or not to proceed with a review of University Centers/Institutes. Many questions were asked: Exactly how many centers/institutes are there on campus? What is the charge/mission of each? Is there review procedures already established? If not, who is responsible for establishment?

Bruce McCandless announced that the Research Area will hold an Open House again this year on October 28 from 3-5 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.