

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

**MINUTES: Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 612<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order December 5, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.**

**A. ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLEN STORY**

As you can imagine, I don't have any good news to tell you. The new Secretary of Administration and Finance for Romney yesterday said that this is the worst budget that Massachusetts has had since the Great Depression. He thinks a \$2 billion shortfall is optimistic. The person that I pay the most attention to with these figures is Jim St. George, who for years has been the Executive Director of the Tax Equity Alliance of Massachusetts, which has just changed its name to something like the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Council. He says that's overstating it, that \$1.5-2 billion short is probably more in the ballpark than having \$2 billion not be enough. Nobody knows, of course, and we will have to wait and see what the exact figures are, but it's going to be truly miserable for this year and probably next year and maybe the year after that.

The one thing that's consoling, although it's not consoling, is that this is happening all over. It's not just Massachusetts. Ernie May was just telling me that in New Jersey, they have a \$6 billion shortfall, and their budget is not much higher than Massachusetts'. One of the peculiar reasons why it's so bad here is because, over the last 12 years, since Weld was first elected, we have given 42 tax cuts, and that was too many. This is not *just* due to the fact that the stock market crashed or that September 11 happened--those things did not help--but there is a structural deficit in the budget. The one-time things that people are talking about, like securitizing the tobacco settlement money -- Wisconsin just did this-- it's selling, it's giving away, the hundreds of millions of dollars that you will get in the future from the tobacco settlement for \$350 million now. There will be tremendous pressure on us to do that here. I hope very much that we don't do that. \$350 million right now is just nothing. That is not going to be enough to make very much of difference in anything.

In the last year and a half, the state payroll has decreased by 7 percent, which is a real chunk. Most of that has been early retirement. Everybody is very curious to see what Romney's first budget is like, which we will find out in mid-January. The Weld, Cellucci and Swift people were good at putting out budgets that had lots of gimmicks in them, that had things that looked like they would produce a lot of revenue, but they didn't. And people don't know if that's what Romney is going to do or if he's going to actually put out a very polished budget. That is, after all, supposed to be his area of expertise. He's talking about consolidating lots of different programs. But, even if you consolidate, even if you cause havoc by consolidating some of these programs, you only save \$10 or \$20 million. At this point, that's just not a lot of money unless you can do that hundreds of times, so we are just going to have to hang on and see what this is going to be like. It's going to be very, very tough. Casino gambling--a lot of people who've been against casino gambling for years are now saying, 'Well, we already gamble in Massachusetts; we have the lottery. Why not casino gambling? Or slots at the race track?' That's being talked about even more as a possibility. So I think there will be a very strong push to have slots at the racetracks, and that brings in a lot of money. What you're going to be reading from now on, I'm very sorry to say, is going to be extremely disagreeable, and we just have to acknowledge that. I'm sorry.

**Senator Roland Chilton** asked Representative Story for her view on casino gambling in Massachusetts.

**Representative Story** stated that she is not in favor of casino gambling or of slots at racetracks because the social costs of having casino gambling have been proven all over the country by states that legalized it and are now trying to stop it.

**Senator Eric Einhorn** asked if Massachusetts is dealing with interstate commerce issues such as the sales tax avoidance that occurs when buying across state lines.

*Representative Story* stated that that's something people are talking about, that there were several bills about this issue last year, and that more will probably come up this year that might have a chance of passing.

*Faculty Senate Secretary Ernest May* mentioned that a number of Massachusetts residents gamble in Connecticut, leaving Massachusetts to deal with the social costs while Connecticut profits from the gambling.

*Representative Story* stated that that's one of the strongest arguments given by the pro-gamblers, but she still thinks that it's not worth it for Massachusetts to legalize gambling.

She then stated that raising the sales tax by 1 penny would bring in \$750 million in new revenues--a plan that should be seriously considered, as well as a rise in the income tax.

**B. REPORT BY FRANK HUGUS, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PAT VOKBUS, FOREIGN STUDENT ADVISOR IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE'S NEW SEVIS (STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR INFORMATION SYSTEM)**

**For the full text of Frank Hugus' and Pat Vokbus' reports, please visit our website at [http://www.umass.edu/senate/minutes02\\_03.html](http://www.umass.edu/senate/minutes02_03.html)**

*Senator Chilton* suggested that the International Programs Office distribute in writing the things that individuals have to do and when they have to do them in order to comply with new guidelines.

*Ms. Vokbus* stated that the Office has prepared a handout summarizing information on regulations that will probably go into effect. In addition, they will share new information as it becomes available.

*Director Hugus* stated that the Office will also continue to update its website as information becomes available. They hope to create an email list of department heads and directors to pass on the information as well.

*Senator Einhorn* asked which category scholars coming onto campus for four to five days would fall under.

*Ms. Vokbus* answered that people who fall under SEVIS are people who come under the J,F, or M visas. Sometimes people who come for a short time come on a tourist visa. She recommended that questions like these be discussed with Nancy Condon in the International Programs Office.

*A professor* asked how the Office calculated TA teaching within the 9 credits for graduate students.

*Ms. Vokbus* explained that that's something that individual departments will have to calculate. Graduate departments have the authority to look at a graduate student's program and determine if their work load can be considered full time.

*A professor* asked when international students currently on campus should come to the Office to complete the new forms and follow the new regulations.

*Ms. Vokbus* stated that they will be notifying students as they know more. Students are mandated to be into the system by January 30<sup>th</sup> and that any new people admitted after that time must be entered into the system as they arrive. They're hoping to have everyone entered into the SEVIS system before the start of the fall semester.

*Director Hugus* stated that the Office should be able to enter students into the system without much trouble since they should already have all the information they need to do so.

C.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. Principal Administrative Officers**

*Deputy Chancellor John Dubach* gave an update on the Student Information System stating that the first round of pre-registration was completed and that a series of major events would be occurring in the next few months: bills processed using the new system, grading for the current semester, and financial aid.

*Undergraduate Registrar Elizabeth Pyle* spoke about the successes and downfalls of the first use of online-confirmed registration on this campus. She added that there is a survey available for students, faculty and staff to complete in order to gain a better understanding of what went right and wrong with the new process.

*Deputy Provost John Cunningham* stated that the system was effective, and he thanked the faculty for scheduling their courses into SPIRE, the key to the successful registration.

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

*Senator Chilton* addressed faculty concern over the appointment of a coordinating chair for the five language departments on campus. Faculty have stated that the appointment has violated the spirit of shared governance since there was no consultation in the appointment of that coordinating chair. Senator Chilton stated that the Rules Committee took up the issue and found that, one, each language department continues to maintain its own chair, duly appointed through the full search process specified by the Wellman Document; two, that the executive chair of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts is not the administrator of a newly established academic unit; and three, the executive chair appears to fulfill a coordinating function with respect to the dean. On the basis of those facts, the Rules Committee voted unanimously at its November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting that the appointment of an executive chair in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts by the dean does not appear to violate the Wellman Document.

D.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

*Senator Joseph Donohue* stated that he received a letter from Provost Seymour dated November 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the subject of sexual harassment education. He read an excerpt from the letter and stated that he found the tone of the letter unacceptable--needlessly offensive, vindictive, hostile, threatening and presumptive of bad will on the part of the faculty. He then asked why a letter of this tone was sent to faculty, which at the present time is already in difficulty because of overwork and poor morale.

*Deputy Provost Cunningham*, in the absence of Provost Seymour, stated that he was confident that the Provost was not trying to set a tone of threat, and stated that he would notify the Provost of Senator Donohue's concern.

*Senator Maria Tymoczko* stated that she continues to be troubled by the discussion of the Athletic Department's budget, which took place at the last Senate meeting. She stated that the \$1 million that should have been taken from the budget was restored in order to hold harmless the student athletes in eliminated programs. She then spoke of others who were not held harmless in this situation: undergraduates having trouble finding courses because there are not enough faculty to serve them, graduate students whose fellowships were cancelled and faculty working harder with fewer research materials.

*Chancellor John Lombardi* stated that they are doing their best to make as many things right as possible despite the lack of funding from the Legislature. As for the decision made about the Athletic Department's budget, he stated that there is an Athletic Council with faculty as members who meet and write reports and are involved in making decisions about the Athletic Department.

*Senator Tymoczko* then asked how priorities could be set to reflect the campus' academic mission.

*Chancellor Lombardi* stated that priorities can be evaluated by looking at what the campus has spent its money on, and that 98.9% of money spent this semester has been in support of students and the academic mission.

**E. GENERAL EDUCATION DESIGNATION**

**MOVED: 08-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the designation for ENTOMOL 130 as a General Education Biological Sciences (BS) course, as recommended by the General Education Council.**

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and Program and Budget Council concerning the Interdisciplinary Certificate in Public Policy and Administration, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-010 with Motion No. 09-03.**

**MOVED: 09-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the Interdisciplinary Certificate in Public Policy and Administration, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-010.**

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

- 2. Report of the Chancellor's Task Force on the Prevention of Alcohol Abuse, University of Massachusetts Amherst, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-011 with Motion No. 10-03.**

*Professor Robert Sinclair* spoke briefly about instances of alcohol abuse on this campus and of the mission and efforts of the Alcohol Abuse Task Force so far. He then listed the five recommendations that the Task Force made in its report to the Faculty Senate.

*Vice Chancellor Jo-Anne Vanin* spoke in depth about the Task Force's recommendations and the challenges that the campus faces in preventing Alcohol Abuse on this campus.

*Senator Einhorn* asked what happens to students who violate the current substance abuse regulations on campus in a repeated or gross fashion.

*Vice Chancellor Vanin* explained the regulations regarding alcohol use on campus, stating that one violation results in placement on sanction and into an educational program, a second violation results in relocation and placement in a program focusing on intervention and abuse issues, and the third violation results in removal from campus. She added that a report is distributed every semester with statistics of how many violations were processed, how many sanctions are in place and how many students have been suspended or put on probation.

*Senator Chilton* asked what progress has been made to enforce the rules and in alcohol education on the campus.

**Professor Sinclair** stated that it has taken a long time for the Task Force to get to the point that it's at right now and that it's going to take a long time to change the culture of alcohol abuse on campus. The Task Force hopes to see some effect after the implementation of its five recommendations.

**Vice Chancellor Vanin** stated that student resident assistants staff residence halls, and that there has been some concern about whether or not resident assistants are capable of effectively reporting violations made by other students. She then spoke of educational programs already in place on campus and of a letter that goes out to incoming students and their families before they arrive on campus stating the campus' regulations and perspectives relating to alcohol.

**Professor Sinclair** stated that the Task Force realizes that students cannot stop other students from entering residence halls with alcohol. They also believe that older students are bringing alcohol into the residence halls and selling it to underage students. The Task Force is hoping, through this evaluation, to come up with a solution to problems like these.

**Senator Brian O'Connor** spoke of educating students in the classroom, stating that, a couple of weeks ago in a course in introductory physiology, he was talking about the effect of electrolytes or minerals on the heart rate, and used the example of a student binge drinking. After that discussion, all 70 students in his course got the question on the next exam pertaining to that lecture correct. He stated that students really do listen to information like that and that professors are in a position of power to point it out.

**Senator Donohue** noted that the Task Force's proposal asked that at least one residence hall be designated for incoming freshmen and other students who prefer to live in an alcohol-free setting. He asked if there would be monitors at every entrance of those residence halls to ensure that alcohol wouldn't be brought inside.

**Vice Chancellor Vanin** stated that this is not a dry campus and that students who are 21 are permitted to have alcohol. She then stated that students who choose to live in these designated areas commit to being substance free and that they will be working with these students to make the right choices and strive for a healthy environment.

**Senator Richard Bogartz** stated that students should also learn about the social and economic system that turns alcohol use into a rite of passage and manipulates them into spending more money on alcohol than they might if it wasn't prohibited before the age of 21.

**Vice Chancellor Vanin** stated that it's very interesting to talk with students about their drinking behaviors: why they were drinking, where they were, and what influenced their decisions.

**G. BYLAW CHANGES**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-006B.  
**04-03**

*Senator Arthur Kinney* moved to amend the membership of the General Education Council to include 12 faculty members or librarians with at least four from different professional schools and at least four from arts and sciences, with at least one from each of the three colleges and at least one from the professional library staff.

The motion to amend was seconded and adopted.

*Senator Kinney* moved to amend the membership of the Undergraduate Education Council to add a librarian to its membership.

The motion to amend was seconded and adopted.

Motion 04-03 was seconded and adopted.

The 612<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:20 p.m. December 5, 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 December 5, 2002.