

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 625<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on Thursday, December 4, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

A. ADDRESS BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS EVANGELIDIS (R-1<sup>st</sup> WORCESTER)

(see attached)

QUESTIONS

Senator Richard Bogartz thanked Representative Evangelidis for his address and expressed appreciation for his loyalty to UMASS.

Senator Roland Chilton thanked Representative Evangelidis for voting to fund the contracts after 3 years and asked him if, when the budget issue comes before the Legislature again, he would oppose any suggestion that the increase in salaries was simply a one-year bonus.

Representative Lewis Evangelidis said he could be counted on for that. While he couldn't make any promises for the legislature itself, he believes that the University is making a positive impact. For instance, UMASS hosted an impressive freshman legislature inauguration / training seminar which was well-attended and well-received. However, one of the main problems is that most of the legislature has never attended UMASS. Thus, they are not very sympathetic to public education when it conflicts with loyalty to their alma matter; as UMASS improves, it provides competition against their alma matter. There is nothing to be done about such a political reality, but one thing that might help is to bring legislators out to see the campus and feel the integrity of the institution.

Senator Eric Einhorn raised the issue that Massachusetts seems to have particular difficulty holding onto middle class working families and attracting people with education. For instance, if a middle class family has to choose between moving to Massachusetts or North Carolina, when one of the major factors is education cost, the family is probably going to choose the more affordable state -- not Massachusetts. He wondered if this is a concern of the members of the Legislature.

Representative Evangelidis agreed that this is a major concern of the legislature and the governor. Liberal members of the legislature are usually the strongest proponents of moderate income housing, but Republican Governor Mitt Romney is as strong a proponent as them. He is trying to bring people into the state to invest in the commonwealth, but the high cost of housing and the idea of quality, affordable education are potential obstacles which must be addressed.

Senator W. C. Conner commented that it seems that many people, including Representative Evangelidis, are under the presumption that faculty and Faculty Senate members are all Democrats, but it is not necessarily true.

Representative Evangelidis asked him if he considers this to be a mainstream opinion or more of an individual one?

Senator Conner answered that a fair number of people -- at least in the Engineering School -- are active in the Republican party in one way or another. However, the union has never represented their points of view very well because, he claims, there is a conflict of interest over supporting faculty members who contribute funding to a political candidate who is running opposite their party's candidate.

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May remarked that bipartisan support is essential for the success of any great state university and noted that great progress seems to have been made in getting some energy behind that idea today. He also displayed a graph depicting the percentage of the state budget that goes toward higher education, showing how it has been sharply declining.

Representative Evangelidis expressed his familiarity with the graph and agreed that when budget cuts need to be made, higher education is usually the first to be hit. Higher education was cut by about 20 percent last year, while most of the rest of the state remained stable. The compounding of those budget cuts, one on top of another, is the problem that UMASS is facing right now. A lot of the legislators went to BC, BU, Northeastern, and other private institutions around Boston. So, unfortunately, the issue comes down to a matter of politics or loyalty for most members of the legislature.

Senator Robert Levin inquired about the level of present state funding given directly to students for university fellowships which are then used at private Boston schools, as this seems to undercut funding to UMASS.

Representative Evangelidis replied that he did not have a figure to offer in response to this question.

Senator Levin responded with the comment that the erosion of funds to UMASS seems to have directly translated into a deterioration of quality education at this campus -- to the point where the campus has entered third-rate national status. He also noted that this is a fact which few administrative or legislative leaders seem willing to openly acknowledge and address.

Representative Evangelidis expressed his concern over Dr. Levin's point and said that he is paying attention to these issues and listening when people bring them to his attention.

Senator Maria Tymoczko remarked that, since the last meeting of the Faculty Senate, there was a newspaper article published about the state prison system. The article reported that Massachusetts prisons are now funded at a higher rate than public higher education. She asked Representative Evangelidis if he thought that UMASS could persuade his colleagues to increase funding if the University's Chancellor agreed to put iron bars on all the windows and advertise UMASS as the best facility in the state for keeping teenage boys off the street.

Representative Evangelidis concurred that it is a point worth thinking about.

## B. ANNUAL REPORT

2002-2003 Annual Report of the Athletic Council, University of Massachusetts Amherst,  
as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-008.

This report was received.

Carol Barr and Nelson Lacey, Co-Chairs of the Athletic Council offered a brief summary of the Annual Report of the Athletic Council, which meets on a monthly basis, with additional meetings scheduled for critical issues. Last year, eight meetings were held. At each meeting, there was a "Meet the Coach" segment in which athletic varsity coaches were invited to speak about their program(s). Athletic administrators and special guests such as Chancellor Lombardi and Ron Chimelis, a reporter for the Union News, were also invited to speak at meetings throughout the year.

The performance by student athletes both in the classroom and on the playing fields was once again outstanding. Student athletes are graduating from UMASS at a higher rate than the general student body -- 64 percent. They are also graduating at a higher rate than the national average, which is 61 percent. There is much athletic success likewise being achieved. The Women's Ski Team won the national championship in their sport; Men's Ice Hockey was nationally ranked for the first time in the program's history and advanced to the Hockey East Semifinals; and the Women's Softball Team qualified for their ninth straight trip to the national championships.

The Council is organized by five working subcommittees: Academics, Finance, Facilities, Compliance, and Equity. A sixth subcommittee was on hiatus last year because the Athletic Department itself was going through strategic planning. The 2002-03 year welcomed the arrival of a new Athletic Director, Ian McCaw. In addition, the following new staff were added to the Athletic Department: Betsy Moser, Compliance; Bill Chaves, Tickets and Operations; and Thorr Bjorn, Sales and Marketing. The Athletic Department has been participating in a very aggressive, active Revenue Enhancement Plan in an effort to find new and increased revenue sources, which was one of the reasons why Thorr Bjorn was hired by the Athletic Department. This year he is also serving as the department's Interim Athletic Director.

Rudd Field, a newsoccer stadium, was dedicated in the Fall 2002. This is the first privately-financed athletic facility at the University. The Boyden Varsity Weight Room was transformed into a general student fitness area. The former gymnastics area in Boyden was converted into a new varsity weight room. The University initiated its second cycle of the NCAA certification process. Every 10 years, an athletic department needs to go through NCAA certification in which attention is given to rule compliance, finance, academic integrity, etc. Numerous members of the Athletic Council are actively participating in that process now.

The Council continues to monitor conditions and needs of campus athletic facilities. The new Rudd Field, the softball complex, Mullins Center, and Garber Field are all in commendable condition. However, the swimming pools and track, which is now gone, and the need for a Recreation / Wellness Center are of present concern to the Council. The opening of a Recreation / Wellness Center is not strictly an athletic project, but rather a campus undertaking. Such a facility is necessary for the general student body, recruitment of students, faculty usage, recruitment of faculty, and general recreational needs of the University. Funding for this Wellness / Recreation Center was initially appropriated in the Spring of 2002, when student fees were increased. The project was underway until the Spring of 2003, but additional budget cuts forced it to be put on hold and caused funds to be revoked. The Athletic Council is now very concerned about this "temporary postponement" and hopes it won't evolve into a permanent status.

Priority registration for the scheduling of classes by student athletes is another primary concern. The shifting of class meetings, practice schedules, and the lack of appropriate practice facilities which limits the amount of time teams can use them, are putting a lot of pressure on student athletes who are trying to get into classes required for their major. In addition, the NCAA just passed new academic legislation which requires student athletes to be enrolled in a certain percentage of course degree requirements each year in order to maintain eligibility. A subcommittee met with Provost Seymour and Deputy Provost Cunningham last year to talk about this issue, and the Council is going to continue monitoring its effect on student athletes to see if there is a problem and, if so, address it.

As a result of budget cuts a couple years ago, the Athletic Department discontinued 7 varsity sport programs. Coinciding with the discontinuation of those programs, student fees increased. Fee increases translated into increased athletic scholarship costs, which the University made a commitment to honor for students of discontinued sport programs. So the cost savings weren't as much as originally anticipated, and the Athletic Council is still involved in discussion surrounding Athletic Department budget cuts which continue to come down.

In the year ahead there will be continued discussions on facilities, priority registration, and budget cuts. In addition, Nelson Lacey and Carol Barr will be serving in the search for the new Athletic Director.

## QUESTIONS

Senator Roland Chilton asked if the Council is preparing for any movement toward big-time football or, if not, toward the Patriot League instead.

Co-Chair of the Athletic Council Carol Barr replied that the Athletic Council is an advisory body only. So, as far as the study of the football program taking place right now, the Council can only report what they have been told, and there has been no word.

Chancellor John Lombardi interjected that the Trustees are in charge of this conversation. They have an ad hoc committee that is considering the question of whether or not UMASS Amherst should move to a Division 1A football program. Discussion should be completed some time in the next week, with a meeting scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. If they arrive at a conclusion, it will be made known -- most likely from the news media as an initial rumor.

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Special Report of the Graduate Council, Program and Budget Council, and Research Council concerning The Graduate Program Name Change of Forestry and Wood Technology to Forest Resources, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-009 with Motion No. 06-04.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve The Graduate Program Name Change of Forestry  
**06-04** and Wood Technology to Forest Resources, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-009.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

2. **Special Report of the Graduate Council and Program and Budget Council concerning The Structure of the School of Education Ed.D. and M.Ed. Concentrations, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-010 with Motion No. 07-04.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the changes in the Structure of the School of  
**07-04** Education Ed.D. and M.Ed. Concentrations, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-010.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

3. **Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and Program and Budget Council concerning A Minor in Science, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-011 with Motion No. 08-04.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of a Science Minor associated with the Science  
**08-04** Major in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-011.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

4. **Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning The Exchange Agreement between the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Valencia, Spain and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-012 with Motion No. 09-04.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Exchange Agreement between the Universidad Politécnica de  
**09-04** Valencia, Valencia, Spain and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-012.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**D. NEW COURSES**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CHINESE 140 and 141, CLASSICS 202, COMP-LIT 256,  
**10-04** EDUC 356, JUDAIC 353, MATH 441, NRC 382 and UWW 222, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the course EXERSCI 555, as recommended by the Academic  
**11-04** Matters and Graduate Councils.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the courses COMM-DIS 646 and EDUC 663,  
**12-04** as recommended by the Graduate Council.

**This motion was seconded and adopted.**

## E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. Principal Administrative Officers

Chancellor John Lombardi extended thanks to Representative Evangelidis. He noted that it has been a successful campaign to get the legislature to start funding contracts, but the conversation is not over. The key to recent success was a focus and consistency of message, as well as extraordinarily strong leadership from local delegations. It is imperative now that people take the time to thank their legislators. Showing appreciation for their positive efforts is just as important as hounding them for the negative. There was a \$10 million supplemental item approved by the legislature but vetoed by the Governor. That item is in the budget due to widespread support and, in particular, the leadership of Senator Stan Rosenberg. We are extraordinarily grateful and should contact Senator Rosenberg in order to show our support and encourage him further, so that when the issues comes up again on January 7<sup>th</sup>, the legislature will feel motivated to override that veto and put the \$10 million into the UMASS budget.

### 2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May reinforced the Chancellor's message by adding that the struggle is not over and that people should continue offering support and concern over upcoming issues that are just as critical.

### 3. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees W. Brian O'Connor reported that the full board met in late November at the Medical School, and virtually everything that went on at that meeting was very well reported in the local press. Attendance at the board meetings has improved significantly over the past year. The Governance Committee passed a "Code of Conduct," which had not previously existed, and a "Conflict of Interest" policy. This moved quickly through the committees, driven by the situation at Boston University. As a member of the Presidential Search Committee, Delegate O'Connor said he would be going to Boston to read applicants' folders tomorrow. There have been many presidential nominations. On Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Trustees has a long meeting scheduled for 8 a.m. to discuss the candidates. The goal is to have at least some interviews scheduled for the month of January. Copies of the leadership statement with criteria for the next President of the University of Massachusetts are available upon request.

### 4. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors Jenny Spencer announced that on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> there will be an all-faculty meeting with lunch to celebrate the past year and plan for the Spring. There are questions about retroactive pay -- whether or not it will come through and who it will come through for -- and questions about the University budget situation which will be addressed. There is also a need to plan for organizing retirees and think about the issues for the next round of bargaining.

### 5. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Chair of the Rules Committee Richard Bogartz noted that there are 16 Senators initialed on the attendance sheet today, but the campus is apportioned into 19 districts. The number of Faculty Senate positions that are allowed versus the number of positions that are filled for those various districts is very inconsistent. He offered some figures and went on to say that some portions of the campus have 100 percent representation, while others have only 0 to 16 percent. Because so many of the underrepresented departments are from the Research end of the campus, the Rules Committee has decided to approach the Research Council with a request to consider this problem. It might be due to a general perception that Faculty Senate meetings are rather "boring." For instance, course approvals are often voted on without a single word of description or debate. So, perhaps there could be a different method of dealing with such courses for which there are no issues. The Rules Committee has decided to take up this matter, along with the task of generating discussion about issues that really matter to the faculty and, thus, should matter to the Faculty Senate. The Rules Committee is thinking about a structure in which the Faculty Senate becomes a committee of the whole and takes up such matters as SPIRE or the apparent split between the North and South ends of campus. Anyone with additional comments or suggestions is encouraged to contact a member of the Rules Committee.

## 6. The President of the Graduate Student Senate

A Graduate Student Senate Representative announced that the Graduate Student Senate would like to meet with Chancellor Lombardi in February. They have given the Chancellor notice of this but are still working on an exact date. Once scheduled, the meeting will be open to all students on campus, particularly grad students. The Graduate Lounge still needs to be opened -- either as a business outlet or as a common student space -- and another issue of concern to be addressed with Chancellor Lombardi is the unfair admission increases on international students.

### QUESTIONS

Senator Rutherford Platt suggested that maybe Faculty Senate Meetings could start at 4pm instead of 3:30, as this would surely be more convenient for faculty members with afternoon classes and might also help to increase representation.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah commented that many members attending the Faculty Senate meetings are also members of committees or councils that have worked to approve the programs and courses being brought before the Senate for a vote. These representatives then know what work has been done to bring the issues before the Senate, and they vote accordingly, so it is unfair for others to judge that things go so smoothly here, as Senator Bogartz suggested, when a more comprehensive picture is not taken into consideration.

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May extended congratulations to the School of Education, the Graduate Council, and the Program and Budget Council for passing the revised concentrations today. A lot of effort was put into resolving this issue which came up more than four years ago.

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The 625<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:56 p.m. on December 4, 2003. The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate