

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

MINUTES: Presiding Officer Frank Hugus called the 600th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order December 13, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

A. ADDRESS BY INTERIM CHANCELLOR MARCELLETTE WILLIAMS "COMMENTS ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET"

The full address can be viewed online at

<http://www.umass.edu/chancellor/announcements/budget011217.html>

QUESTIONS:

Senator Ronald Story asked Chancellor Williams to clarify the percentage of the budget shortfall the student fee increase would account for. He then stated that he was glad to hear that the Chancellor supports the early retirement program and asked her to stop using the word "excellence" in reference to the University, considering the fiscal situation the University is facing.

Chancellor Williams responded that financial aid and shifting enrollment numbers must be considered when addressing the budget shortfall. She then explained that her use of the word "excellence" comes from the *University's Key Themes and Messages*, a document completed 2-3 years ago by the Communications and Marketing Department. "I believe we must strive for excellence," she said.

Senator Norman Sims asked for a clarification about the \$15 million deficit. He asked how that number was arrived at, how much the fee would cover, and how much would be saved by the 5% academic cuts and the elimination of 160 positions.

Chancellor Williams explained that \$25 million was the total cut to the University system. Since the Amherst campus typically receives just under 50% of such figures, the campus is left with a \$12 million deficit. \$3 million is an existing problem that resulted from a planning projection based on a 3% planning figure all of the campuses were given to plan on and work toward. The governor then changed that figure to 1%, and since commitments had already been made before the figure was changed, the shortfall deficit for the Amherst campus totaled \$3 million for the year. That shortfall, added to the \$12 million deficit from the budget cut, equals \$15 million. She then stated that each one hundred positions represents approximately \$5 million, so 160 positions would total approximately \$7 or \$8 million. The \$495 fee increase will total another \$7 or \$8 million.

Senator Craig Moore asked how much of the reduction going on in the budget is being done as a result of priorities. He then asked if there would be cuts to athletic programs as well as academic programs.

Chancellor Williams answered that there will be cuts in athletic programs, academic programs, and academic support programs, and that the net budget of athletics would decrease. She then stated that discussions going on and decisions being made in Academic Affairs regarding the cuts are not occurring in a haphazard way.

Provost Charlena Seymour explained, in reference to the 5% academic reductions, that she asked each of the Deans of the Schools and Colleges to come up with a scenario that would impact faculty, staff, teaching assistants, teaching personnel, and anything else they felt was important to their school and college. They were asked to consult with faculty, chairs, heads, students, staff, and whomever else this decision would have an impact on. She has also asked people to send ideas about guiding principles that could be used to help determine priorities for each program,

department, school and college. She stated that the administration is looking for help with some of the problems everyone is facing. She expects everyone to work together in the best interest of the University.

Senator Richard Bogartz thanked the Chancellor for a clear, principled statement. He then asked how the consequences of the budget reductions would be reflected to the Board of Trustees and to the Legislature.

Chancellor Williams answered that executive officers have been asked to provide the area and systemic implications resulting from decisions made given the 5% academic budget cuts. She stated, "the decisions made on the campus carry to the President's Office and to the Trustees, with recommendations to take them to the State House."

Senator Brian O'Connor stated that President Bulger has called for an increase in the University's private fundraising. He then noted that 2 of the positions involved in fundraising are not going to be replaced, and asked if the burden of fundraising would fall on the Chancellor and her staff.

Chancellor Williams answered that she doesn't know what the fundraising structure will look like after a period of restructuring and reorganization, but she is aware of the irony in the fact that three eliminated positions have impact in development.

Professor Peter d'Errico asked if there has been any consideration of issuing a dramatic statement to the Commonwealth in response to the budget cut instead of assuring the state that every student will get everything they need to complete their course of study.

Chancellor Williams answered that so far statements have described the implications of any steps that would be taken, in a way that describes and matches the decision with the implications. She stated that she does not intend to make statements that say "we will limp along" and expects to be corrected if she does so.

Senator Jack Tager stated that the administration has a history of claiming to interact with the faculty about the process of program and position reduction even though this was not done when Consumer Studies was eliminated. He noted that Consumer Studies was originally terminated by a Dean without consultation, and that the administration approved of that action, even though the Faculty Senate didn't approve. He then asked for assurance that the administration would pay attention if the faculty decided to criticize decisions that are made.

Chancellor Williams stated that nobody is infallible and that everybody must continue to strive. "We will get it right," she stated. "We must get it right together."

Senator Roland Chilton asked if the computing access fee for students could now be included in the already increased student fees, so as to provide internet access to all students, rather than just to those who have agreed to pay an additional fee for the access.

Chancellor Williams replied that now is the time to consider such a scenario, and thanked Senator Chilton for his reminder.

Senator Joseph Donohue asked Chancellor Williams if she foresees the necessity of a freeze on hiring. He then asked what was going to be done about the 65% reduction in ERM funds for the Library.

Chancellor Williams replied that the fee increase and the savings accrued through layoffs and early retirement will be used as tools to counteract the 65% reduction in ERM funds. She then stated that she doesn't anticipate a freeze on hiring.

Faculty Senate Secretary Ernest May stated that the Library, with its 63% cut, is either 111 or 112 in the rankings of American Research Libraries, bringing it below all United States campuses. He then mentioned the size of the faculty noting that it is hard to plan in a detailed way without knowing whether the faculty would total 1200 or 900. He then asked, "What is the ideal organization of resources?"

Chancellor Williams stated that the decisions that need to be made should be shaped by as many questions as possible, and agreed that it would be helpful to know what size the faculty and library would be in order to bring "intentionality" to those decisions.

B. BYLAW CHANGE: Second Reading

Special Report of the Council on University Service, Public Service and Outreach concerning A Bylaw Change, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-007 with Motion No. 07-02.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Change, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 07-02 02-007.

There were no questions or discussions regarding the Bylaw Change following this reading.

C. ANNUAL REPORT

2000-2001 Annual Report of the Status of Women Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-011.

This report was received by the Faculty Senate.

D. NEW COURSES

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses EXCSCI 205 and 370, MICBIO 320, 11-02 NURSE 431, 432, 438, 439, 489, 498C, 498D, and 498E, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

E. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Special Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Admissions Practices and Minority Recruitment concerning The Recruitment of ALANA Undergraduates, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-012.**

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on 12-02 Admissions Practices and Minority Recruitment as follows:

- (1) The Faculty Senate recommends that the administration continue to adjust its admissions procedures and targets to maintain the present level of ALANA participation in each entering class, and that the Admissions Office continue its present policy of aggressively recruiting at Massachusetts high schools with high ALANA representation, in an effort to recruit and enroll as many strong ALANA high school graduates as possible.**

- (2) That the charge to the Committee be amended to the following (amendment is shaded): “1. *Charge*: To review current undergraduate admissions and minority recruitment practices and procedures of the University of Massachusetts Amherst with particular concern for identifying strategies for promoting campus diversity through yield enhancement, and to make a progress report or final report, with recommendations, to the Faculty Senate for deliberation early in the Fall 2001 semester. In addition, the Committee is charged to investigate possible mechanisms for improving retention and graduation rates and to make a progress report or final report to the Faculty Senate by the end of the Fall 2002 semester.”

This motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the General Education Council concerning The Designation of Social & Cultural Diversity Courses, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-013 with Motion Nos. 13-02 and 14-02.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the change to the Social & Cultural Diversity “D”
13-02 designation of the General Education courses listed in Recommendation 1 of Sen. Doc. No. 02-013 to the Social & Cultural University “U” designation, to denote that they focus on diversity in the United States.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the change to the Social & Cultural Diversity “D”
14-02 designation of the General Education courses listed in Recommendation 2 of Sen. Doc. No. 02-013 to the Social & Cultural Diversity “G” designation, to denote that they focus on diversity in global perspective.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-014 with Motion No. 15-02.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability for a term
15-02 of three years (renewable), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-014.

A motion was made to amend Motion 15-02 by substituting Sen. Doc. No. 02-014A for Sen. Doc. No. 02-014.

The motion to amend was seconded and adopted.

Motion 15-02 was seconded and adopted as amended.

4. Special Reports of the Foreign and International Studies Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. Nos. 02-015 through 02-021 with Motion No. 16-02.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the above Agreements between the University of
16-02 Massachusetts Amherst and various international universities, as presented in Sen. Doc. Nos. 02-015 through 02-021.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary Ernest May thanked the senators and members of the councils and committees for their hard and effective work over the course of the semester.

G. QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Peter Stern explained that a 65% cut in Library acquisitions means that books, journals and databases are no longer being ordered for the Library. He then read a list of books from the *New York Times Book Review* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education* that won't be available in the library currently or in the future. He then asked if the Faculty was aware of these consequences.

Secretary May stated that he attended the last Research Library Council meeting and recalled that the 63% cut has come halfway through the year, after the library has already been buying books for half a year. He then observed that books are impossible to replace later on because they're not available or because money must be spent on new books coming in. "The only thing I can see in this" he said, "is a chance to rethink what this Library is and what the University is. You've got enough money to be a decent college library, but not a research library."

Senator Chilton suggested that the Chancellor keep a log of the responses from people on campus regarding the budget cuts. He stated that it will be important to inform the legislature and the Trustees that the University will not be better in the near future, it will be worse.

Senator Bogartz asked if the Library could get used versions of books since they can't afford new versions.

Senator Donohue replied that that is not a viable solution because the Library doesn't have enough money for retrospective buying. "The Library doesn't have enough money to buy the books that need to be bought now" he said, "never mind trying to find the extra money 6 months or 1 year from now. It is a completely hit or miss proposition and I would guess most of the time it's 75 or 85% miss."

**The 600th meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:25 p.m. December 13, 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 December 13, 2001.**