

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 637<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on February 10, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ADDRESS BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLEN STORY  
(see attached)

QUESTIONS

Senator Brian O'Connor thanked Representative Story for her comments and noted that, when he heard her speak about a week ago on WHMP, the hosts asked her about legalized gambling coming to the State. He expressed his belief that we are never going to get an increase in money for higher education. He wondered that, if we do indeed get legalized gambling, is it possible to do something like tie a certain percentage to the capital budget for higher education? Is that something that might happen?

Representative Story responded that it was a very good question. Casino gambling will keep coming up until we do something definitive about it and probably until we decide to okay it, because there is so much money involved. The new President of the Senate, Robert Travaglini, definitely wants slot machines at race tracks. He has a couple in his district. Sal DiMasi is more interested in casino gambling than Tom Finneran was. Tom Finneran was not in favor of casino gambling which is one of the things she was in agreement with him on. She has noticed a shift in the way that legislators are starting to talk about this now. She is sure it will come up during this two-year session. She thinks slot machines will certainly come up and maybe casino gambling. The only way, she thinks, that they could get a lot of people to vote for it is to say that it is a dedicated revenue stream for something like higher education or K through 12, something that everybody agrees with, something non-controversial. We do not know yet how this is going to play out, but it is certainly going to be on the agenda in this session.

Secretary of the Faculty Senate Ernest May asked first, other than gambling, is there any other hopeful signs on the revenue side for the State? Secondly, we've seen nationally the redefinition of public higher education as a private good rather than a public good; has she seen any chinks in the armor of that or the slowing down of that transfer even in this state, because it seems to be progressing full tilt?

Representative Story responded by noting that there was a column in *The Globe* today by Jeff Jacoby, in which he discussed public higher education. Basically, he thinks that we should get rid of it, let the private sector do this, because they know how to do it right. Regarding Pell Grants, he thinks that there is never going to be enough so we should make the move and go to private higher education.

On revenues, one of the things that she thinks has to happen in this two-year session is that we have to stop the idea that the Governor has that we should reduce the personal income tax to 5%. Four years ago, it was at 5.95% and then it started coming down. Fortunately Speaker Finneran pretty single-handedly stopped it at 5.3%, where it is right now. She thinks what we have to do—legislators never talk about raising taxes—is to restore taxes to 5.65% or maybe 5.95% and that would bring in a billion dollars. In the committee assignments, there used to be a Taxation Committee. That does not exist anymore. Now it is called Revenues which you can think of in many ways. Maybe it is to include gambling. It is not a tax; it is revenues. Or maybe “revenues” is a more positive word than taxation.

The person that the Speaker appointed to be the Chair of that Committee is someone from Worcester, John Binienda, who has been in the Legislature for a very long time. He is quite conservative; she imagines that he has never voted for a tax increase. So you look at that appointment and first you have to figure out, what is Sal DiMasi's agenda? What does he hope to accomplish in this two-year term? She would hope that one of the things that he wants to accomplish is to increase the revenues and the obvious way we do that is to restore the personal income tax rate to a higher level. You can look at John Binienda's appointment and say, that means we are never going to do that; it is clear he is not going to do that. Or you can look at it and think, what a brilliant choice. If Sal DiMasi wants to do that—because the Chairman of this Committee will do what he is told to do—if you want to do that, you simply tell Chairman Binienda that this is what is going to happen, and you have him talk to all of his colleagues and talk to constituents and business groups and say, “You know how I hate to do this. I never thought that I would be in this position, but our people are suffering. We need to meet the basic needs of our constituents and our citizens and the only way to do it is to raise the income tax rate.” He would be a far more effective spokesperson for that notion than most of us. So she is trying to look on the bright side of many of these things.

Regarding Secretary May's other question regarding privatization, even looking at K through 12, she and a number of her colleagues are convinced that there really is a move to get rid of public K through 12 education. You pour

billions of dollars into it, which we have done since the Education Reform Act of 1993, and then they say, “Look, it is not working; it is not working any more. We have to have charter schools. That is where we can get things done.” All of these public things which we think of as absolute cornerstones of democracy are very much under assault. The stuff that our President is doing, a lot of this federal budget, is going to make it much harder for states that are already struggling mightily to do the minimum of what we need to do. It is going to hurt poor people, women, and children. It is a very scary budget coming from him.

Senator Richard Bogartz suggested using the word “dues” as opposed to “tax.” People want to be part of a club; they pay their dues. With respect to the attack on public education, it has been going on for quite awhile and he thinks it is linked with the kinds of jobs they want to have around. If you are going to turn the place into a third-world country, you have to attack education because they are the people who spread knowledge.

Representative Story responded that Senator Bogartz’s comment about “dues” instead of taxes makes her think of Don’t Think of an Elephant, a book by George Lakoff who is a cognitive linguist at Berkeley. He has studied the language of politics and has studied the words that conservatives have used over the last forty years. It is a fabulous book. One of the good things about it is that it gives you hope that we can actually do better at what we are doing. He uses the idea of “dues.” He gives examples of ways that conservatives have commandeered the language, for example, the word “relief.” In order to get relief from something, you have an affliction and you need to be relieved of that affliction. The person who relieves you of it is a hero. So, if you pair the word relief with the word tax, which we have been doing, “tax relief,” and the Democrats have absolutely adopted this, then it is clear that taxes are an affliction. They are not the dues that you pay to live in a civilized society; they are an affliction that you have. If George Bush comes in and says that he is going to give you tax relief, then he is a hero. Or tort reform, that is something that the conservatives have wanted forever and ever and they say it is because they do not want frivolous law suits. It is not because they do not want frivolous law suits; it is because they want to get rid of regulation in every area: in medicine, in the environment—companies come in and do a massive amount of damage and you cannot sue them for it. She highly recommends this book. We need to frame things in a different way, in a way that we have control over, and not let them layout the framework for all of the important issues that we deal with.

Senator Marta Calas came back to the issue of privatizing public higher education versus for-profit education and asked if that gets discussed at all. If we are going to talk about using language in a particular way, when we talk about privatizing higher education, what is really being discussed is for-profit education and that is taking us even further afield from where we are now.

Representative Story responded that when we talk about charter schools in the Legislature, some of us always try to make a distinction when we talk about particular charter schools. Some of them are non-profits, but a lot of them are for-profits corporations which run these schools. Senator Calas is absolutely right; it is something that we have to be aware of and be nervous about. It is higher education as well. She then asked if any one had a question for her to which she could give an upbeat response.

Senator Bogartz asked what has been going on lately that is upbeat?

Representative Story responded that she is the new Chair of the Caucus of Women Legislators. One of the things that they are going to look at is the effect that the budget cuts have had on women. Women are disproportionately hurt by budget cuts and one clear example of that is in public higher education. In the state colleges, 68% of graduates are women. In community colleges, 64% of the graduates are women. So, when we raise the fees and tuition and make it that much harder for people to attend, it is women who are affected—and the women are mostly supporting a family while they are also taking classes—so it makes it much more difficult for them to attend. There is a very good report that has just come out by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center laying out a lot of information about this situation. This report is going to be something that I will use as the Chair of the Women’s Caucus to try to get a whole lot more attention about this and somehow try to figure this into public higher education as well. It is incredibly self-defeating for us to be continuing in the path that we have been on in terms of funding for higher education.

She is much more optimistic than she has been for the last eight years. She thinks that things will be infinitely better and a lot of us will have our voices heard in a very different way than we have had during the past eight years.

She thanked everyone for all of the great work that they do here.

## B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May welcomed two new senators from Electrical and Computer Engineering, Andreas Muschinski and Omid Oliaei. He then reminded everyone that the new Faculty Senate web site is up and running. Some of the conveniences of the new site include: the dates of Senate meeting, as well as the council and committee meetings, are now posted, as are minutes from those meetings; the Course Approval Procedure Guide is available, and all the forms you need for various approval processes are there; and a subset of the Senate and Trustee legislation, which affects the campus on a variety of topics, is on the site and organized in a kind of index of, hopefully, the most useful topics. If there is a topic that you think should be on the list, please ask us and we will try to assemble the most relevant documents related to that topic. Special thanks are due to Tamatha Gaumnitz, Anne Benz, and Keith Paul for bringing this all together over the January break.

#### C. QUESTION PERIOD

Secretary May asked a question on behalf of faculty member who could not attend the meeting, which was directed to John Dubach or John Cunningham—"By what date should we have the Registrar's Office functioning, so that we can survive SPIRE registration problems? To learn classroom assignments one hour before the class is unacceptable."

Special Assistant to the Chancellor John Dubach responded that the Chancellor had the answer, and the answer is, "soon." People should understand that the problem that came about with posting the classroom locations for this semester was actually not a SPIRE problem. It was a problem with software within the Registrar's Office that generates room assignments and lines up the room assignments with the course schedule, etc. We think it will be ready for next semester. They have worked on it and he believes that it is ready to go, but this is within the Registrar's Office. He then noted that John Cunningham was sitting in back and he invited him to the floor.

Deputy Provost John Cunningham agreed that it may look like the same problem two semesters in a row, but it was a different problem each semester. The first time we used the old classroom scheduling software while the system converted to the new version of PeopleSoft and then could not send the known information in. After September, we dealt with that problem. As John Dubach mentioned, we had software that was supposed to then be compatible and stream data in and that software just plain did not work. We had unknown information that, had we known it, we could have streamed it into PeopleSoft. We are working on debugging why it is not operational. In addition, we are in the final stages of getting the Associate Registrar for Systems hired. The search committee tells me that they will be recommending finalists next week. The combination of software and staff should mean that we are able to get back to notifying people of their rooms well in advance of the first meeting. The good news is that the Registrar's staff stayed up late into the night manually assigning rooms and at least gave everybody an hour's notice of where they were going, rather than telling them where they would have been. He thanked the Registrar's Office for pulling that off.

Senator W. C. Conner, in relation to the last question noted that the rumor was that the Registrar's Office started looking at room assignments in January and he suggested starting maybe a month ahead of time. What he heard was that they discovered this problem somewhere around the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. You can start early. We have to work on our classes a few months before we start them and we think that the administration could follow suit.

#### D. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Annual Report of the University Ombuds Office for the Period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-025.

This report was received.

2. Annual Report of the University Press Committee for Academic Year 2003-2004, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-026.

This report was received.

Professor Gerald McFarland, Chair of the University Press Committee, noted that last year, when he was here to make the report, there was some trepidation, some rumors, some news out that the Press was about to fold because of lack of financial support. That is really a toxic thing to happen for a press because we operate on years of lead time and authors simply will not submit manuscripts if they believe that we are not going to be in business. The good news is that, through the extremely fine management of Bruce Wilcox and his staff, they have made tremendous progress on dealing with the financial side. There have been staff cuts, reorientation of certain operations; it is all described in the report. There is more yet to do as the summary on the first page says, but tremendous progress has been made. We are happily no longer, we should not any longer, to be getting any questions—"are we going out of business?" We are in business and doing well.

Senator Arthur Kinney commended the Press on doing so well under difficult times and suggested a round of applause.

**E. NEW COURSES**

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
EDUC 722	“Research on Inservice Teacher Development”	3
EDUC 730	“Research on Teaching”	3
EDUC 732	“Behavior Analysis in Applied Settings: Theory, Research and Practice”	3
EDUC 738	“Survey of Mathematics and Science Education Research”	3
EDUC 837	“The Influence of the Social Context of Schools and the Politics of Reform on Teaching and Learning”	3

**MOVED: 24-05** That the Faculty Senate approve the courses EDUC 722, 730, 732, 738 and 837, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

**DISCUSSION OF MOTION**

Senator Kinney pointed out that the Senate may recall that two years ago they approved a number of courses in the redesigning of the School of Education to bring it into line with other schools and colleges. These and about two more courses to come will fulfill that plan.

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-024A with Motion No. 23-05.

**MOVED: 23-05** That the Faculty Senate approve the Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-024A.

This motion was seconded and adopted as amended.

2. Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Practicum Credit for Student Participation on Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 98-010A.

**MOVED: 06-98** That the Faculty Senate endorse the concept of providing one-credit practicum credit per semester for participation on Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, and;

That the Faculty Senate authorize the Secretary to establish a one-credit University Practicum course, UNIVRSTY 298A.

This motion was seconded and adopted as amended.

**DISCUSSION OF MOTION**

Secretary May pointed out that this motion was passed back in 1998, but it was originally passed in a way that proved impractical. Some students came forward suggesting that we implement this. If we are going to implement it, it has to be done in a satisfactory way. Therefore, he has put forward a way that he thinks will work to allow students to take the practicum credit. Basically, it has not worked under the old format, because it required that the chair of a Faculty Senate council or committee be the faculty sponsor for the practicum. By the time these appointments were all made, add/drop was over and it was simply impractical. What we are going to try to do now is to work it out in the spring with the Student Government Association. The Committee on Committees and the Student Government Association will nominate and ratify student members of councils and committees for the following year.

Involved in this practicum will be an orientation—at least one meeting during the semester of the students who are involved in this, which he imagines will be between twenty-four and thirty-six—and submission of a brief reflection on their experience as part of the course. He and perhaps the PA in the Faculty Senate Office will supervise this. He thinks that the Senate’s councils and committees suffer from a lack of adequate representation by students, or, if they

do get people appointed under the current process, because of scheduling or other reasons, they rarely participate fully in the work of the councils and committees. We need student reps on these councils and committees. He thinks that there may be some legitimate question as to whether credit is the right way to approach this. Nevertheless, there are so many practica credits given around the campus for a variety of topics, that he thinks, upon reflection, this one is a valid use of that and will probably make it a valid educational experience for the students.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah said that the question that rises in his mind is the equality between one credit for each one of the students that is represented on the Faculty Senate committees. Not each committee has the same workload or work schedule or the same level of student involvement that is needed. So, they are going to give one credit to someone who really works very hard and another one credit for someone who might show up once, because the committee meets only once a semester. This is unfair. He applauds the fact that we are trying to acknowledge the contribution of the students to the committees and the committees really do need the input of the students, but we have to be fair to all the students that are involved in that.

Presiding Officer Wilson asked what is the solution to this problem?

Senator Atallah responded that the solution is to be a good citizen and do your work.

Senator O'Connor stated that he has mixed feelings about awarding credit, but he thinks back to when he was on the Academic Matters Council several years ago and when he was on the General Education Council in its infancy. He recalled that the students who were on those committees were incredibly valuable. They attended every meeting. He thinks it may settle itself out and that maybe some of the students who do not want to participate in a committee that meets only once a semester will not even bother to show up at all and not get the credit anyway. He does think that we have to encourage more student involvement, especially in certain committees, like General Education and Academic Matters. If it does give the incentive to attend every meeting and to participate, then he thinks that he will go along with it. Let's see how it goes because he does think that there are an incredible number of students out there who want to participate in this type of situation, especially on the Academic Matters and General Education Councils. He will vote for it, but he still has some reservations.

Senator Bogartz said that his problem is that he does not see this as academic-credit worthy. There is a need to have students there. He is concerned about wanting something for someone else more than they want it for themselves, which is what we are getting into here. It feels like buying their presence and if we must buy it, maybe some sort of certificate can be given, which they can publicize, for those who want to have the certificate. He does not mean a formal academic certificate, but some kind of document that recognizes their contribution. But one academic credit seems rather much for rather little.

Senator Roland Chilton just wanted to remind everybody that we are not talking about academic credit or credit in any particular department. Practicum credit is experiential credit. They are getting credit for having a worthwhile experience. Those of us who have served on Faculty Senate committees think it is a worthwhile experience most of the time. He thinks this motion makes sense.

## F. ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Marilyn Billings called everyone's attention to a flyer in the back of the room announcing a colloquium on scholarly communication and open access. It is entitled *In the Public Interest: Expanding Access to Scholarly Research*. It will be held on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 and is being sponsored by the Vice Provost for Research, Research Library Council, the Dean of Graduate School, and the Libraries. We have some excellent speakers coming in to discuss the topic: John Willinsky from the University of British Columbia, who is the Principal Investigator of the Public Knowledge Project; and Jane Griffith from the National Institutes of Health, which has been having quite a lot to say about open access to scholarly research recently.

Senator Marta Calas said that there is an increasing preoccupation with the question of privatization of public education. She wondered if the Faculty Senate should have some kind of forum or create some kind of discussion so that we actually are talking about this as a real thing and not just asking visitors questions about it. No one is going to either solve the problem or do something about it, if we do not take it upon ourselves.

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**The 637<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:37 p.m. on February 10, 2005.  
The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ernest D. May  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate**