

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 634th regular meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on November 18, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

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

QUESTIONS

Senator Arthur Kinney noted that it has come to the attention of his department's personnel committee that the amount of money given to a department for releasing a person for the Conte Fellowship can be difficult to live with and still manage all the courses. We think that the Contes are very important. We think that giving that kind of research fellowship for the year, awarding the best of our scholars on campus, is so important that it will not only help maintain the quality of our current faculty, but attract new faculty knowing that that possible award is down the pike. Is there some way that the capital campaign can take that into account?

Chancellor Lombardi responded yes, certainly that is true. One of the things we look for in these conversations for fundraising are vehicles that will energize a donor. One of the vehicles is a program that we could possibly get endowed by somebody that would support faculty fellowships in particular areas for the summer. Sometimes a donor will have a reasonable amount of money to give, but it is not enough to fully fund a continuing professorship. It might be enough to fund a series of faculty fellowships, so it is one of the items we use when we have a conversation with donors as an opportunity for them to put their name on a significant support activity for the faculty. This will be attractive to a significant number of our people, who are sort of at the middle level of giving interest and capacity.

Senator Brian O'Connor asked the Chancellor to clarify the matter of the \$9 million that the legislature has set aside for matching funds.

Chancellor Lombardi responded that the legislature did a number of good things, including paying the salaries. They will be working on the retroactive pay; we are around 90% sure that the legislature will resolve the pending retroactive issue before the cycle is over. As far as the matching fund, the legislature authorized \$50 million for a matching program. Then they said that they would appropriate \$9 million of that for this year, because the money for matching is a one-time appropriation; it is not a continuing budget item. They appropriated \$9 million for us, and a certain amount for the community colleges, and a certain amount for the state colleges.

What the System did was to distribute that according to the normal prorate that they use to distribute the budget, so we have about six million of that nine million. We have until the end of the year to match that six million. If, at the end of the year, any of the campuses have not matched their share, it goes into a common pool for the System, which is first-come-first-serve for any campus to get. Our goal is to get eight million. The drop dead date is January 1st. Everybody is *very* busy. We are making reasonable pests of ourselves to many of our friends, trying to get them to sign on the dotted line. In order to get the money, you have to have a commitment that would be paid out over a certain number of years. If you get the commitment, you can reserve the money, but you don't get the money until the donor pays. If we get the commitment by January 1st, then we will be able to reserve our share of that money. If you don't see a lot of development officers and deans around, it's because they are out there asking, and begging, and so forth. It's fifty cents on the dollar and it works for program and capital. The capital is a big plus, because in the previous incarnation of this program, some years ago, they did not allow you to use it for capital. We can use it, for example, for renovations: building renovations, laboratory renovations, whatever is of need in a program, is available for that 50 cents on the dollar.

B. ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report of the Academic Priorities Council for Academic Year 2003-2004, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-008.

This report was received.

C. NEW COURSE

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
COMM-DIS 647	“Implantable Auditory Prostheses”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course COMM-DIS 647, as recommended by the Graduate Council.
06-05

This motion was seconded and adopted.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning A Dual Master’s Degree Option, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-009 with Motion No. 07-05.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve A Dual Master’s Degree Option, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-009.
07-05

This motion was seconded and adopted.

DISCUSSION OF MOTION

Senator Kinney, a member of the Graduate Council, noted that the Council has been working on this for about three or four years, along with the Provost’s Office and the President’s Office. It came to a head last year when there was a special grant awarded to the School of Nursing to do a dual option master’s degree with the School of Public Health, and that got us back working on the details of it. It is not the same as a joint degree, which we already have, but it is two masters’ degrees from two different programs which, in some way, interweave or interlock themselves intellectually or vocationally. We do not expect there to be very many cases, but we do want to allow permission for those who find some way, either for their career or for their own learning, to combine two works and have them interrelate. We want them to be able to do that and to get a master’s degree from both programs, in some cases using the electives from one program for required courses in the other program, but still maintaining a full number of credits and course hours, and the possibility of a thesis, which is worked out with the two departments involved. This is similar, but not wholly like, the BDIC on the undergraduate level, where somebody has a really creative way in which they want to work with the University offerings. Therefore he thinks it is a wonderful opportunity to at least make available.

Secretary of the Senate Ernest May congratulated the Council and whoever else was involved in this, because you can understand it in about five minutes, whereas the previous version took about three hours to comprehend. This is a much-improved version.

Senator Kinney responded that Secretary May had read a Council version and this was wholly written by former Graduate Dean Jim Walker, who should stand up and get some applause.

2. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council and the Program and Budget Council concerning A Five College Certificate in Native American Indian Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-010 with Motion No. 08-05.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Five College Certificate in Native American Indian Studies, as presented
08-05 in Sen. Doc. No. 05-010, with the understanding that students will be eligible to receive one, but not both, of the related Certificates.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

DISCUSSION OF MOTION

Senator Robert Sinclair asked how many Native American students we have on campus.

Professor Robert Paynter responded that he believes that the number is about fifty at this point, between about fifty and seventy-five. He did not have a precise number. He consulted with John Cunningham and the number is around fifty.

Senator Sinclair then asked if it was implied that students majoring in Native American Studies would be non-Native Americans.

Secretary May responded that the program would, of course, be open to anyone, and he clarified that this is a Certificate, not a major.

3. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning A Consumer and Family Economics Option within the Minor in Resource Economics in the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-011 with Motion No. 09-05.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the establishment of a Consumer and Family Economics Option within the 09-05 Minor in Resource Economics in the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-011.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning The Addition of a Food Systems Option to the Sustainable Agriculture Concentration in the Plant and Soil Sciences Major in the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-012 with Motion No. 10-05.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Addition of a Food Systems Option to the Sustainable Agriculture 10-05 Concentration in the Plant and Soil Science Major in the College of Natural Resources and the Environment, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-012.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

5. Special Report of the General Education Council concerning A Recommended General Education Designation, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-013 with Motion No. 11-05.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education designation "T" for LINGUIST 390A, as presented in 11-05 Sen. Doc. No. 05-013.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

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

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

This motion was seconded and adopted as amended.

DISCUSSION OF MOTION

Senator Kinney noted that they have pretty much filled the committees and councils, but also asked people to please apply if they are interested in something, because there are always members who are going off, from time to time, and they need people to fill those openings. He has one amendment to the document, which is an addition: Professor Zhongwei Shen, of the new department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, as a member of the International Studies Council.

Presiding Officer Wilson pointed out that Senators and faculty members can volunteer to be on the different councils and committees. They do not need to be chosen.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May reported that they have conducted some additional elections to the Faculty Senate. He would like to welcome Robert Gao and Sundar Krishnamurty, from Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, as new members of the Faculty Senate. He also reported that the ad hoc committees, which the Senate has set up, are active and working. There will be progress reports coming. The new Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning has met several times, and this week heard a presentation from David Gray, the CEO and CIO of UMass Online. They are actively considering the issues with which the Senate charged them. The Ad Hoc Committee on SIS has met and is active in assessing what other universities are doing with this same issue. In addition, we are also conducting some changes in the International Studies Council. Two of the nominees which you just approved to the ISC, have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs, as we move forward with a rather new environment in the area of international affairs. Finally, he observed that electronic communications allow us to fill these vacancies in Councils and Committees with much greater expedition, by having email votes by the Committee on Committees. That Committee meets once a semester but, between meetings, they can conduct business when vacancies occur. So, the Councils and Committees are essentially full and are mostly quite active.

2. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Senator Richard Bogartz stated that he is not, at this time, advocating that the Student Government Association be abolished. Nor is he, at this time, advocating that the students have the opportunity to have a vote on whether that body should exist or not.

3. The Faculty Delegates of the Board of Trustees

Senator O'Connor said that the Board of Trustees met at the new campus center at UMass Boston last Tuesday and Wednesday, and added that that new campus center is absolutely gorgeous with a beautiful view. Two of the new Trustees were introduced and a third new Trustee could not attend the meeting. John Armstrong is from the town of Amherst and is a very strong University citizen. He was part of the Presidential Search Committee. Dr. Janet Pearl, who is a physician from Wellesley, was also introduced. Julius Erving, better known as "Dr. J.," unfortunately was not there. He added that the overall attendance of the Trustees (he takes attendance at these meetings) has been over 90%, which is significantly better than it had been two to three years ago.

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday afternoon. The sole agenda item was the law school. The acronym for the current law school is SNESSL, which stands for Southern New England School of Law. It is on the table to be annexed by UMass Dartmouth. It was a very well orchestrated presentation by several people: led by Chair Karam, then President Wilson, and Chancellor Mac Cormack, and the Senator and the Representative from the Dartmouth-Fall River area. He noted that Senator Menard said that the excitement in the Statehouse about this new law school becoming part of UMass reminded her of the excitement of twenty-five years ago, when the medical school was established. He was very polite when he pointed out that the medical school was established *forty* years ago, not twenty-five.

There were several letters of support for the addition of the law school. The letter which was read in its entirety was from former Governor Weld. Obviously it has a lot of potential; for example, there is the possibility of a combined M.D./J.D. program, and to his knowledge, as a pre-med advisor, there is only one such program in the country, and that is at Southern Illinois. Obviously, we have a joint M.B.A./J.D. program with Western New England College, and that would also be a possibility there. The idea of using all appropriate faculty on all four campuses would be a plus. There wasn't anybody who spoke against the possibility of having the law school at that particular meeting.

On Wednesday, the main meeting, President Wilson said that obviously the goal is to keep student charges slightly under the rate of inflation. He did discuss "the Red Sox problem." All four campuses (the Medical School is immune to this) experienced disturbances. He commented that the preparations were effective and the students were adequately warned. Those that did not heed the warnings will face severe sanctions. As we all know, alcohol is a major problem in these types of situations. President Wilson took a minute to congratulate the editors of each of the campus newspapers on each of the four undergraduate campuses.

Just as an aside, some of you may remember that in May of 1999, the Board of Trustees terminated tenure of a faculty member at the Medical School; that was five years ago. It has been in the courts ever since then. The faculty member sued and won, and then the University appealed. Finally, the University was vindicated by the Supreme Judicial Court just recently.

The other thing that was of importance for this group is that the Trustees approved the appointment of Jim Kurose of Computer Science as a Distinguished Professor here at UMass Amherst. They approved the composition of the search committee for the Chancellor of UMass Boston. Some other items of interest: Trustee Austin, who is the new Chair of the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs, maintained at one of the meetings that enrollment remained steady and stable at all four campuses. There were 165 faculty up for PMYR this past academic year. Ninety-six completed and were approved, the rest of the numbers are taking retirement, so they were exempt, and one was rejected. Academic Quality Assessment and Development is an ongoing process in which thirty programs were reviewed in the past academic year. Trustee Austin, as well as the other trustees, were very concerned about the steady decline in faculty positions and the steadily deteriorating condition of academic buildings. So, not only is our Chancellor well aware of that, as we are well aware of that, but it was interesting to hear that the Trustees were all aware of that.

4. President of the Student Government Association

Barak Sered, the new SGA Secretary of University Policy, introduced himself to the Senate. There are two big initiatives that the Student Government is planning on working on this year. One is a textbook rental system to be implemented, hopefully, as soon as possible. Another initiative is a four-class-per-semester model as opposed to the five-class-per-semester model that UMass now uses. Both of these initiatives are, he thinks, in Faculty Senate councils and committees right now and they are in contact with them.

He may be able to shed some light on the somewhat esoteric comment of the Chair of the Rules Committee. Last night, the Student Government Association Senate passed a motion of a vote of no confidence in Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life, Michael Gargano. They have decided instead to conduct business with the Chancellor until he designates a new person with whom they can conduct business. If people want more information about why this all happened, he recommends that they read the current edition of the *Graduate Voice*, which has a very good version of the story.

F. QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Rutherford Platt noted that when he first came here, there was a proposal for a law school on this campus, which unfortunately never materialized, partly because of the one in Springfield. He asked if the law school in southeast Massachusetts was up and running and comes equipped with faculty and so forth? Secondly, whether or not it is up and running, what will be the cost impact to make it a good law school, if not an excellent law school? Specifically, what would be the cost implications for us?

Chancellor Lombardi responded that the plan for the law school has these elements: the first is that it is an existing law school and it has a building, it has a budget, it has an endowment, it has a faculty, it has a local accreditation but not an ABA accreditation. It has been reviewed for ABA accreditation several times. The most recent accreditation, in the report we have that has been shared with everybody, is that for the most part, the difficulty is that they did not have enough faculty and they needed one or two more. The theory is that, if they got the one or two more, they would then be eligible for accreditation. Some of you who follow the ABA will recognize that the ABA standards of accreditation are exceedingly flexible depending on the type of institution involved and who owns it. Consequently, while many small, private law schools do not get accredited, law schools that are small and public do get accredited. Therefore, one of the incentives for this conversation is to bring that law school inside the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and improve it by some number of faculty—two or three, he thinks is the number on the table—and everybody's expectation is that with the new name brand, with its capture by the system, and with its new faculty, it will be able to receive national accreditation.

Its principal difficulty at the present time, as is explained by the Dartmouth people, is that the LSAT scores of its entering students are quite low and it is not doing a good job of successfully recruiting the best students, which is related to the accreditation issue. The good students want to go to an accredited law school. This is a sort of self-perpetuating thing. The last time an effort was initiated to bring that law school into Dartmouth, it failed on the grounds that the law school was financially insolvent. At the present time, the law school, by all the data that we have, is solvent. It is making its budget. It is paying its bills. It runs a small surplus, it has a small reserve, and it has a small endowment. It also has buildings, which the people who have looked at them report, are in pretty good shape and will not be a major drain on Dartmouth for some time. From that point of view, from all the data that have been presented to the board, there are no significant fiscal risks associated with acquiring the law school. It is on the basis of that information that the Trustees are considering this. The President has recommended it to them and they are currently considering it. He imagines that sometime—he doesn't know when—they will have a Board meeting and discuss it. This is not to say that there isn't controversy. There is controversy. He would say that the case has been very strongly made by Dartmouth, by the Chairman of the Board, and by the President that this is something in the best interests of the University of Massachusetts as a whole.

Senator O'Connor said that he did not want to rain on the SPIRE parade, but he thinks that the administration should be aware of the fact that it was a nightmare last night. Eight hundred fifty struggling biology majors went to take a 6:30 exam, only to find out that every seat that they were assigned to was taken by somebody else taking an exam. Fortunately, it all worked out, but his question is: how can we make sure that this does not happen again? Because usually it is nerve wracking to take an exam, but when you go to a room to sit down and it's taken by somebody else, that only makes it more nerve wracking.

Deputy Provost John Cunningham responded that the good news is that it is definitely not a SPIRE problem, because it is scheduled through Resource 25, which is another tool. We have to check out whether it is human error or technical error. Whichever it is, it will be fixed.

Secretary May had two comments. First, he responded to Barak Sered, regarding the SGA having brought a couple of issues to the Faculty Senate councils and committees. On the first one, the textbook rental system, that is definitely being considered by the Undergraduate Education Council and the Academic Matters Council. The way that discussion is going, the Academic Matters Council supports the idea of reducing the costs to students of textbook materials by a variety of methods, possibly including rental. Probably before the end of the semester, they will go on record as supporting an effort by the faculty to address the issue of cost, but they believe that by creating a competitive situation where a variety of options are open to students in order to access textbooks, the overall cost to students can be reduced. As for the four-credit, four-class proposal, that, of course, is much more complicated. The Academic Matters Council studied that in some depth three or four years ago and did a survey of departments. They found that this was an overwhelmingly complicated proposal, and that the majority of departments were not in favor of it.

Second, he also chairs a group called the Intercampus Faculty Council, which is a group of Faculty Senate leaders from the five campuses. They met with the new Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jim Karam, last week after the Trustee meeting. He was rather forthcoming about many things. In the course of the meeting, somebody asked him about the law school, and eventually he got around to mentioning the fact that this campus was also being approved for about \$600 million in capital construction. Everybody has their needs, and we need the Karam brothers on board to assist us with our needs as well as whatever needs the Dartmouth campus may have.

The 634th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:27 p.m. on November 18, 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