

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

**MINUTES:** Presiding Officer Frank Hugus called the 606<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order May 9, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

**A. ADDRESS BY MARGO CRIST, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARIES AND ROBERT ROTHSTEIN, CHAIR, RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL: "UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY SITUATION AND NEXT STEPS"**

The full presentation may be viewed online at:  
[www.library.umass.edu/presentations/facsen502/](http://www.library.umass.edu/presentations/facsen502/)

*Research Library Council Chair Robert Rothstein* presented the following resolution to the Senate:

- **Whereas the University of Massachusetts Amherst Library is vital to the teaching, research and service missions of the campus; and**
- **Whereas it is a resource for students and faculty at the other four University campuses and for citizens of the Commonwealth generally;**
- **The Faculty Senate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst calls upon Chancellor-designate Lombardi, President Bulger and the Board of Trustees to treat the creation of sustainable funding for the Library as a matter of the highest priority.**

**The resolution was seconded and adopted unanimously.**

*Senator Roland Chilton* suggested that any fee charged to students to use the library should be part of an overall student fee, and not just applied to those who actually want to use the library (as the computing fee is charged).

*Senator Surinder Mehta* stated that this type of fee will lead to the destruction of the University. "Next we will have a fee for students to use the classrooms, and a fee for having the campus in a state of repair and cleanliness: we will charge for drinking water in the buildings. This opens things up for the legislature to say, 'Look, it took care of itself.'"

*Faculty Senate Secretary Ernest May:* I vociferously disagree with my two previous colleagues. A slide that was passed out by Chancellor Hogan at the last Trustee meeting shows the decrease in the percentage of the state budget devoted to higher education since FY '96. Now most of those were good years. Even during the good years, the percentage of the state budget going to higher education decreased fairly substantially. It continues to decrease. It is, relatively speaking, a straight-line graph, which is headed for zero. If you look back over the last 30 years, the percentage of the state budget that went to higher education 30 years ago was 12 percent in Massachusetts, 25 percent in the country; and it's gone down to 4 percent in Massachusetts, about 12 percent in the country. Now this isn't a roller coaster or a parabola. This is, relatively speaking, a straight-line phenomenon.

The question arises as to how universities will be funded 4 or 5 or 10 or 12 or 15 or 20 years out. A larger percentage of the state budget going to higher education does not seem to be likely. We're not competing well with other aspects of the state budget. Other things are squeezing us out. So, I think it's incorrect to say that no other substantial institutions charge a library fee or have a library fee included in the curriculum fee. Texas A&M for example has a very high fee for the library. If the resources can come from the state, fine. But if not, one has to ask the question, "access to what?" We're providing access, but to an increasingly lower quality educational opportunity. In the case of the library, it's extremely dramatic.

How can one have a research-based education in the variety of fields that are represented here with the amount of resources that are currently available to this library? It wasn't adequate before, and now it's on the verge of disappearing. One can either reduce dramatically the number of areas that the Library's going to support in a research way—I mean *dramatically*—or else one

has to accept an incredibly low quality, such that most of the faculty here are going to completely disregard our library as an adequate resource for research that they or their students are going to use.

I choose quality, and I agree that it's not highly desirable to charge a student fee, but I propose a mix of sources. I think that the research community has to step to the plate and come up with some money out of RTF, and that the students, who are great users of the library, and the faculty who teach them have to support some kind of revenue stream from the revenue which is derived from student enrollments.

**Graduate Student Senate President, Peter Tamas** suggested that charging a student fee for the use of the library wouldn't make sense because UMass is a Land Grant institution with a public holdings library that must be accessible to all the citizens of the state of Massachusetts.

**Research Library Council Chair Rothstein** asked that the Senate spend less time on the issue of a student fee and more time discussing alternatives to the fee. He then mentioned that this would not be an additional fee, but hopefully part of the additional fee that the Board of Trustees had already decided to charge students.

**Senator Robert Levin** noted that the campus comes up for reaccreditation every 10 years, and that one of the major documents compiled during that process rates the library with respect to its functionality, its status, its comparative status with other comparable institutions and its overall functionality and operating budget. One of the things that the reaccreditation committee looks at closely is whether the budget allocation and functionality of the library is consistent with the image of a large state university. And, if library funds are not returned before the next reaccreditation process, its accreditation could be jeopardized.

**Director of Libraries, Margo Crist** stated that, in the last reaccreditation report, there were a few items selected that the campus was told it needed to report in five years. One of those items was the library. The elements mentioned were the level of acquisitions, the level of staffing and the condition of its facilities. That report is due in the fall of 03.

**Senator Marta Calas** This is a slippery slope. Ernie's graph is showing in fact the one side of the story: privatizing public education in the U.S. And the question for us is, how long are we going to accept to play that game? The minute we say, 'yes, we need to get into some form of private funding, meaning student funding or any other kind, in order to be able to make up for what the state is not giving us, we are also saying that the state University, the public education in the U.S., is not worth its value as public education. What we are creating is a system in the U.S. that is different kinds of private institution, not public education. And I don't think that unless we are clear on the reason why we are saying on the one hand, we don't want to increase fees for the student to be able to pay for the library, but on the other hand, up to what point do we want to make this a point to show constituencies that in many ways, doing or having to do that because there is no other choice is also one way to show in the larger public, I guess, the fact that so-called public education is not public anymore, because I don't think that's very clear for the general population, and I think that message needs to be sent.

**Senator Mehta** asked if it was still possible that changes might occur in the Library's budget for the coming year. He suggested instituting a one-year fee to be refunded to students the following year.

**Secretary May** replied that the University already charges students a very substantial, mandatory athletic fee. He stated that various segments of the campus really do have to step up to the plate on this.

**Senator Ronald Story** moved to suspend the rules to introduce a motion to the Faculty Senate. **This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate urge the Administration not to spend precious funds and good will in fighting the recently elected, legally recognized RA union. We further urge the Administration to move to enter into immediate discussions with RA representatives over issues arising from residence hall work. We further urge the administration to refrain from further punitive actions against RAs fighting for the union recognition that is rightfully and legally theirs.

**This motion was seconded.**

*Senator Brian O'Connor* moved to strike the last sentence, suggesting that it throws out the picketing code. He argued that the last sentence might lead some to believe that they could take over any building at any time without punitive action.

**This motion was seconded.**

*Secretary May* spoke in support of striking the last sentence, stating that the last phrase, "that is rightfully and legally theirs" expresses a legal judgment that the Senate isn't capable of making.

*Senator Chilton* stated that the Senate needs to decide whether to continue the dispute, harden the dispute, or urge the administration to back off.

*Senator Jane Giacobbe-Miller* stated that fighting the union is a waste of money because, in doing so, the University will be using private legal counsel to fight something that has been well established at the state and federal levels.

**The motion to amend the main motion was defeated.**

*Graduate Student Senate President Tamas* moved to amend the main motion by inserting the words "and their student supporters" to the last sentence after "punitive actions against RAs."

*Senator Story* stated that the sentence really applies to this particular situation, and that the situation needs to be diffused before it blows up.

*Senator Chilton* added that some excellent graduate students decided on the spur of the moment to commit an act of conscience and shouldn't be penalized for that.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**The main motion was adopted as amended.**

**B. ADDRESS BY JENNY SPENCER AND MARY DEANE SORCINELLI, CO-CHAIRS: "STATUS REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION"**

The full presentation can be viewed online at <http://www.umass.edu/senate/otherdocs.html>

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate endorse the Status Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Education and move forward with the creation of a permanent council as outlined in Sen. Doc. No. 02-032.

*Senator Chilton* asked if a status report needed to be endorsed by the Senate, and then asked about the role of the Academic Matters Council if a Committee on Undergraduate Education was to be formed.

*Senator Jenny Spencer* answered that they are seeking an endorsement of the content of this report. They would like to be able to move forward with the document and work on it over the summer based on the work done over the semester. She then referred the second question to Jeffrey Eiseman, Chair of the Academic Matters Council.

*Academic Matters Chair, Jeffrey Eiseman* stated that there is a subcommittee to deal with course approval, one to deal with program approval, and a policy subcommittee that focuses on the rights and responsibilities of students. The work of these committees does not overlap with the work that would be associated with a new committee on undergraduate education.

*Senator Frank Hugus* added that if the Senate accepts the motion it will signal that the committee should continue and that its recommendations should be put into effect.

*Graduate Student Senate President Tamas* asked if the ad hoc committee had looked at the mandates of other undergraduate teaching and learning councils and who might be the administrative counterpart on the new committee if it was formed.

*Associate Provost Mary Deane Sorcinelli* replied that the committee is trying to look at ways to connect and collaborate and communicate among all the groups dealing with undergraduate teaching and learning and the student experience; To see the new committee as being in consultation with other councils, but not overlapping their work.

*Senator Giacobbe Miller* urged the committee to not think of four-credit courses as a way to resolve financial problems, because offering only four-credit courses will reduce the number of courses students will be required to take, and will water down a student's education.

*Senator Chilton* asked about the nature of the motion since the Senate was being asked to endorse specific material within the report.

*Senator Spencer* replied that the committee is asking the Senate to give the ad hoc committee permission to move forward and for an endorsement of their activities so far.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

#### **C. ANNUAL REPORT**

**Annual Report of the Health Council, Academic Year 2000-01, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-033.**

**This report was received by the Faculty Senate.**

#### **D. NEW COURSES**

**MOVED: 30-02 That the Faculty Senate approve the courses BIOCHM 100, ENV HL 260, FCFLRC 111N, 112N, 121N, and 122N, FRENCH 356, JAPAN 235, MUSIC 170, PHYSICS 281, PLSOIL 265, POLSCI 201, 256, and 336 and RES EC 462, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.**

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**MOVED: 31-02 That the Faculty Senate approve the courses EXCSCI 574, and NUTRITION 580, as recommended by the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils.**

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**MOVED: 32-02 That the Faculty Senate approve the courses HIST 605, 661 and 662, as recommended by the Graduate Council.**

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

#### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Special Report of the Space and Calendar Committee concerning the 2005-2006 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-034 with Motion No. 33-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2005-2006 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. 33-02  
**33-02** No. 02-034.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

2. **Special Report of the Space and Calendar Committee concerning Minimizing the Scheduling of Final Examinations on Saturdays, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-035 with Motion No. 34-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve of Minimizing the Scheduling of Final Examinations on 34-02  
**34-02** Saturdays, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-035.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

3. **Special Report of the Foreign and International Studies Council concerning A Memorandum of Understanding for the Hosting of Research students between The Faculty of Science and The Faculty of Graduate Studies, Burapha University, Thailand and International Programs, The Graduate School and The Environmental Sciences Program, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-036 with Motion No. 35-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Hosting of 35-02  
**35-02** Research students between The Faculty of Science and The Faculty of Graduate Studies, Burapha University, Thailand and International Programs, The Graduate School and The Environmental Sciences Program, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-036.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

4. **Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Recommended Changes to the Academic Requirements and Programs of Commonwealth College, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-037 with Motion No. 36-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate modify the requirements of Commonwealth College, as presented in 36-02  
**36-02** Sen. Doc. No. 02-037.

**This motion was seconded.**

*Dean Linda Slakey* discussed some of the main points of the report, stating that looking at a topic from two different perspectives will hopefully bring the breadth to a subject analogous to the depth of a thesis. Also, the requirement that students take both linked courses and complete a substantial paper demonstrating understanding achieved by studying the subject from two perspectives should reach the same degree of sophistication as a typical undergraduate thesis.

*Professor Eiseman* stated that a culminating experience, as mentioned in the report, should try to get students to engage in a process of synthesizing information they have learned, or will be learning during that process, that goes beyond the confines of a typical course.

*Senator O'Connor* asked if it was true that students do not need to be in a departmental honors track as long as they complete a culminating experience?

*Professor Eiseman* stated that departmental honors tracks do still exist and are different from the Commonwealth College.

*Dean Slakey* stated that the Commonwealth College is working closely with all departments to revisit the departmental honors tracks and get them up to date.

*Senator Story* moved to amend the "Recommended change" in the Latin High Honors section of the report so that it reads "Latin High Honors is available only to Commonwealth College Scholars who earn a grade of AB on their culminating experience and a cumulative GPA of 3.5-3.79 for graduation *magna cum laude* or A on their culminating experience and a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher for *summa cum laude*."

*Dean Slakey* stated that if the amendment passed, it would establish a standard that is higher than has been the case for much of the campus in the past.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**The main motion was adopted as amended.**

**F. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Secretary of the Faculty Senate**

*Secretary Ernest May* made a brief presentation with slides about the status of UMASS ONLINE.

**The 606<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:57 p.m. May 9, 2002.**

**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 May 9, 2002.**