

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

MINUTES: Presiding Officer Frank Hugus called the 599th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on Thursday November 29, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

Presiding Officer Hugus suspended the rules to honor the memory of Professor Kandula Sastry.

Professor Kandula Sastry, one of the Faculty Senate's most ardent champions, has died. For those of us who worked with him in various capacities over the years and who witnessed his profound dedication to high-quality undergraduate education, his unwavering commitment to faculty governance, and his devotion to the University of Massachusetts, his loss leaves us all the poorer.

In a real sense the conscience of the Faculty Senate has been stilled. Senator Sastry's principles, integrity, and human decency will stand as an inspiration to us all.

It is sadly ironic that in his last years the institution to which Senator Sastry dedicated half his life was beset by so many problems and uncertainties. None of these, however, appeared to have daunted Senator Kandula Sastry, who continued to fight for the causes in which he believed.

We must honor his legacy and carry on in his spirit, working for the betterment of the University of Massachusetts. In doing so, we pay a fitting tribute to the memory of our valued colleague, Kandula Sastry, who served us all so well, in so many ways, for so many years.

Presiding Officer Hugus then asked all present to rise for a moment of silence before returning to the regular agenda.

A. ADDRESS BY SENATOR STANLEY ROSENBERG, "CURRENT BUDGET CONDITIONS: STATE FINANCES AND HOW THEY RELATE TO HIGHER EDUCATION"

Senator Stanley Rosenberg: The situation in which we find ourselves at this time is not an unfamiliar one. It happens about every 8 to 10 years. We are in a recession. It's a national recession. The direct result of that recession is a drop in state revenues, a precipitous drop in September of \$225 million over the previous September. July and August combined were \$65 million less than the previous August. You can see there was a very dramatic change in September, the results of other matters that we don't have to discuss today. The October revenues came in at \$120 million below last October. It might seem as though we were heading in the right direction between September and October, but not so. Relative to the anticipated revenue for October, it was in the same range of a problem as September's. You would expect to see more revenue in September because of what normally happens in September. You would expect to see less in October, so on a proportionate basis, October was as bad as September.

The legislature finally completed a budget last week, embarrassingly four months or so late. \$1.4 billion is the generally agreed-upon number that had to be dealt with in terms of the current fiscal year's budget. There were several options before us. One was to dip into the rainy-day fund. The second was to make cuts. The third was to freeze the income tax rollback and the fourth was to take tobacco settlement money and apply it to current spending in a larger proportion than we had previously planned to do. After much wrangling and debate, the final decision was to not freeze the rollback. That would have had a value of \$200 million. That wasn't available, so we cut \$650 million, took \$700 million from reserves--that's the rainy-day fund and the 2001 surplus that had been set aside--and we picked up an additional \$50 million from the tobacco settlement that otherwise would have been put in the trust fund and instead was added to the general operating revenues so we could reduce cuts by that \$50 million. So, \$650 million in cuts, obviously on the discretionary portion of the budget, is a very serious problem. Public higher education in the aggregate took \$50 million. It was the second largest cut. The first largest cut was local aid to municipalities, although virtually everything on the education side of the ledger was protected. Most of the cut came out of highway maintenance money for the communities. The University took a \$19.5 million operating budget cut that is in relation to last year's actual appropriations and spending, including supplemental budgets. And we lost about half of the ERM, the Library money. We lost 7 million or 9

million in financial aid, about \$6 million, either \$6 or \$8 million in the public higher education side of the financial aid picture.

Essentially those are the numbers, and economists are now divided. Some say we have bottomed out and have begun to turn the corner, and the recession is becoming history. Others are saying we haven't quite bottomed out. The fact that some are saying we've bottomed out offers some encouragement. The fact that others say we haven't quite bottomed out, maybe that adds a little bit of encouragement, too, because they could be saying what people were saying a few months ago, which is two to four, maybe five, state budgets could be affected by the recession, based upon what people were projecting the length of the recession could be. Obviously we do not know the answer to that question.

The governor will be preparing and submitting a budget in about 60 days, and the house will begin their deliberations about 30 days later. So, the next budget cycle is very soon upon us, and we're all deeply concerned about whether there's a second year of difficulty ahead. I can say that we were better prepared for this fiscal problem than the last. Last time there were virtually no reserves. This time we had \$1.8 billion in the rainy-day fund and another \$579 million in a separate reserve from the '01 surplus. That gave us \$2.3 billion to fall back on, which means there's enough money so that if this continues another year, or even another two years, there will still be stabilization dollars available to buffer the cuts. We would otherwise have to make even deeper cuts. We made sure that we didn't spend it all this year, in case we need it for next year and the following year, so as not to create a structural deficit. It was tempting. A lot of people wanted to just wipe out the whole deficit with the rainy-day and then see where we would be next year. That, in my opinion, is a very imprudent step because it could just compound problems a year later or two years later once those reserves are gone. 'Cause once they're gone, they're gone. You can't spend it again.

Senator Jack Tager asked if there was any word about state funding for raises.

Senator Rosenberg stated that the Senate approved and sent to the House, all of the collective bargaining agreements that they had at the time, which included most of the six that were pending for this campus, but that the faculty contract arrived in the legislature later, and has not yet been funded. He hoped to see collective bargaining agreements funded in the near future. "I think the worry," he said, "will be that the money in the reserve might cover the first installment, but then in subsequent years, if we have not gotten back on our feet, the institutions might be asked to absorb it within their current budget. It is a difficult, challenging, and somewhat perilous situation, once the contracts are, in fact, approved and funded by the legislature, if the economy doesn't turn around sufficiently for us to be able to handle the second and third year of each of these agreements."

Professor Eric Einhorn asked why there was not much support for postponing the tax cut.

Senator Rosenberg stated that there was a majority to postpone the rollback, but not the supermajority necessary to override the veto by Governor Swift. Most of the members who were holding back did so because this was a voter-approved tax cut. They felt that voters needed to see what a budget would look and feel like with the rollback before they could reconsider that in the next fiscal year. It would have meant a \$200 million benefit for this budget, and a \$400 million benefit for next year's budget.

Senator Brian O'Connor stated that he had hoped, as a result of the global events of September, that political people would see that one of the only answers to this horrible situation is education. He then asked if there was any hope of them thinking that we need higher education more than ever now?

Senator Rosenberg answered that the legislature believes that education is valued in this budget, that K-12 is fully funded, and that higher education is valuable, but there are already many opportunities for higher education. "The legislature was not crazy about the depths to which we allowed student charges to drop over the last few years," he explained, "and they also are never persuaded that the higher education system operates as efficiently as it could." In addition, Senator Rosenberg stated that the legislature looks at the University budget, which is over a billion dollars, and the Commonwealth's contribution to it, which is approximately half a billion dollars, and they see it as a viable budget, at least in the short term.

Senator Ronald Story asked why UMass' budget was cut by a larger percentage than other higher education segments.

Senator Rosenberg answered that smaller institutions with smaller budgets have less room to maneuver. He then mentioned that he has been to see President Bulger, along with Representative Story and Representative Kulik to ask for a fair, proportionate handling of the budget cuts.

Senator Joseph Donohue asked about the cut in the line item that funds the Library's acquisitions funding. "Is there anything that can be done to redress what seems to be the extraordinary singling out of libraries in public institutions for even more than whatever the percentage is that higher education is taking in general?"

Senator Rosenberg answered that during his years as Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, he repeatedly advised that the structure of the system should be changed so as to roll the special Library budget and the ERM line item into the main line item of the University. That way it would be the Institution's decision where the money would go. He explained that he kept building that line item to provide 3 or 4 or 5 million new dollars last year, most of which was actually funded. "When you create a target, people will shoot at it," he said, "and an \$11 million target for books was not a good thing to have when they were trying to figure out where to cut millions and millions and millions of dollars." Senator Rosenberg then added that in the future, when the situation turns around, that line item will be rebuilt a few million dollars at a time.

Secretary May noted that there has been a protracted difference of opinion between the legislature and the governor regarding fees and financial aid. He then asked: "What happened with the early retirement option?"

Senator Rosenberg responded that, in the end, there should be a package that allows a student to go to school and that should underwrite, to the extent necessary, those students who cannot afford to meet even those costs within reason. He then stated that during the last recession it was found that early retirement bills are extremely expensive when they go into effect.

B. ADDRESS BY DR. ROBERT LEVIN, CHAIR, SERVICE DEPARTMENTS COMMITTEE AND KENNETH TOONG, DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY DINING AND RETAIL FOOD SERVICES

Dr. Robert Levin: The Service Departments Committee of the Faculty Senate had not met for several years prior to this semester. As of this past September, this Committee has been resurrected with a group of faculty who are particularly enthusiastic and dedicated towards dealing with and resolving certain ongoing campus issues and problems relating particularly to the service sector of the campus. Let me say at this point that this is a rather delicate process for any standing committee of the Faculty Senate to thrust itself into. The Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, with respect to standing committees, state the following:

Standing Committees shall be defined as subordinate units of the Senate established for the following purposes:

- A) *to review and evaluate existing campus policies and programs within their assigned responsibility and report them to the Senate; and*
- B) *to develop policy recommendations within their assigned responsibility to be presented in the form of reports with motions for subsequent Senate action or recommendation higher up.*

With respect to the Service Departments Committee:

The Committee shall:

- A) *recommend policies designed to improve campus services;*

- B) *to oversee the implementation of motions adopted by the Senate dealing with the Service departments;*
- C) *Provide liaison between the faculty, the service departments, and the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance.*

Now, during the past decade, there has been a significant degree of polarization that's developed on this campus between certain service units and the academic components of the campuses. I hope early next semester to present to the Senate an interim report involving specific recommendations to ameliorate some of the more intense service-related problems that have plagued this campus for certainly well over a decade. With this in mind, close examination of the service components of the campus indicate that certain service units are essentially quite free of major functional problems while others are continually beset with major problems. Ken Toong, Director of Food Services on campus recently presented his table of organization and his administrative philosophy to the Service Departments Committee. I think you'll find his brief presentation here most illuminating, particularly with respect to why some units are quite free of major problems, while others appear to have a proclivity for periodically abrading the academic components of the campus.

Kenneth Toong, Director, University Dining Services, made a presentation to the Faculty Senate regarding Campus Dining. The Power Point presentation can be viewed on the Faculty Senate website at www.umass.edu/senate/governance.htm

C. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. **Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning the Addition of Two Members to the Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Education (As Adopted in Sen. Doc. No. 02-005A), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-005B, with Motion No. 08-02.**

**MOVED:
08-02** That the Faculty Senate approve the following additional members to the Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Education:
(12) **The Chair of the Teaching, Learning and Instructional Technology Council;**
and
(13) **The Director of the Center for Teaching.**

This motion was seconded and adopted.

- 2. **Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-008 with Motion No. 09-02.**

**MOVED:
09-02** That the Faculty Senate approve the nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-008.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

- 3. **Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Changes in Requirements for the B.S. Degree in Human Nutrition, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-009 with Motion No. 10-02.**

**MOVED:
10-02** That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes in the Requirements for the B.S. Degree in Human Nutrition, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-009.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

D. ANNUAL REPORT

2000-2001 Annual Report of the Academic Matters Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-010.

This report was received.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Vice Chancellor for Research, Frederick Byron reported that at one-third of the way through the fiscal year new faculty grants are up \$9 million over last year, and the university should exceed \$100 million this year in external support.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May announced that there will be a meeting of the Faculty Senate on Dec. 13th where Chancellor Williams will speak about the implications of the budget cut, and there will be a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Minority Recruitment. He then reported that the search for a chancellor is still ongoing, and suggestions for outstanding candidates are still being accepted.

3. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Rules Committee Chair, Roland Chilton expressed concern about the number of Faculty Senator vacancies. He stated that districts 4, 5, 6, and 9 have no representatives, and urged all present to start recruiting potential senators from those districts.

The 599th meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:10 p.m. November 29, 2001.

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 November 29, 2001.