

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

MINUTES: Acting Presiding Officer Ernest May called the 615th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on March 13, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

**A. ADDRESS BY STEPHEN P. TOCCO, CHAIRMAN
MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

The address by Chairman Stephen Tocco was postponed until April 24, 2003. Mr. Tocco sent an email message to the Faculty Senate stating, "... my priority is ongoing full support for the flagship campus in its effort to achieve greatness for the University and the Commonwealth no matter what ultimate structure the system takes; which will be decided by the Governor and the Legislature. "

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary Ernest May stated that a meeting of the faculty and librarians had been called to discuss the war in Iraq. A motion was introduced at the meeting to send a letter to President Bush and the Massachusetts Congressional Representatives. Secretary May read the letter to the Senate and explained that all faculty are invited to add their signatures to the letter.

2. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

Faculty Delegate Brian O'Connor presented the Senate with transparencies demonstrating Governor Romney's reorganization plan for higher education, the Administration's response to the plan, and the current organization of the public higher education system. He then explained that fees had been raised to \$500 for in-state students and by \$1000 for out-of-state students.

Chancellor John Lombardi clarified the amounts to which the fees had been raised stating that the fees would be the same, \$500, for both in-state and out-of-state students.

3. The President of the Student Government Association

Brian Long, Secretary of University Policy for SGA stated that the Student Government has been working hard to get students involved in more Faculty Senate Councils and Committees. He then updated the Faculty Senate on current events going on in the Student Government: elections for the President and Student Trustee, recent motions regarding smoking and parking issues, the plans for spring events in the residential areas and the status of the bar in the Blue Wall which is expected to help bring life back to the Campus Center where it is located.

C. QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Roland Chilton asked if the student fee increase would lead to the elimination of the OIT computing fee.

Chancellor Lombardi answered, "Maybe." He explained that the elimination of the fee really depends on the level of state support received by the campus.

Senator William Conner asked if the Amherst campus would benefit from the diversified UMass system proposed by Governor Romney as opposed to the current system.

Chancellor Lombardi stated that it's difficult to assess because the plan isn't clear yet. He then stated that you can't predict from the shape of the organization or reorganization of any system how any individual component will fare in the distribution of resources; it's the details that matter. "The second thing to do," he said, "is to follow the money."

D. Special Report from the Nominating Committee for Secretary of the Faculty Senate, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-018.

Senator Richard Bogartz spoke on behalf of the Committee stating that the Committee unanimously nominated Ernest May for re-election to the position.

There were no further nominations from the floor, and a motion to close nominations was seconded and adopted.

E. BYLAW CHANGE (Second 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.

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

There were no questions or comments regarding the bylaw change after the second reading.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Research Library Council concerning The Future of the Science and Engineering Libraries, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-019 with Motion No. 15-03.

MOVED: 15-03 That the Faculty Senate endorse Comments and Recommendations 1 to 5 for The Future of the Science and Engineering Libraries, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-019.

Willy Bemis, Research Library Council Chair presented the motion to the Senate, explaining that the Council met in the fall to discuss use patterns of the Morrill Biological Sciences Library and the Lederle Engineering Library. The Council appointed a subcommittee that conducted a survey in December to find out opinions and patterns of the campus community concerning the libraries. The Council used the information gained from the survey's 1100 participants to devise the five recommendations presented in the Special Report.

Senator Joseph Donohue spoke in support of the motion and stated that it is necessary to be aware that the advantages of the consolidation of the libraries far outweigh the financial implications that the consolidation will give rise to.

Senator Eric Einhorn asked if there were study areas in the Orchard Hill residential area that can be upgraded for the students living there that would be displaced by the move of the Morrill Library to the Lederle building.

Margo Crist, Director of Libraries stated that consolidating the two libraries would mean longer hours at one facility and a plan to develop attractive and useful study spaces with computers and new furnishings that will encourage students to study there.

Professor Julie Brigham-Grette stated that the notion of a consolidated library outweighs the convenience of the Morrill Library, and that the issue of study space should definitely be addressed because there is currently a problem with available spaces.

This motion was adopted with one objection.

2. **Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning An Agreement for the Exchange of Students between Oxford Brookes University, Of Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, United Kingdom and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-020 with Motion No. 16-03.**

MOVED: 16-03 That the Faculty Senate approve The Agreement for the Exchange of Students between Oxford Brookes University, Of Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, United Kingdom and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-020.

This motion was adopted.

3. **Special Report of the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee concerning The Student Information Service (SIS) Database Implementation, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-021 with Motion No. 17-03.**

MOVED: 17-03 That the Faculty Senate approve an Academic Liaison Group to be formed under the direction of the Provost, bringing academic, administrative, managerial and end-user expertise to bear on SIS problems. The Group's responsibilities are to identify the most important current and future SIS problems and to bring together the appropriate people to create appropriate solutions. Membership should include academic advisors (end-users) from several schools and colleges and at least one representative from the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee. The Academic Liaison Group should report regularly to the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee and once per semester to the full Faculty Senate.

Senator Marilyn Billings stated that the Committee has been discussing issues that the faculty have been dealing with since the implementation of the Student Information Service and wanted to bring it to the attention of the Faculty Senate.

Joseph Kunkel, University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee Chair, stated that the SIS system is a good idea and that OIT did a good job of getting the information organized and installed for early use by the Bursar's and Registrar's offices. Now that the campus community is using the system, there are a number of needs not being met by the system that the Academic Liaison Group could begin to address.

Provost Charlena Seymour stated that she's heard enough comments from faculty to support the organization of a liaison group. She stated that she would begin working with her staff on nominations and asked that anybody who would like to volunteer notify her office.

Senator Chilton stated that forming a committee is a good idea, but he hopes the faculty won't have to wait until the committee is formed before already known problems can be addressed.

Chancellor Lombardi: "Time is the enemy."

Professor Rutherford Platt repeated his suggestion from the last Senate meeting that printed course registration guides be made available to advisors who need information about courses and programs across campus.

Deputy Provost John Cunningham stated that he promised at the last Rules Committee meeting to make a PDF version of the registration guide available for download before the next counseling period begins.

This motion was adopted.

G. OLD BUSINESS

Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-013B with Motion No. 12-03.

**MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and
12-03 Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-013B.**

Arthur Kinney, Committee on Committees Chair stated that the Committee is coming close to filling all the spaces on Councils and Committees, but that they still need members from a number of departments. He asked that those interested in serving on a Council or Committee or on the Academic Honesty Board submit their names to the Senate Office before the next Committee on Committees meeting April 3, 2003 for terms starting in the fall.

This motion was adopted.

The 615th meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:24 p.m. March 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.