

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

MINUTES: **Acting Presiding Officer Ernest May called the 617th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order April 10, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.**

**A. ADDRESS BY CATHERINE BOUDREAU, PRESIDENT
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
"SYSTEM OR STAND ALONES : WHAT MTA HAS TO SAY ABOUT CURRENT
REORGANIZATION PLANS"**

**For the full text of President Boudreau's address, please visit our website at:
http://www.umass.edu/senate/minutes02_03.html**

Senator Gordon Wyse asked what changes were made to the original reorganization proposal.

President Boudreau answered that the biggest change was that boards of trustees would be able to elect their own chair.

Senator Eric Einhorn stated that many people are willing to fight for higher education, but it's hard to fight for the President's Office when it's not clear how the University has benefited from the ample resources of the President's Office.

President Boudreau stated that the question of the President's Office is a question that needs to be debated and answered amongst the University system. The part she has observed, however, is the idea that a new governor came in from the outside and decided to focus on the elimination of a president and system already in place in the state.

Senator Roland Chilton asked what the MTA's relationship is like with Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran.

President Boudreau stated that meetings with the MTA and Speaker Finneran and Senate President Travaglini go on all the time. She stated that there are differences of opinion among them, but that President Travaglini is very supportive of public higher education.

Professor Rutherford Platt stated that he has wondered why the President's Office needs to be at One Beacon Street on the 26th floor with views in all 4 directions. He stated that the President's Office seems to be antagonistic and is an establishment that he doesn't care to support.

President Boudreau stated that she can only look at the situation with the President's Office as an observer and see Governor Romney as an outsider coming in to make a decision about something he's not involved in.

Senator Christine King stated that the question in her mind is not whether or not she likes the President's Office, it's whether she can actuate what the President's Office has done. She stated that it bothers her that the Romney administration didn't consult with the chancellors or faculty in the system before trying to reorganize the system.

Faculty Senate Secretary Ernest May stated that the funding for the University is headed toward zero, which appears to be a problem with the legislature. He asked if there was a shift in philosophy on funding University contracts.

President Boudreau stated that there might be some representatives or senators that would like to shift the burden back to the campuses, but that's not what the MTA has heard. She stated that Speaker Finneran is a fiscal conservative and speaks of funding the contracts in time. He has not said he will never support the funding of these contracts, he talks about it in time.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning a Five-College Certificate Program in Asian/Pacific/American Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-025 with Motion No. 26-03.**

MOVED: 26-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the creation of the Five-College Certificate in Asian/Pacific/American Studies, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council in Sen. Doc. No. 03-025.

This motion was adopted.

2. **Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and Graduate concerning Changes in the Grading Systems for Undergraduate and Graduate Students, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-026 with Motion No. 27-03.**

MOVED: 27-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes in the Grading Systems for Undergraduate and Graduate Students, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-026.

Senator Einhorn asked why graduate students can get grades below a B- in the new system when most departments won't accept a grade below that for graduate credit.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah stated that the regulation says that the student has to maintain a B average, but it doesn't say that the student can't get a C.

Secretary May stated that one of the big issues is the way our grading system interfaces with other institutions' systems when students transfer into the University.

SGA Secretary of University Policy, Brian Long stated that the Student Government Association reviewed the grading change and supports it.

Senator Brian O'Connor stated that he didn't understand what the last bullet in the document meant.

Senator Atallah stated that for courses numbered 499 and below, there will be one grading sheet that includes the spectrum of all the grades from F to A. For courses 600 and above, the sheet will reflect regulations for graduate courses. For courses numbered 500-599, both systems will appear on the grading sheet.

Senator Chilton asked if it was true that UMass Amherst was the only University still using the mid-point grading system. He then asked if the administration would have any problems implementing the new system.

Senator Atallah stated that the Academic Matters Council worked closely with the administration on the new system.

Elizabeth Pyle, Undergraduate Registrar stated that UMass Amherst is not quite the only University, but that it is *virtually* alone in its use of the mid-point grading system.

Senator Atallah moved to amend the document so that F or IF would equal zero in the new system...

The motion to amend the document was seconded and adopted.

Motion 27-03 was adopted as amended.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Secretary May stated that there is currently good representation on all Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, but that the Senate needs help in recruiting new Senators. After Senate terms expire in August, there will be 49 Senators, down from the current membership of 62.

2. The President of the Graduate Student Senate

GSS President Jennifer Martin spoke in support of Catherine Boudreau's remarks on behalf of the Graduate Student Senate and stated that she had brought a petition to be signed by anyone who wished to sign it. She then stated that the GSS is currently holding elections and that international students are currently experiencing a low level of assistantship, something they're hoping departments will work to improve. President Martin ended her remarks by asking faculty to respect the right of graduate students to walk out of classes.

3. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Senator Jenny Spencer reminded the faculty of the upcoming rally at the State House April 29th. The cost of a ticket is \$5 which includes lunch and a seat on the bus.

D. QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Eric Einhorn asked why the Senate has scheduled an extra meeting May 22nd.

Secretary May stated that there were two proposals awaiting approval by the Senate that wouldn't be ready in time for the May 8th meeting.

Professor Platt asked if the PDF version of the course schedule would be ready in time for the registration period.

Registrar Pyle stated that the Registrar's Office is working on it and that it should be ready by Monday, April 14th.

Senator Wyse stated that the POW MIA flag on campus has been flying for years and asked who decides how long it will stay up.

Vice Chancellor Joyce Hatch stated that she wasn't sure who makes that decision, but that she'll get back to Senator Wyse with an answer.

Senator Chilton stated that an order by the Governor says to fly the POW MIA flag.

Senator Masha Rudman asked how to access the PDF version of the course schedule.

Registrar Pyle stated that the PDF version is available on the Registrar's website.

The 617th meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:04 p.m. April 10, 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.