

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Jerome Mileur called the 631st regular meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on May 6, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE PETER V. KOCOT (D-FIRST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT)
(see attached)

QUESTIONS

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May asked Representative Kocot what he thought were some of UMASS's advantages in regard to competing for funding.

Representative Kocot explained that UMASS has ambassadors or constituents in virtually every district of the House of Representatives and every district of every Senator. Therefore, potentially, the University has someone who could talk to every member of the Legislature. The challenge is to motivate those people to talk with the legislators at the correct time and in the correct way. Over the last four years, the techniques UMASS has used have been very productive in contrast to the techniques used several years ago. The University's Chancellor proves to be another strong asset; he speaks to legislators in a way that they can comprehend and respect. The University's new president also shows great promise in that respect. Additionally, some of the political issues that were in place in the past, in terms of the administration, are gone at this point. It's also an advantage to have a high-quality, affordable institution that parents and Commonwealth citizens can count on. On the downside, every legislator has a list of priorities relative to his/her home district, so any way that UMASS can make itself important to every corner of Massachusetts is the University's primary asset.

Senator Brian O'Connor expressed concern over recent news that revenues from the state have gone up, resulting in the Governor's reaction to cut taxes, while UMASS continues to suffer more than any other state institution of higher education in the country. Fees have increased hundreds of millions of dollars at UMASS, yet the reaction of the Governor, the House, and the Senate is to cut taxes in this case.

Representative Kocot explained that the job of a legislator, when it comes to important issues like this, is to look at what is being proposed and evaluate it. The reality is that, according to state law, if revenues increase this radically and quickly, state law provides for a break on the tax rate. It is not even a decision from the Governor alone. The other issue is a recent court ruling. Judge Botsford has issued a series of findings that she has presented to the Supreme Court, dealing with how public schools are financed in Massachusetts. The clear outcome of those findings is going to be a ruling by the Court mandating that the Legislature substantially increase its contributions to public education. In the past, the courts have also touched upon the fact that property tax is an inappropriate way to fund education. So, most likely, not only is the Legislature going to be faced with an increased bill of \$2 billion, but it may also have to tinker with local property tax collection methods and replace some of those local monies as well. Another issue is the fact that the month of April is one of the highest collection months of the year, so if recent figures are skewing a little higher than the benchmark estimate, some of that is a result of such timing. In August, reasonable heads will probably prevail as figures approach the normal mean level once more, thus proving tax cuts to be an unlikely outcome.

Senator Maria Tymoczko asked Representative Kocot what message he takes to potential funding sources when he speaks to them about the economic impact of UMASS Amherst on western Massachusetts.

Representative Kocot replied that one of the assets always addressed is the number of jobs UMASS provides. Two other main issues include: a well-trained workforce upon graduation from UMASS and the need to meet that workforce with high-paying jobs in order to keep them in the area upon graduation. In short, the primary concerns are: people who work at UMASS, people who graduate from UMASS, and people who seek additional education at the local level.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May thanked members of the Senate for their hard work this year and proposed the following motion:

SPECIAL MOTION OF THANKS: Moved that the Faculty Senate expresses sincere appreciation to Presiding Officer Jerry Mileur for his dedicated service to the Faculty Senate and on the Rules Committee.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

Secretary May also related a memo from Jenny Spencer, President of MSP, which announced news of the Democratic Convention happening on the Amherst campus this weekend. The memo included a list of ways members of the Faculty Senate could show their appreciation for the delegates in attendance. Further information was available upon request.

2. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees Brian O'Connor mentioned that on April 13th he attended the introduction of President Wilson to more than 100 legislators at the State House. The Board of Trustees were on campus Tuesday afternoon, at which time a Committee of the Whole offered a presentation on use of technology in classrooms. At the meeting itself, there were probably more motions than in the past 10 years combined. The Board approved the appointment of Professor Tom Russell as a Distinguished Professor. Another motion of particular interest at that meeting determined that this campus is authorized to purchase the five fraternity houses on Fraternity Row. Delegate O'Connor added that he, along with Secretary May and several chairs and representatives from other UMASS campuses, met with President Wilson yesterday and had a very positive, communicative exchange. The Performance Measurements Systems have been prepared, and some interesting facts include: the average high school GPA of incoming freshmen is 3.28; the median SAT scores is 1140, which is an increase of 20 over the past year; the freshman-year retention rate is 84 percent; the six-year graduation rate is 64 percent, which is about the national average; the percent of seniors that rate their educational experience good or excellent is 86 percent; the percent of graduating seniors' satisfaction with their major is 95 percent; and the percent of alumni that are satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of their education is 95 percent.

3. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors Jenny Spencer added that when Peter Clawson was speaking to Representative Kocot, saying, "We need to do more," he was indeed talking about himself and everyone else he had talked to in the last year. Thankfully, a lot has been done over the year. MSP is getting professional development money – about \$1700 per person – which should be coming in the last paycheck of the fiscal year. President Spencer also related further details of the Democratic Convention occurring on campus that weekend.

QUESTIONS

Director of the Frank A. Waugh Arboretum Jack Ahern announced a recent report commissioned by the Physical Plant which highlighted the condition of the large beech tree in the Durfee Gardens. The report recommended removal or drastic pruning of the tree due to apparent structural problems. A decision is scheduled to be made in August. Director Ahern respectfully asked for a delay of that decision, explaining that the tree is more than 100 years old and a classic, irreplaceable fixture of the campus, and efforts should be made to preserve the tree and/or buy more time to consider alternative options and raise funds if necessary. He wondered if there was any formal action that could be taken to put this campaign or delay into effect.

Vice Chancellor Joyce Hatch added that the Director of the Physical Plant, Pat Daly, is advocating for the tree's removal based on safety reasons. Creative solutions are welcome, as long as they promote the safety of the campus. A solution is definitely needed before the Fall is over, so that action can be taken by then.

Senator Christine King took a moment to acknowledge the diligence and leadership MSP has provided this year in securing pay raises and incoming funds for professional development. This comment was seconded by applause from attending faculty.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah expressed concern over Ethernet lines being cut and taking an unreasonably long time to be restored.

Special Assistant to the Chancellor John Dubach posed a follow-up question to Senator Atallah, asking if he was referring to network lines being recently disconnected due to the latest virus incident and efforts surrounding repair of that situation.

Senator Atallah clarified that he was referring to the recent problem as well as other incidents of viruses in the past.

Special Assistant Dubach asked if it seemed to be a problem on the student side or on the administrative side of campus.

Senator Atallah explained that it is a problem for both.

Special Assistant Dubach said he would look into it.

C. ELECTION: PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE FACULTY SENATE

NOMINEES: Robert Wilson, Hospitality and Tourism Management
Jeffrey Sedgwick, Political Science

MOVED: To close Faculty Senate Presiding Officer nominations.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

Ballots were distributed.

Professor Robert Wilson was elected as the new Presiding Officer.

D. NEW COURSES

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
M&I-ENG 604	“Computational Fluid Dynamics”	3
PSYCH 662	“The Origins of Intractable Conflicts, Mass Killing and Genocide”	3
PSYCH 663	“The Prevention of Violence and the Creation of Peace: Overcoming Hostility, Reconciliation and Culture Changes”	3

PSYCH 662 & 663 were withdrawn, as the proposals are currently being revised.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course M&I-ENG 604, as recommended by the Graduate Council.
39-04

This motion was seconded and adopted.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council, Academic Priorities Council, Graduate Council and Program and Budget Council concerning The Consolidation of the Departments of Asian Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, French and Italian Studies, Germanic Languages and Literatures and Spanish and Portuguese to the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-035 with Motion No. 40-04.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah explained that a program is protected by making and showing other programs, but when a program does not have the optimal mass to deliver its promised results, putting it elsewhere is not going to protect it any more than is already the case.

Senator Arthur Kinney expressed hope that this consolidation would give the campus an opportunity to restore the Ph.D. in French.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Consolidation of the Departments of Asian Languages and Literatures, Comparative Literature, French and Italian Studies, Germanic Languages and Literatures and Spanish and Portuguese to the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-035.
40-04

This motion was seconded and adopted by a show of hands.

2. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council, Graduate Council and Program and Budget Council concerning A Masters of Architecture: New Program Proposal Final Application, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-036 with Motion No. 41-04.

Senator Arthur Kinney explained that when the Graduate Council reviewed this proposal, they found it to be a fine proposal. The program has been reviewed over a length of time, has been tested by outside consultants, and has been shown to represent both an innovative program as well as something that would bring distinction to the campus. The Academic Matters Council had some initial questions that have now been resolved.

Secretary May added that there have been some slight, editorial corrections and revisions in response to the suggestions of various councils and committees. The revised pages have been incorporated into a final document available at the back of the room.

Senator Eric Einhorn asked whether or not this program would produce licensed architects, as is a requirement of the profession.

The answer was "Yes."

MOVED: 41-04 That the Faculty Senate approve A Master of Architecture: New Program Proposal Final Application, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-036.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning The Degree Name Change from Masters in Public Administration to Masters in Public Policy and Administration, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-037 with Motion No. 42-04.

MOVED: 42-04 That the Faculty Senate approve the Degree Name Change from Masters of Public Administration to Masters in Public Policy and Administration, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-037.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning a Five College Certificate in Coastal and Marine Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-038 with Motion No. 43-04.

Senator Brian O'Connor spoke in favor of the program, highlighting the asset of having faculty from all five campuses on hand to teach the subject matter, which would then enhance the campus and department's ability to fulfill dedicated students' avid interest in this area of study.

MOVED: 43-04 That the Faculty Senate approve the Five College Certificate in Coastal and Marine Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-038.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

5. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning The Application of Academic Standing Requirements to Students returning under the "Fresh Start" Policy, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-039 with Motion No. 44-04.

MOVED: 44-04 That the Faculty Senate approve the following new provision within the existing Fresh Start policy for undergraduate students, returning to the University after an absence of at least three years, who are eligible for and elect the Fresh Start option: those who had left the University in Good Standing or on Probation will have Academic Standing calculations begin at the start of the progression upon their return. Students who, upon departure, had a suspension or dismissal in that final term will remain subject to the usual Academic Standing progression. As presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-039.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

6. Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-040 with Motion No. 45-04.

Senator Kinney made a motion to amend the document so as to add Professor Deborah Carlin to the Academic Matters Council and Professor Robin Young to the Undergraduate Education Council.

MOVED: 45-04 That the Faculty Senate approve the Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-040.

This motion was seconded and adopted as amended.

7. Special Report of the General Education Council concerning Recommended General Education Designations, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-041 with Motion No. 46-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education Designations in the curriculum areas, as presented in
46-04 Sen. Doc. No. 04-041.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

8. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning the 2007-2008 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-042 with Motion No. 47-04.

Senator Atallah explained that, beginning with the 2007 Fall Semester, Registration Days will no longer exist.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2007-2008 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-042.
47-04

This motion was seconded and adopted.

G. OLD BUSINESS

Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Reducing the Number of Tracks in the Animal Science Major in the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-031 with Motion No. 35-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Number of Tracks in the Animal Science Major to two (Pre-Professional
35-04 and Technical/Management), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-031.

This motion was withdrawn at the request of the department.

H. BYLAW CHANGES (Third Reading) (Report Previously Distributed)

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-028B with Motion No. 31-04.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-028B.
31-04

This motion was adopted by the Faculty Senate.

(This motion was read at the 629th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate on April 8, 2004 and at the 630th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate on April 22, 2004. The final vote was taken at the 631st meeting.)

Senator Einhorn expressed gratitude to Secretary May, Senator O'Connor, and all other committee and council chairs and members for their heavy work this year, at a time when resources have been especially depleted.

The 631st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:44 p.m. on May 6, 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