

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

MINUTES: Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 618th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on April 24, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

Senator Ronald Story made a motion to suspend the rules in order to introduce a motion to the Senate. The motion to suspend the rules was seconded and adopted.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate endorse the "Save UMass Amherst/Save Public Higher Education" Rally at the State House on Tuesday, April 29 at 11 a.m.; implore all faculty, staff, and students to attend this Rally; urge all faculty and supervisors to support and follow a policy of non-retaliation for anyone under their supervision or in their classes who might wish to attend the Rally; and request that the Chancellor and his administrative team publicly support the Rally and declare a moratorium on normal campus activities on that day to allow and encourage the fullest possible participation in the Rally.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

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

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

Faculty Senate Secretary Ernest May asked if the current House budget could possibly be reduced or increased.

Mr. Tocco stated that there's probably no chance that it could increase, and that he's a little worried that it could be reduced.

Secretary May stated that there are three ways to deal with the current budget situation: make cuts, raise taxes or use debt. He asked how Boston looks at these options.

Mr. Tocco stated that using debt is only acceptable for capital investments and that the idea of raising taxes has not been well received by the public, especially with the current economic situation. He then stated that one creative way to go forward would be for the Legislature and Governor to give higher education a capital budget to relieve some of the pressure in the operating budget.

Secretary May asked about the possibility and consequences of horizontal cuts in higher education.

Mr. Tocco stated that he believes across-the-board cuts lead to mediocrity and would be the wrong way to proceed. It's time to take a step back, figure out how our mission needs to change; how to do things differently to deal with current challenges.

Senator Richard Bogartz stated that horizontal cuts on this campus will be a reality. Departments and faculty will be lost and the reputation of the University will be adversely affected.

Mr. Tocco stated that the Governor has been UMass/Amherst's best ally in wanting to level-fund the campus. He then stated that he hopes to hold to the principle that UMass Amherst is the flagship of the UMass system, which would make horizontal cuts illogical.

Senator Story stated that the Governor made some interesting proposals about institutional flexibility and autonomy but ruined his proposal when he proposed that as a single line item. He asked why the proposals were handled in that way.

Mr. Tocco stated that there were some important foundation principles that the Governor wanted to accomplish, but the document may not have reflected that as well as it should have. He then stated that the real issue is how to invest in the system and make it accessible and affordable.

Senator Roland Chilton stated that a large segment of the population doesn't make the connection between taxes and services, a problem reinforced by people like the Governor who promise to make improvements without raising taxes.

Mr. Tocco stated that he doesn't think people believe they can get services without paying taxes, and he doesn't think a tax increase will solve problems in higher education. He stated that there's a lot of room in the budget and within the higher ed. system without touching faculty or classrooms if it's approached the right way.

Professor Emeritus Joseph Larson: Thank you for having the courage to come. The underlying problem that you have touched on is that this state has been unwilling to invest in public higher education, no matter whose polls you look at. I look at the Chronicle of Higher Education. Massachusetts is always in the top 5 in terms of per capita income and down around 48 or 49 in terms of support for public higher education. That continues year after year. A lot of the things you spoke of today we've heard of again and again and again, and yet there hasn't been an investment. A considerable amount of authority under certain plans would come on your board, and yet your predecessor was a person who spent his time in this state and across the country dumping on public higher education and attacking us over and over again. So there's not very much confidence that the Board of Higher Education in the Commonwealth will ever be a leader and spokesman for public higher education. This is a basic institutional problem. We haven't had a leader in this area perhaps since the system was built, and never from the political side or executive side.

Mr. Tocco agreed with Professor Larson and stated that none of the several governors that he has worked with were investors in public higher education. He stated that it's a fundamental problem, but thinks that there's a new recognition around Beacon Hill that public higher education is a priority.

Brian Long, representative of the Student Government Association stated that he doesn't feel that the Amherst campus is being respected as a flagship campus. He asked what the Board of Higher Education would suggest doing to gain that respect.

Mr. Tocco suggested taking the idea of the flagship to another level. He thought it would be important to find out what President Bulger, Chair Grace Fey, Chancellor Lombardi and the legislators think a flagship campus should be, and what their plan is to bring UMass Amherst to that status.

B. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning Recommended Changes to the Undergraduate Major in Mathematics, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-027 with Motion No. 28-03.**

MOVED: 28-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the revised requirements of the Mathematics major, as described in Sen. Doc. No. 03-027.

This motion was adopted.

- 2. Special Report of the Academic Priorities Council, the Graduate Council, and the Program and Budget Council concerning A Ph.D. Concentration in the Psychology of Peace and the Prevention of Violence, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-028 with Motion No. 29-03.**

Professor Ervin Staub explained that this program is meant to train students as researchers to understand the roots of violence and understand avenues to the prevention of violence. It will train them as scholars who can both explore and teach these topics in the classroom and in real-world settings.

Mr. Gerald Schafer stated that the proposal and funding for this program doesn't include any resources for the library. The faculty involved in the program plan to depend on their own personal collections and interlibrary loan as their main resources. He then stated that building Ph.D. programs on personal collections and interlibrary loan doesn't speak very highly for a flagship campus.

Professor Staub stated that a significant portion of the funding requested for the program will support the appointment of a faculty member who has specific expertise in the general area. There will also be start-up funds to support students and basic structures; funds that are already highly committed and over-committed in a variety of ways. The program will apply for funding once it begins to function.

MOVED: 29-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the Ph. D. Concentration in the Psychology of Peace and the Prevention of Violence, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 03-028.

This motion was adopted.

C. NEW COURSES

MOVED: 30-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the courses MILSCI 101, 102, 201 and 202, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

This motion was adopted.

MOVED: 31-03 That the Faculty Senate approve the course NUTR 630, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

This motion was adopted.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Deputy Chancellor John Dubach read a prepared statement from Chancellor John Lombardi:

Yesterday we received a copy of the House budget proposal for the 2003-2004 academic year. This proposal envisions a reduction of the University of Massachusetts budget of about \$80 million which translates into a campus budget reduction of approximately \$40 million. This is an unacceptable reduction for our university and our campus and all of us will need to speak forcefully to our legislators to persuade them that this proposal must be improved. Many of our colleagues will travel to Boston to speak directly to legislators, others will write, call, or email their legislators. It will be particularly effective for individuals to reach the legislators that represent them and speak to them personally and directly to express our shock and disbelief at this proposed reduction. As the members of this Faculty Senate know all too well, over the past two years the University has already suffered significant budget reductions that we met with increased economies in services. We did this while maintaining this campus's exceptional record of quality in undergraduate, graduate and professional education, our superlative record of research accomplishment, and our extensive programs of outreach. We have every expectation that our direct and personal conversations with our legislators will persuade them that they must reconsider and amend this proposal, identify additional sources of revenue, and preserve the quality that is the hallmark of this institution.

At the same time, we recognize that the Commonwealth has a significant fiscal problem and that all of us will need to find ways to increase our effectiveness and readjust our programs to meet the reasonable fiscal requirements of the state. We also know that this campus must sustain the

quality of its programs, students, faculty, facilities, and staff. Whatever the final result of the state's complex budget process, we must be ready to take the actions that will preserve our effectiveness and sustain our commitment to the exceptional quality of our university.

To that end, we will take the following immediate steps on this campus to preserve our ability to adjust to next year's budget once we have more definitive and reasonable projections:

- 1) Institute a hiring freeze for positions on state, RTF and GOF funds. Very critical positions can be filled only with the approval of the appropriate Vice Chancellor and the Chancellor.
- 2) Freeze the use of a portion of GOF and RTF funds in each vice chancellor's area until the end of the fiscal year.
- 3) Institute a spending freeze for all non-payroll expenditures on RTF Return (RTF%) funds until the end of the fiscal year.

The possibility of reductions of the magnitude under discussion in the legislature requires that the campus consider restructuring alternatives. This is a complex, critical, and difficult process. Over the next few weeks, I will engage a conversation with the Faculty Senate to solicit advice on the alternatives and to create a continuing conversation that will help guide us as the actual circumstances of next year's budget become clear. I will also engage a similar conversation with appropriate representatives of the undergraduate and graduate students and other university constituencies. We will maintain our quality, we will continue to expand our nationally competitive research profile, and we will sustain the essential elements of our capital program, but to do these things within the constraints of a difficult fiscal situation will require the advice and expertise of our many campus constituencies.

We do not control the timing of these decisions as they depend on the resolution of the state's fiscal plan, an activity that requires the engagement of the legislature and governor. Once their process has reached a stage where we know what level of action we must take we can then, in consultation with our constituencies, take the appropriate actions that will almost surely require major changes in the structure of our institution to ensure our continued quality.

We have the talent and the capacity to succeed in this effort, but we will need everyone's engagement both in our own conversations on campus and in our advocacy efforts with the legislature and governor.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May reported on two Board of Trustees committee meetings he had recently attended. He presented the Senate with slides illustrating a summary of UMass FY2002 Financial Ratios System Analysis and FY 2003-2008 Financial Indicators Projections Report from the Committee on Administration, Finance and Audit meeting.

3. The President of the Student Government Association

Representative Brian Long stated that there is now a spot on the SGA agenda for a Faculty Senate representative, and that now, with impending budget cuts, is an extremely important time for the Senate and the SGA to work together.

4. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

MSP President Ronald Story stated that the MSP contract allows for conversations with the administration regarding financial details about restructuring plans in the event that retrenchment goes into effect. The MSP has put together a retrenchment committee to be sure that the administration is as clear as they're able to be and to make sure that they haven't overlooked ways to save money.

E.**QUESTION PERIOD**

Senator Bogartz: I've been very impressed by the fact that all these people that come to us from Boston, in whatever role they're playing, they all know the results of the ballot issue. They all know that 45% is the number of the losing side. Maybe we need a ballot question. Maybe we need to put it out there in the public. Even if we lose, everybody's going to know that this is a pressing issue.

Senator William Connor stated that there has been a lot of talk about getting rid of programs, but not about getting rid of Vice Chancellors and other things that cost a considerable amount of money. He asked if anybody had addressed the question of whether or not there are too many administrators in the UMass system.

Vice Chancellor Joyce Hatch stated that the Chancellor's prepared remarks talked about looking around the edges and fringes of programs or entities that aren't directly instructional and research related. The remarks addressed looking at administrative areas and administrative efficiencies.

The 618th meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:07 p.m. April 24, 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.