

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

**MINUTES: Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 614<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on Thursday, February 13, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.**

**A. ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM M. BULGER**

**The full text of President Bulger's Address can be viewed on the Faculty Senate website at [http://www.umass.edu/senate/minutes02\\_03.html](http://www.umass.edu/senate/minutes02_03.html)**

*Massachusetts Society of Professors President, Ronald Story:* It's a real pleasure, I have to say, to be able to make these comments today. First of all, I really appreciate and am grateful for the efforts of the President to work with union leaders on approaches to addressing our contract funding challenges. It's been a tremendous breakthrough, and I think a lot of credit goes to the President's Office for making real efforts to meet us halfway and work through some of these difficulties. I also appreciate your role in encouraging the Board of Trustees to resolve yesterday to strongly support the efforts to persuade the legislature to do what it can to fund the contracts. We understand that times are tough, but that was a much-appreciated statement. We are grateful for your positive response to the proposal of the unions to craft a deferred payment funding approach to addressing these contract issues. I think that was encouraging, and I think that that will serve us well long term.

The MSP intends, at this point, to focus most of its efforts on urging the legislature to fund the UMass '04 budget at an appropriate level. It is something we desperately need to protect the affordability and staffing, library acquisitions and so forth if we're even think eventually of becoming one of the great state university campuses. We intend to sponsor a teach-in and letter writing and voter registration campaign in mid-March just before Spring Break. We are hopeful and optimistic given our new collaborative relationship with the President's Office that we can have faculty, staff, students and perhaps alumni involved. We're hopeful that the administration in Boston and in Whitmore will help encourage the Alumni Association and other alumni to get involved in this grassroots effort.

*President Bulger* stated that the President's Office has been very much in sync with the unions on the whole contract matter. They advocated for the contract and agreed to it and have been working for it in a way that they feel will best achieve their purpose.

*Senator Seshu Desu* thanked President Bulger for bringing Chancellor Lombardi to the Amherst campus and then asked if cuts to the University's budget would be spread equally among the campuses or if they would be proportional.

*President Bulger* stated that a proportional cut has been the approach used in the past, but that he would be willing to hear anybody's suggestions regarding the cuts.

*Senator Eric Einhorn* asked President Bulger if he had heard anything of Governor Romney's plans for the University. He then asked if Governor Romney has had any interaction with the University and if he has any interests that the campus and community could appeal to.

*President Bulger* stated that someone like Governor Romney, a venture capitalist who sees the glories of our economic system, has to recognize that UMass needs to do the things it's now advocating for; to take advantage of opportunities for good, solid investments.

*Secretary Ernest May* asked President Bulger to compare his previous experience in past cycles with this cycle of government.

*President Bulger* stated that in the past, Governor Weld was an easy person to get along with. The two shared a trust that allowed them to meet regularly, discuss disagreements and be direct with each other in the effort to find solutions. President Bulger then stated that he hopes Governor Romney will have that same type of relationship with the Speaker and the Senate President, and that he will be flexible in considering a new tax plan.

*Senator Brian O'Connor* asked President Bulger if he continues to visit high schools to talk about the value of higher education and of UMass.

*President Bulger* stated that he continues to visit over 60 high schools where he tells his own story of being guided to college by an advisor and urges students to be serious about higher education.

*Senator Joseph Donohue* asked President Bulger if there were ways to build up the decreased faculty at UMass Amherst and if there was an update on plans to stabilize the funding for the library.

*President Bulger* stated that he was working hard to get more money from the state and to look for alternative ways of funding the needs of the university. He stated that the library is a resource that deserves to be funded well and that they'll renew the effort to achieve that end.

## **B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. Principal Administrative Officers**

*Provost Charlena Seymour* thanked the campus for its successful participation at the Inauguration of Chancellor Lombardi. She then announced that Professor Richard Rogers of the Resource Economics Department has been appointed the Faculty Advisor to the Provost for Undergraduate Education, and that the search for a Vice Chancellor for Research and the Dean of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences should be progressing toward the interviewing process in the next couple of weeks.

### **2. The Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees**

*Faculty Delegate Brian O'Connor* highlighted the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs and the Committee on Administration and Finance meetings for the Faculty Senate. He summarized a discussion held on enrollment management, stating that enrollment was down by about 800 students this past September, the acceptance rate was 58%, the yield rate was 28%, 91% of incoming students had a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher and an average SAT score of 1124. In the previous 4 years, 25% were out of state students, while there were only 12% this fall. Students of color remained at about 17%. The one-year retention rate in Fall of '02 was 83%, and the six-year graduation rate was 60%. He then announced the approval of the appointments of Michael Malone as the Ronnie and Eugene Isenberg Distinguished Professor in Engineering, and of Professor Joseph Goldstein as a Distinguished Professor at UMass Amherst.

## **C. QUESTIONS**

*Senator Einhorn* stated that, as an advisor, he noticed a lot of gaps with the SPIRE system during its first registration cycle. He asked if there was a place to submit suggestions or comments regarding the system.

*Deputy Chancellor John Dubach* explained that the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee has talked about this issue, and that there is a place on the SPIRE website to communicate such concerns.

*Senator Marilyn Hanley Billings* stated that Joe Kunkel is the chair of the UCECC, and that the committee is in the process of coming to some conclusions to present to the Senate in a couple of meetings having to do with SPIRE issues. She stated that the committee welcomes any comments.

*Deputy Provost John Cunningham* noted that Elizabeth Pyle would be sending around a report of what was learned from the first add/drop cycle of SPIRE and also would be appreciative of comments.

*Senator Roland Chilton* asked if the student fee for internet accounts was going to be eliminated except for five-college students.

*Vice Chancellor Joyce Hatch* stated that, at this point in the budget plan, the student fee would be incorporated into the curriculum fee next year as long as the level of state appropriation allowed for the absorption of that cost.

*Professor Rutherford Platt* stated that he just returned from sabbatical and was surprised to find that hard copies of the course schedule had been replaced by electronic copies. He stated that the electronic copies make it almost impossible to advise students on classes they might be taking in other departments, and suggested that hard copies be made available.

*Senator O'Connor* agreed with Professor Platt and pointed out that student transcripts have gone from one page to 12-13 pages, all one-sided. He suggested that all the extra transcript paper might be used to create a few schedule books.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**Special Report of the Health Council concerning A Tobacco-Free Campus, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-014 with Motion No. 13-03.**

**MOTION: That the Faculty Senate adopt the motion by the Health Council to designate the campus as a Tobacco-Free Campus, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-014.**  
**13-03**

**The motion was seconded.**

*Health Council Chair, Robert Sinclair* introduced the Health Council's Report to the Senate and asked Dr. Alan Calhoun, Medical Director at University Health Services to present the rationale and specifics of the motion in the report.

*Dr. Calhoun:* I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. Next year, 2004, will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Surgeon General's report on the adverse effects of smoking to the health of our nation. We've come a long way in the last 40 years, but unfortunately I have to report that more than 1 out of 4 students on this campus are still smoking. As a physician, it's a little hard to understand the rationale for that behavior. There are 2 probable causes, and they're well known to you all. The first is the tremendous marketing on behalf of tobacco companies aimed particularly at young adults. It's still considered an exciting, risky behavior and cool and a little sexy for some people. The second issue is that tobacco is very addictive. Some of you might be asking, "why this issue at this particular time?" We were invited to the Massachusetts Tobacco Control program conference last June, which is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in conjunction with the American Cancer Society. Their focus was looking at smoking behaviors on campuses in New England, particularly in Massachusetts. We are not alone in the educational community looking into this aspect. There are many colleges and campuses that have already made some decisions to become tobacco-free campuses, particularly the University of Rhode Island, University of Southern Maine, University of Vermont, and locally there have been actions on the part of Smith College and Mount Holyoke College to improve the smoking behaviors on their campuses. We still get a considerable amount of pressure from students, faculty and staff. I know in my office, very frequently I get requests from students who are requesting special medical assignments out of their dormitories because of the smoking lounges in the residence halls which filter smoke down the hallways into their rooms. Likewise, we have a number of employees on campus who are frustrated by the smoke that comes into the windows and the entranceways right next to their offices. The university has documented a couple of tragedies that we've had: two dorm fires in the last decade that emanated from smoking lounges. It causes property damage. There is a risk to health. The American Cancer Society developed the concepts that are in the motion before you. (The full report by the Health Council can be viewed on the Faculty Senate website: <http://www.umass.edu/senate/facsendoc.htm>)

*Senator Mokhtar Atallah* asked what the current policy on smoking outside of buildings was.

*Dr. Calhoun* stated that there is no specific statement about smoking outside the buildings in the current policy.

*Senator Atallah* stated that legislating a tobacco-free campus means being able to enforce the policy. He then asked how the policy would be enforced.

*Dr. Calhoun* stated this type of policy has been widely accepted at other colleges and universities, and that it hasn't been all that difficult to enforce. He stated that employees have been less willing to accept such policies than students have because they have been smoking for longer periods of time, and that enforcement will depend on the commitment of the people in charge and the leadership of supervisors.

*Professor Sinclair* stated that enforcement had been discussed extensively in the Health Council with input from people who currently smoke. He thanked them for being supportive and for being able to put aside their own issues and understand that individual behavior has consequences for others. He then stated that there will be a need for signage around campus and that the Council would like to shift thinking from enforcement toward the importance of supporting and assisting people who choose to change the nature of their behavior, because they realize that it's detrimental to them and has consequences for others.

*Senator Atallah* asked if there was any data available on the impact of such a policy on enrollment of students and the level of students who are coming to the university. He then asked, under the new policy, if some dorms would be smoke-free while others would still have smoking lounges.

*Dr. Calhoun* stated that the tobacco-free trend is becoming popular around New England, and that UMass would not be unique in making this change.

*Vice Chancellor Jo-Anne Vanin* stated that she doesn't believe such data on the impact on enrollment exists, but that it's probably a stretch to think that a student would select a school based on its smoking policy. She then stated that smoking in the residence halls is only allowed in select common areas, and students in that common area can vote to make it smoke free. Of the 41 residence halls, there are only 10 that house a smoking lounge. She stated that this is a challenge that the administration is willing to take on; that it's a move in the right direction.

*Senator Roland Chilton* verified the motion before the Senate asking if the motion recommends closing the 10 smoking lounges so that every residence hall would be smoke free, and extending the current policy to some adjacent areas in an effort to move people away from being close to doors and windows.

*Dr. Calhoun* answered that yes, that was what the motion was recommending.

**Motion 13-03 was adopted with two objections.**

**E. BYLAW CHANGE (First Reading)**

**Special Report of the Undergraduate Education Council concerning a Bylaw Change, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-015 with Motion No. 14-03.**

**MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Change, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-015. 14-03**

**There were no questions or comments about the bylaw change after the first reading.**

**F. ANNUAL REPORTS**

- 1. Annual Report of the Research Council of the Faculty Senate, Academic Year 2001-2002, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-016.**

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

2. **Annual Report of the University Ombuds Office for the Period of July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-017.**

*Senator Einhorn* stated that a significant number of cases in the report involved academic honesty/dishonesty and asked if the administration has considered using a program that can be used to check students papers for online plagiarism. He stated that a number of other universities already subscribe to such programs.

*Deputy Provost Cunningham* stated that he had brought a description of such programs to the Academic Matters Council in the past and that he would check out the new pricing for it and bring it to them again for discussion.

*Senator Chilton* stated that instead of describing the work of the Ombuds Office as serving anyone with a university-related problem, it might be more useful to describe the work as taking up grievances and complaints on campus.

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

**The 614<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:03 p.m. February 13, 2003.**

**Respectfully submitted by Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.**

**The Proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape at the Faculty Senate Office.**