

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 627<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on Thursday, February 12, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall 227.

A. ADDRESS BY CHANCELLOR JOHN V. LOMBARDI  
(see attached)

QUESTIONS

Senator Robert Wilson commented that Chancellor Lombardi does a great job of communicating with faculty and others around the State, but there seems to be a general feeling that faculty has no idea of the things Lombardi is trying to communicate about because of no Chronicle or newsletter equivalent. Perhaps an email or other equivalent could be devised.

Chancellor Lombardi replied that there are multiple forums for faculty who are concerned about current issues. Faculty members are welcome at all Senate meetings. Also, posted online is everything that has ever been discussed in any forum. So there is no reason for a faculty member – or anybody else – to be confused or uninformed. One particular online resource is [www.umass.edu/budget](http://www.umass.edu/budget), where web denizens will find the executive summary, budget information, faculty statistics, and many other things. However, if there is anything they can't find, Chancellor Lombardi is also available and prepared to respond to questions via email.

Collegian Staff Member Julie O'Donnell noted Chancellor Lombardi's remarks about updating classrooms on campus, wondering if it will continue like the "classroom blitz" done over winter break.

Chancellor Lombardi responded that the "classroom blitz" was indeed a great success and will be a continued tactic in this vein. Additionally, as the campus adds students, new classrooms will have to be built. The principle defect of the current classroom status is that there are not enough medium-sized auditoria. So the University is in the process of considering where and how to add them as new construction when the time comes. Some classrooms will be added when the Integrated Sciences Building goes up. This building will also include a large number of teaching laboratories which will be "up to snuff" with modern equipment and good space. When the Fine Arts Building is built, that will add a large amount of new space for Fine Arts which will replace the studio that burned down and allow faculty and students relief from the "old, decrepit" Fine Arts Building. It will also deal with some of the substandard space issues in Clark Hall and others. Renovations in Skinner Hall will likewise create significant new space for the Nursing Program. Such renovations won't immediately solve all of the campus' problems, but it is an effort implementing the best use of time and means in order to tackle a problem of major concern right now, lending to long-term campus-wide renovations over the course of many years to come, rather than waiting for it to escalate to a point where a solution is too expensive or simply impossible.

Professor Emeritus Lewis Mainzer asked if the rescue of the Library is part of this plan.

Chancellor Lombardi responded that it is a concern, adding that the Library is a constant challenge because of budget cuts over the past three years. Although funding has not been restored to what it was before budget cuts, it is being put back together in a slow but steady fashion. Adding students in order to gain revenue, as well as soliciting support from concerned alumni, are means of raising necessary funds. It is a high priority.

Secretary Ernest May suggested that there seems to be a general skepticism about being able to generate the kind of enthusiasm in the legislature and other supporters of the University that is necessary to get the University where it needs to go. He asked that Chancellor Lombardi offer a sort of assessment of the current situation as he sees it this year, in terms of generating that sort of enthusiasm.

Chancellor Lombardi replied that the issue of legislative support is something requiring care and thought. The first thing to recognize is that no state in the country has maintained its commitment to public higher education. Each state has been in a declining mode in terms of the percentage of its budget it is willing to spend on higher education. The reflection of this has been the continuously rising tuition and fee bills that every public university is facing. On one hand, the public seems to be more interested in maintaining other programs while, on the other hand, it wants to reduce or limit the tax increases they have to pay. This has produced a privatization of higher education and has transferred public higher education from being a peoples' commitment to being a private good in which the obligation is on the students to provide the revenue that will make it possible for them to get an education, with a slight discount generated by the state appropriation. Public higher

education is cheaper than private higher education because the State has provided a subsidy to the cost, but the State has also said that it expects individuals and students to invest more in their own education because they see the reward coming more as an individual reward to the student rather than as a state or community or social benefit that should be paid by all. This systemic transformation has affected Massachusetts as much as anybody else – it is not an occasional blip. The State will do the best it can, while University advocates have to lobby endlessly to make the best case possible for public higher education. We can never expect that the State of Massachusetts will restore our budget to be full funding from public sources. There is a great need to create alternative sources of revenue, as other universities all over the country have done, in order to help round out the full amount needed to keep the University first rate.

Secretary May followed up in agreement with Chancellor Lombardi about cuts in nationwide state funding but also noting that the budget cut handed to UMASS was worse than all others. Inevitably, this change has implications for the future of a research university of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Chancellor Lombardi replied that most universities are enormously resistant to change, panic, difficulty, and destruction, saying that he is not worried about *this* University in particular. There is concern, however, about UMASS being as effective, ambitious, and competitive as it can be and finding the revenue necessary to accomplish that. The ensuing budget change mandates that the culture has to change, recognizing that the University is no longer a ward of the State but a State-supported institution whose future depends on its efforts to persuade donors that the institution is worth quality-building investments. There must be an effort to persuade students of high quality that they need to attend this University, and there must also be an effort to persuade agencies to invest in campus research and activities. The published data which constantly shows Massachusetts at the bottom of a funding tier fails to mention that in many of the states where there is an increase in state appropriation, there is also a huge increase in the number of students attending those institutions. So there is actually a net decrease per student in those states which have a positive increase in their budget because they're teaching many more students than they were the year before, while UMASS has experienced almost no change in the student population in Massachusetts.

Interim Director of Libraries Gerald Schafer added that there are two positive demonstrations of support being given to the Library this Spring. First is the opening of the Integrated Science and Engineering Library, which is a renovated, world-class facility that puts together the collections of the Morrill Biological Science Library and the Lederle Physical Sciences Library. Secondly, the Library has received money to extend weekend hours so that the Library is now open Friday and Saturday nights until 10 p.m., and it opens at 9 a.m. Sunday morning.

**B. ANNUAL REPORT**

Annual Report of the University Press Committee for Academic Year 2002-2003, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-021.

This report was received.

Secretary May asked that Chair of the University Press Committee Gerald MacFarland or Director Bruce Wilcox comment on the progress toward meeting the goals that were given almost a year ago in the midst of the budget crisis.

Director Bruce Wilcox reported that the Press Committee had their best month ever in December – both in terms of sales dollars and in terms of number of books published. A fortunate switch was made to Johns Hopkins for handling order fulfillment and warehousing. In the short-term, there is a strong plan in place and very good books in the works. In the long-term, there is a continued need to think about other sources of funding.

**C. NEW COURSES**

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
EDUC 601	“College Student Development Theory”	3
EDUC 604	“Technology and Educational Change”	3
EDUC 704	“Issues of Gender in Science and Science Education”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses EDUC 601, 604 and 704, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

Senator Richard Bogartz asked what the meaning was behind the title of EDUC 601 – “College Student Development Theory.”

Graduate Council Chair Anthony Butterfield said he could not expand on it aside from what it reads.

Senator Marta Calas commented that the course is part of a new concentration model in the School of Education. One of the concentrations is Education Administration. The courses are not truly new courses. They were in the curriculum being taught at the seminar level within a model for an individual concentration. Now, becoming part of a concentration model in which there is a core curriculum, they need to be (re)approved as regular courses. There will probably be several more courses of this nature coming to the Senate in the future.

Dean of the School of Education Andrew Effrat added that the intent of the course is to relate to the theory of the intellectual and emotional personal development of college students.

#### D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Priorities Council, Graduate Council and Program and Budget Council concerning Adding a Nutrition Concentration to the Ph.D. Program in Public Health, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-022 with Motion No. 22-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve Adding a Nutrition Concentration to the Ph.D. Program in Public  
22-04 Health, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-022.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning A Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement between The Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia and The University of Massachusetts Amherst, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-023 with Motion No. 23-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement between The Universiti  
23-04 Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia and The University of Massachusetts Amherst, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-023.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning An Agreement for a Student Exchange between The University College London and The University of Massachusetts Amherst, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-024 with Motion No. 24-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Agreement for a Student Exchange between The University  
24-04 College London and The University of Massachusetts Amherst, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-024.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

#### E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Deputy Provost John Cunningham offered a “thank-you” to the faculty and all departmental staff, registrar staff, schedule reps, and students who know how to pull down drop-down menus on SPIRE. Using the online service, 17,000 undergraduates have signed on to 105,000 seats on the campus. Approximately 1/3 of these students have 12-14 credits, another 1/3 have exactly 15 credits, and the top 1/3 have more than 15 credits enrolled. Of the 100-level seats that were available, 90 percent of them were taken by students.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May announced that, over the month of January, two of the highest-level positions in the University were filled – that of Athletic Director and Football Coach. Many faculty searches are now in progress, as well as searches for President and Provost. The Art Department has submitted a proposal to initiate an interdisciplinary Master of Architecture degree, which is now being deliberated in the Graduate Council and Program & Budget Council. A proposal was also received from the Provost to bring about four departmental consolidations; this is

currently being deliberated in the Academic Matters Council, Graduate Council, Program & Budget Council, and Academic Priorities Council. The first merger of the aforementioned proposal is for the College of Humanities & Fine Arts to consolidate the language departments of Asian Studies, Comparative Literature, French & Italian, German, and Spanish & Portuguese into a single Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. In the College of Natural Resources & the Environment, the proposed merger is to consolidate Plant & Soil Sciences with Entomology to form a new Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences. Humanities & Fine Arts and Social & Behavioral Sciences propose to consolidate the departments of Journalism and Communication. In the School of Public Health, there is a proposal to consolidate the departments of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, Community Health Studies, and Environmental Health Sciences into the single Department of Public Health. Comments from faculty and the community at large are welcome. They can be directed to the chairs of the various councils or to the Senate office, which will forward them to appropriate councils. The four councils have been requested to complete their reports by April 5<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, the Research Council and the Program & Budget Council have been studying the “Research Cost Recovery System” on the campus with an eye to make recommendations to the Chancellor regarding the optimization of that system.

3. Chair of the Rules Committee

*Rules Committee Chair Richard Bogartz* noted that the Rules Committee is looking further into the issue of the \$65 semester fee that is being charged to international students. The committee has interviewed four such students who presented a case, as well as Frank Hugus, the Associate Provost for International Programs. A question has recently been farmed out to a few councils, and information is expected back from them within 40 days of the request. Speaking in regards to the Chancellor’s address earlier, Senator Bogartz noted that the way certain people in the country have framed the issue of taxes is to see taxes as a burden which requires tax relief. Instead, perhaps a re-casting of the frame – in terms of people paying their dues rather than being burdened with taxes – is what is needed.

4. Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees

*Faculty Delegate Brian O’Connor* announced that he had attended the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs in Boston on January 21<sup>st</sup>, as well as the full Board of Trustees Meeting. The trustee attendance is hovering at about 75 percent. Two of the three new trustees were there. It was the longest meeting in history. Acting President Jack Wilson reported positively on his favorite project – UMASS Online – which has showed a 30 percent increase in enrollment over the past year. President Wilson also mentioned the importance of strategic plans from each of the campuses in terms of coming up with a comprehensive plan to show to whoever the new president will be, and he reported on the emerging technology bill and new leadership at the UMASS Building Authority. In executive session, an alternative plan was discussed in terms of UMASS Dartmouth dorm development, which might have some implications for UMASS Amherst’s future plans to build dorms. The full board voted to concur in the appointment of Seshu B. Desu, Head of Electrical & Computer Engineering, as a distinguished professor at the Amherst campus. There was no tuition fee increase this year, but in terms of room and board, there was a total of an overall 3.9 percent increase. The Board is on record as trying to have the fee increases reflect the cost of living. In eight to twelve weeks, there will hopefully be a decision on the new President of the University. There were three interview meetings in January, and attendance at these interviews was commendably high.

QUESTIONS

Senator Calas reflected on Senator Bogartz’s comment regarding the public’s “frame of mind” on taxes, noting that the faculty – through their own means, as public intellectuals – need to reinforce the message that the administration is making.

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The 627<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:37 p.m. on February 12, 2004. The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate