

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

**MINUTES:** Presiding Officer Frank Hugus called the 607<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order May 16, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. in the Isenberg School of Management Auditorium, Room 116.

**A. SPECIAL MOTION OF THANKS TO INTERIM CHANCELLOR MARCELLETTE WILLIAMS**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate express its gratitude to Interim Chancellor Marcellette Williams for her leadership of the Amherst campus during one of the most difficult years in its history. Her wisdom in managing the monumental challenges of the 2001-2002 academic year is deeply appreciated.  
**37-02**

This motion was seconded and adopted by acclamation.

**B. SPECIAL MOTION OF THANKS TO RETIRING FACULTY SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF FACULTY SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate express its gratitude and appreciation to all retiring Faculty Senators, and to all retiring members of Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, for their dedicated support of shared governance at the University of Massachusetts Amherst over many years.  
**38-02**

This motion was seconded and adopted by acclamation.

**C. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. Principal Administrative Officers**

*Interim Chancellor Marcellette Williams* thanked the Senate for a year in which they were able to work together in the best interest of the campus. She noted that they were not "disagreeable in their disagreements," and stated that leading the campus has been a deep privilege.

*Interim Provost Charlena Seymour* thanked the Senate for a great year, and urged all to attend the upcoming graduations. She stated that she looked forward to the year ahead.

**2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate**

*Faculty Senate Secretary Ernest May* advised that the Senate is going to be quite depleted next year--down to about 47 senators from a high of 90 a few years ago. A subcommittee will be proposing streamlined councils and committees, and he asked that those who want to be involved in the shared governance of the campus next year contact the Senate office.

**3. The Chair of the Rules Committee**

*Rules Committee Chair Roland Chilton* stated that the Rules Committee will continue to meet over the summer, and that we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

**4. The Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees**

*Faculty Delegate Brian O'Connor* stated that attendance at recent Board of Trustees meetings has been poor. He then proceeded to read attendance figures for recent meetings.

**5. The President of the Graduate Student Senate**

*Graduate Student Senate President Peter Tamas* was sorry to hear the projected number of senators for the coming year, and hoped that faculty will come forward to take a role in the governance of the University.

**D. QUESTIONS**

*Secretary May* mentioned a recent article in the Boston Globe regarding the funding of contracts.

*President Tamas* acknowledged Senator Alex Deschamps as a Distinguished Teaching Award winner.

**E. ELECTION**

**PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

**NOMINEE--Frank Hugus**

**Frank Hugus was elected Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate unanimously.**

**F. NEW COURSE**

**MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course CEE 542, as recommended by the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils.**  
**46-02**

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

*Senator Joseph Donohue* moved to suspend the rules to introduce a resolution to the Faculty Senate.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**Whereas** in April the Faculty Senate passed a resolution inviting President William Bulger and the Board of Trustees to attend a meeting of the Senate to describe the fiscal situation of the University and to inform us of the plans they are making and the measures they are taking to lead the University through unprecedentedly difficult times, and

**Whereas** the proposed visit of the President and Trustees to the Faculty Senate has not yet been scheduled by his office, and

**Whereas** the Legislature has recently reported a budget for the next fiscal year entailing consequences for the University so severe that the number of faculty, librarians, and other professional staff is threatened to fall below the critical mass required for the University to continue to perform its mission of education, research, and outreach to the citizens of the Commonwealth and especially to the students currently enrolled in degree programs, and

**Whereas** in particular the funding of University libraries in the Legislature's budget is intended to be reduced eventually to zero on the presumption that such funding in future is to be found within the general funds allotted to the University, notwithstanding the fact that such general funds are to be further reduced below the already unacceptably low levels budgeted for the current fiscal year, and

**Whereas** the Senate therefore perceives the most pressing need for enlightened and determined leadership and advocacy at all levels of the University from the President on down, and

**Whereas** recent signs of President Bulger's activity in lobbying the Legislature to reduce to some degree the damaging effect of these continued low levels of funding,

**Be it therefore resolved** that the Faculty Senate, assuring President Bulger and the Trustees that in any visit to this body they would find themselves among friends, reiterate its invitation to him and them to come and discuss frankly and openly with us the perils that lie before us and the range and nature of remedies that may be possible under the circumstances, and urge that such a visit occur within the next two weeks.

**This motion was seconded and then referred to the Rules Committee for further action.**

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning A Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Minor in Information Technology, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-038 with Motion No. 39-02.**

**SPECIAL MOTION BY THE RULES COMMITTEE**

**MOVED: 39-02 That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed Interdisciplinary Minor in Information Technology, as described in Sen. Doc. No. 02-038, for a period of five years; continuation beyond five years is conditioned on a positive review by the Faculty Senate during the fourth year (AY2005-2006).**

*Professor Jeffrey Eiseman* stated that he had never seen a program more widely supported by letters from all over the campus. It has been developing over a long period of time and has been revised several times as a result of a lot of feedback, both from Academic Matters and other places on campus.

*Professor William Israel* explained that this is a program nearly four years in the making. It calls for a 15-credit minor: two technical courses, a broadened inquiry course, and two electives. Most students would take a qualifying prerequisite course, as well. The minor intends to start small, a maximum of 50-75 students. No new University resources would be used. It would expand only as external funding could be identified. He then thanked a number of people involved in getting the program going during this very difficult budgetary year.

*Secretary May:* There's no question that this is a valuable program and that it meets many desirable criteria. There were some questions raised all year about the nature of the administration of the program because it's unusual that it reports at the level of the Provost. (It's an interdisciplinary program, but still we have interdisciplinary programs that report at different levels.) There were also questions about funding. It's likely by most people's estimations that this program will attract more than 50 students, but it's coming up for approval at a time when we already have many mouths at the table and as we all realize, it's going to be difficult to feed them all. So, we did not want it to create a situation where one program, which will undoubtedly be a valuable program, will actually be cannibalizing other valuable programs on the campus. The Program and Budget Council wants to emphasize that this program appears to have great potential for external fundraising. There should be support in the Massachusetts high tech community for programs such as this, and we urge those people who are proposing the program to be sure that this program is not at the expense of other programs on the campus, but is in addition to them. That's the idea of the Senate review. I think the Senate review will also look at the breadth, the way it has fulfilled its promise in these different areas and which areas have been popular and which have not been so popular. Also, it's imaginable that this program would have hundreds or even thousands of students wanting to get into it, so the issues of support and the extent of enrollment and so forth should perhaps be reviewed. I'm sure the administrators will review it, but I think the deans as a group are taking responsibility for this program, which is great. But among the deans as a group, there is one dean who is first among equals, shall we say, and that's Engineering Dean Goldstein, and that I think that is also a very auspicious development for the future of this program.

*Dean Joseph Goldstein:* We've been working on this program for a number of years, and from all the input we've gotten, not only from the University itself, but from all across the state--the Board of Higher Education and other places like that--we've heard that we need to make sure that our own graduates have more of an information technology background, and this is one of the mechanisms for doing it. Not to just give students the ability to use a computer, but to fully take advantage of the information age that's upon us. I think this is really a wonderful program because it allows what those of us who you refer to as the north side of the campus to make a contribution to the rest of the campus in very clear ways. We're very pleased to do it. We think that it's the right thing, and we'd love to have lots of students that understand that technology and computer science are not the enemy, they're actually something that you should embrace.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

2. **Special Report of the Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning A Certificate in Cognitive Science, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-039A with Motion No. 40-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the certificate in Cognitive Science, as presented in Sen. 40-02 Doc. No. 02-039A.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

3. **Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning Requirements for a Dual Master's Degree, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-040 with Motion No. 41-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Requirements for a Dual Master's Degree, as presented 41-02 in Sen. Doc. No. 02-040.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

4. **Special Report by the Graduate Council concerning The MS/MPH Dual Degree Program in the Schools of Nursing and Public Health and Health Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-041 with Motion No. 42-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve The MS/MPH Dual Degree Program in the schools of 42-02 Nursing and Public Health and Health Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-041 with Motion No. 42-02.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

5. **Special Report of the Academic Matters Council, Graduate Council, Program and Budget Council and Rules Committee concerning Transfer of the Department of Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration and the Department of Sport Studies to the Isenberg School of Management, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-042A with Motion No. 43-02.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the transfer of the Department of Hotel Restaurant and 43-02 Travel Administration and the Department of Sport Studies to the Isenberg School of Management, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-042A.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

6. **Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-043 with Motion No. 44-02.**

**MOVED: 44-02** That the Faculty Senate approve the nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-043.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

7. Status Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-044 with Motion No. 45-02.

**MOVED: 45-02** That the Faculty Senate endorse the Status Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-044.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

8. Progress Report (Oral) of the Provost's Steering Committee:  
Program Assessment, Strategic Directions and Resource Allocation  
Janet Rifkin and Frank Hugus, Co-Chairs

*Interim Provost Seymour* thanked the members and co-chairs of the committee for doing a superb job and great service to the campus.

The 607<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:35 p.m. May 16, 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 16, 2002.