

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
THE FACULTY SENATE**

MINUTES: Presiding Officer Frank Hugus called the 581st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on Thursday, October 5, 2000 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

A. ADDRESS BY SENATOR STANLEY ROSENBERG (QUESTIONS TO FOLLOW)

Senator Stanley Rosenberg addressed the Senate on the Massachusetts state budget and on two ballot questions carrying fiscal impact. He began by stating that the budgeting process was completed this year, and that the House of Representatives put forth a substantial budget for public higher education. This included the commitment to the higher education incentive program, and is in addition to the \$10 million provided for endowed professorships at UMass.

Senator Rosenberg then called attention to ballot questions four and six. Question four seeks to roll back the state income tax to 5% over a three-year period, regardless of what happens with the economy. Senator Rosenberg is concerned that this would "have minimal benefit for those in the Commonwealth, and a dramatic impact on the state budget," possibly resulting in pressure to raise property taxes.

Question six is a proposal for refunded turnpike tolls and automobile excise taxes by the state. This, combined with question four, would result in a 10% or \$2 billion cut in state revenue over a three-year period

QUESTIONS

An unknown person asked if the legislature has any plans to address deferred maintenance on the UMass campuses or at any other state-wide property.

Senator Rosenberg responded that deferred maintenance is an inadequately addressed problem. He noted that through the current "Fair Share" plan, some steps have been taken over recent years to remedy the problem, but they have been so modest that it has been hard to see the benefit.

Senator Rosenberg then stated "for the last seven years we have been chipping away at the gap between what the formulas say you need and what you have been getting...on the campus from state appropriations." He closed by suggesting an opportunity to do one of three things.

- 1) To raise the bar and say the formula provided adequate funding but not great funding or excellent funding.
- 2) To say there is adequate funding now if the same kind of effort is put into the capital side.
- 3) To combine the first two ideas, to not put capital funding into a revised formula, and to maintain control over the funds.

An unknown person asked about the effect of the "Big Dig" on the UMass budget.

Senator Rosenberg responded that the big dig affects every element of financing, but it is a problem that is under control as long as the economy holds up and revenue continues to come in.

Senator Rosenberg then pointed out that through the whole of the big dig, the UMass budget has continued to climb, receiving increases as much as 4 times the rate of inflation. "Even while we were pouring money in there," Senator Rosenberg stated, "we were doing the best that we've done in a very long time for the University."

Jane Giacobbe-Miller, President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, thanked Senator Rosenberg for his continued support in the legislature over the past four years. She then asked whether questions four and six were getting enough public attention. She expressed concern that the two questions might "slide in" if voters are not informed of their consequences.

Senator Rosenberg agreed that lack of attention to those questions has caused some concern. He noted that there is an organized coalition to inform voters of these questions, but the most effective part of the campaign is word of mouth. Senator Rosenberg then urged everyone present to try to persuade their family, friends, neighbors and colleagues to be educated voters, to get them to pay attention to the issues and vote in their best interest.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Deputy Provost John Cunningham announced that the first Vice Chancellor for Research candidate has been invited to campus October 16th and 17th, and that additional candidates are expected to visit during the months of October and November. He then stated that the first Faculty Distinguished Lecture series would take place Tuesday October 17th at 4:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Vice Chancellor Cevallos announced that a UMass student recently died in a motorcycle accident. He noted that events such as these tend to have a "ripple effect" on students, and that their academic abilities may be compromised as a result. He asked that professors consider this situation carefully when dealing with students affected by the tragedy.

Vice Chancellor Helgesen announced that a new committee was being formed, comprised of 14 faculty members and students. He noted that the committee would address the issues of Distance Learning and the positions the campus would take as UMass Online develops in the President's Office.

4. The President of the Student Government Association

A representative of the Student Government Association announced that she is working hard to fill undergraduate student vacancies on Senate Councils and Committees. She stated that she was particularly interested in speaking with any council or committee chairs who could give her information such as meeting times, that might help her fill those spaces.

7. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Jane Giacobbe-Miller, President announced that there would be an MSP General Assembly October 26th at 3:00 pm to discuss priorities for the new contract in July. She then referred to the advisory committee that Vice Chancellor Helgesen described, stating that it will be a vehicle through which people can voice opinions and have their Distance Education concerns addressed.

C. ELECTIONS

1. One At-Large Rules Committee Member

Nominee:

Bob Wilson--HRTA

2. Rules Committee Chair

The floor was opened for further nominations. No additional Senators were nominated.

Bob Wilson was elected to the Rules Committee as an at-large member with no objections, and Senator Chilton was then elected Chair of the Rules Committee by acclamation.

D. ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report of the University Advancement Council, Academic Years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 01-004.

Vice Chancellor Royster Hedgepeth presented the Senate with a report containing performance highlights for fiscal year 2000, and the objectives the Council has for the fiscal year 2001. He mentioned that UMass is still on track to reach the financial objectives of Campaign UMass by the end of this year.

Vice Chancellor Hedgepeth called the "endowed chairs" program the Council's most immediate concern. He explained that the legislature put up a \$10 million dollar matching program this year for the five-campus system, allotting six endowed chairs to the Amherst campus.

Vice Chancellor Hedgepeth closed by announcing that the Council is working on sources of funding for the campus' emerging strategic plan in expectation that fundraising productivity will double in the next five years.

Senator Arthur Kinney congratulated Vice Chancellor Hedgepeth on meeting financial goals ahead of schedule. He then asked, in reference to the report, why money is being raised for union contracts.

Vice Chancellor Hedgepeth explained that since the University is actively involved in the negotiation of the state budget, union contracts are funded in recognition of the state government relations program.

Senator Brian O'Connor called attention to the behavior of students at commencement. He noted that commencement is one of the best organized arrangements that the University puts forward, and he wondered if the "deplorable" behavior displayed by students, in addition to being bothersome to faculty and parents, might affect fundraising.

Chancellor Scott offered a few comments on the topic of commencement. He mentioned that a group is being put together to come up with suggestions to manage the unruly behavior. He urged faculty members to contribute ideas of their own on the subject.

Chancellor Scott continued, noting that this type of behavior is present in other instances as well, such as when President Bulger arrived on campus with his staff to address Distance Learning issues. He explained that he doesn't mind "rambunctiousness" or "passionate combat" as long as a civil atmosphere is maintained. He then asked faculty to make their expectations known to students. "We've worked very hard to make this campus a more serious academic place," Chancellor Scott said, "let's not be rated in the top 10 for instability."

This report was received by the Senate.

E. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Special Report of the Foreign and International Studies Council concerning the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 01-005 with Motion No. 03-01.**

MOVED 03-01: That the Faculty Senate approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 01-005.

This motion was seconded and adopted without objection.

2. **Special Report of the Foreign and International Studies Council concerning the Agreement between Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden and University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 01-006 with Motion No. 04-01.**

MOVED 04-01: That the Faculty Senate approve the Agreement between Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden and University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 01-006.

This motion was seconded and adopted without objection.

F. BYLAW CHANGES: Second Reading

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 01-003 with Motion No. 02-01.

MOVED 02-01: That the Faculty Senate delete Sections 11 and 12 from Chapter 6 of the Bylaws, as recommended by the Rules Committee in Sen. Doc. No. 01-003.

(Inasmuch as this is a change to the Senate Bylaws, this is the second of three readings of this motion. It will be read again and voted on at the 582nd meeting. This motion may be debated and amended at all three meetings.)

There were no questions or discussions about the Bylaw change at the second reading.

The 581st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:35 p.m. October 5, 2000.

Respectfully submitted by Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

The Proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape at the Faculty Senate Office dated October 5, 2000.