

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST  
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 649<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on February 23, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

ADDRESS BY SENATOR STANLEY ROSENBERG  
(see attached)

QUESTIONS

*A graduate student* asked if there was something in the legislation changing how the Nominating Council advises the Governor on the Trustee appointments?

*Senator Rosenberg* replied yes, there were some features of the bill that began to look at the Trustee situation. The problem the Legislature was trying to solve was timely appointments of qualified people and opening the process up. What happens was that Boards tend to be self-perpetuating. This was not unique to higher education, and it was not unique to Massachusetts. People get excited, they serve on the Board and they meet people on the way and say “gee, you ought to come and serve.” Before you know it, it sort of becomes very intertwined. What they would like to do is to make sure that the public knows there are openings so anybody can self-nominate or anybody can nominate anybody else. The nominees would still have to go through the process of the Governor’s Public Education Nominating Council and they would have to be vetted. The Senate was proposing to change the membership on that slightly by adding an appointee of the Senate President and the Speaker of the House so that the legislature could give advice. One of the other problems that they had was that sometimes appointments were delayed. If they were delayed, it compromised the effectiveness of the Board. They were proposing that the Governor would have a fixed period of time in which to make his appointments. If the Governor failed to do so, the Board of Higher Education could make an interim appointment until the Governor made an appointment. If the Governor did not make the final appointment for that slot within a certain period of time, the Board of Higher Education could name that person no longer interim but permanent within the term limit, or replace that person with someone else. Timely transparency, quality, and diversity on those Boards were what they were looking for.

*Senator W.C. Conner* stated that, in the mid-1970s, the federal government decided to have a joint House and Senate Committee on the budget. Our state government had not put those two things together, and that usually gives you a lot more power when it comes to debating what the Governor might submit. Have you considered trying to do that?

*Senator Rosenberg* replied that he did not know of any discussion on that. He thought that there were pros and cons to that. One of the cons would be that the Committee, if they made it a joint Committee, would end up being a lot smaller, which means there would be fewer members who would be able to sit on that Committee. Therefore, they would concentrate power in the hands of fewer people, rather than spreading it out. In the case of the Senate, they do not quite have a majority sitting on the Budget Committee, but they have close to a majority. As a former chair of that Committee and a former member in both the House and the Senate, I would prefer to have the opportunity to sit on the Committee, and increase my chances of sitting on it, than leave my fate in the hands of those fewer people who would be lucky enough to get those seats.

*Secretary Ernest May* congratulated Senator Rosenberg on all of the successful work that he had done recently, particularly the Task Force and the Joint Committee and what has come out of it. It really was a huge accomplishment and historic. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, Secretary May thanked the Senator enormously. It may not be quite what other states have accomplished, but it is way ahead of what most states have accomplished recently. He asked Senator Rosenberg to share his thoughts on the innovation economy, and what was ahead in terms of the workforce and Massachusetts’ place in that. He also asked the Senator to discuss the workforce needs in the different regions in Massachusetts.

*Senator Rosenberg* replied that the hook for this effort was the economy. For better or for worse, people do not respond in politics to the appropriate and esoteric arguments about the value of education and a liberal arts education, etc. It is about the economy and the jobs. On any given day in Massachusetts, there are 60,000 jobs going begging, because there was not a qualified applicant who could be matched up with that job. It used to take two years of post-high school education to make a living wage. Increasingly, most of the time, you now need to have a bachelor’s degree. That was what had finally caught the attention of the legislature, the governor, and the business community. It was a follow up to what happened fifteen years ago when the business community started to realize that they had to do something about public K-12 education.

The argument and discussion now is that education does not stop at the twelfth grade. We need to get people at least through an associates, if not a bachelor's degree, and as many as capable into a master's and Ph.D. program because our knowledge-driven economy is dependant upon that. That was what was selling this package and this argument. In terms of regions, every region in the state has community colleges, state colleges, and one of the five campuses of the University. There were people who wanted to add more university campuses to the University of Massachusetts and Senator Rosenberg was fighting that tooth and nail. We cannot afford to fully fund the five campuses we have now. He thought it was absurd to add additional campuses. Each institution should have a very clear mission and focus. They should start by emphasizing things that can work within their region, but also can spread across the state to the extent that it is needed across the state. This campus, in particular, has a very specific role. It is the Research I flagship campus. The University of Massachusetts Amherst will not only help the Western Massachusetts economy, it will help the whole state's economy by virtue of our role. Each of the other campuses can serve their region, teaming up with the community and state colleges, and meeting the economic development strategic needs of their campuses.

A graduate student asked a question for another student about the possibility of having certain University functions have their own state line item, like the Commonwealth College or the Library, for support programs or need-based financial aid that we might agree might protect in some way from the vicissitudes of the budget cycle.

Senator Rosenberg said that the way it worked was that, if you wanted to protect something, get it off the radar screen. Bury it. If you created a line item and it said in neon lights, "hit me, I'm here, see me," that was what happened. Senator Rosenberg's predecessor created the ERM which was for the libraries. They built it up to an \$18 million program. Every time there was a fiscal crisis, it got whacked and they had to rebuild it. It just does not help. Commonwealth College was a separate initiative. It was now fully funded, as he understood it. Senator Rosenberg thought that the University should be thinking about asking it to be rolled into the base. He knew that will be unpopular with some people, but it says "hit me." When Senator Rosenberg is not around, or somebody else who was schilling for this is not around and is looking away, that thing is gone. So, it sounds good, it feels good, and you think that you have accomplished something and maybe you did while the budget was rising. The day it goes down you have big problems.

Senator Richard Bogartz thanked Senator Rosenberg for the wonderful job that he had been doing and will be doing. It is really appreciate d.

Professor Steven Brewer, representing the Massachusetts Society of Professors (MSP), asked Senator Rosenberg about their contracts. He understood that they were in the House and the Union had been encouraging them to contact the Speaker of the House and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Did he have any comments about it?

Senator Rosenberg replied that he did not understand why the House sat on the contracts as long as they do. They sit on virtually everybody's contract. It was not that the MSP was being singled out. Most of the collective bargaining agreements get sat on by the House for anywhere from two months to as much as six months. All you can do is to really press the legislators in the area to press the Ways and Means Committee and to press the Speaker. The Senate was usually pretty quick at turning it around when it gets to them. Part of that was the dynamic and part of it was that, by the time it got to the Senate, it had waited so long, they knew they better get it done.

## B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Senator W. Brian O'Connor attended the Committee of Academic and Student Affairs and the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday and Secretary May was there on Wednesday with him at the Dartmouth Campus. A Master of Fine Arts and Creative Writing, as well as a Ph.D. in Biology were approved for the Boston Campus. They approved the appointment of Sharon Rallis to the Dwight W. Allen Professorship of Education Policy and Reform at this campus. They also approved the appointment of Thomas Russell from Polymer Science as the Silvio O. Conte Distinguished Professor at this campus. The Board approved the Affirmative Action plans on all five campuses. These plans were discussed at great length at the Administration and Finance meeting on February 8. They approved the average 3.4% increase in student tuition and fee rates and student housing, rent, and food services charges. According to the agenda of the Executive Session which he was not allowed to attend, there was also the typical awarding of tenure. He noticed on the agenda that there was a

discussion of the tenure process. Senator O'Connor did not know what that meant, but he wanted to report that. In the Committee of Academic and Student Affairs meeting, they approved a formation of a subcommittee or a task force to study the accessibility proposal that was submitted by our student Trustee, Valerie Louis. This committee will consist of Trustees, student administrators and, he assumed, faculty representation. This would be announced later on. He was not sure what the charge will be. During the Committee of Academic and Student Affairs meeting, they had an interesting panel discussion that dealt with faculty research and their impact on local and global economic developments. From this campus, former Dean of Engineering, Joseph Goldstein and J. Lynn Griesemer, the Executive Director of the Donahue Institute, talked about the CITI program. It had improved the IT curriculum at the 29 public colleges and university campuses and also selected K-12 systems in the state. A physician from the medical school talked about her new work on Hormone Replacement Therapy and ideas of alternative medicine which the medical community was finally recognizing. She also discussed her new work with the Women's Health Initiative. There was a very interesting discussion from representatives from the Dartmouth campus on their incredible help with the fishing industry, and their tremendous increase in scallops. In the Committee of the Whole meeting, there was a continued focus on diversity and a positive climate. Each Chancellor gave a presentation. Chancellor Lombardi gave a very comprehensive and fact-filled report, including the actions taken as a result of the recent Diversity Commission. There is a campus Public Safety Task Force which all the five campuses are involved. The first meeting was in January. This Task Force includes Trustees, public safety representatives from all campuses, representatives from the President's Office and James Kallstrom, who is a former FBI administrator and alum of this campus. This group plans to visit each campus. The basic issue is to make the campuses as safe as possible. Trustee O'Shea reported on the ongoing search for the Executive Director of the UMass Foundation. There was a strategic marketing update and an effort to get all campuses on the same page in terms of marketing strategies.

2. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Professor Steven Brewer mentioned that the contracts had been approved and were in the House. They had not yet been brought to the floor. The contract was essentially half concluded, assuming that it does finally go through. The MSP was beginning to solicit input from faculty about issues that should go into the negotiations for the next contract that will begin at the beginning of next year. The MSP met with representatives from the MTA, the MSP parent union. The MSP was very likely to be chosen to participate in a pilot program that will provide resources to the Union to undergo the reorganizing process to move from a service-oriented union to an organizing model. The idea was to try and become more proactive, to try and identify issues and build groups of faculty to address those rather than simply being responsive to problems or issues that arise. People interested in finding out more about that could contact MSP.

C. QUESTION PERIOD

Secretary Ernest May asked the Chancellor if there was any news on the system-wide Diversity Task Force.

Chancellor John Lombardi replied that the Trustees had not determined how they would construct that Task Force, what its charge will be, what its timetable will be, or when it will meet. It was his anticipation that, at some time before the next Trustee meeting, they would enlighten us all as to what they had in mind.

D. NEW COURSES

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
JUDAIC 344	"Film and Society in Israel"	3
SPANISH 266	"The Occult in Literature"	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses JUDAIC 344 and SPANISH266,  
16-06 as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Special Report of the General Education Council concerning a Recommended General Education Designation for SPANISH 266, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-019 with Motion No. 17-06.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education Designation ALG  
17-06 for SPANISH 266, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-019.

The motion was seconded.

Senator Roland Chilton asked whether anyone in the meeting could answer why this course qualified as a General Education course.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah said that he cannot answer the question. He personally had not reviewed the course. There are specifications that courses need to meet and, if the course meets the specification, it gets the approval. He did not have any other information on the course content with him.

Senator Richard Bogartz wondered if Senator Chilton was satisfied or perhaps this should be tabled until we find the information that was needed.

Senator Chilton said that he did not have any more information now than when he asked the question. He suggested that it would be a good idea to have the people who were proposing the course to be in attendance at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Senator Atallah said that the course needed to be approved in order to make it into the catalogue for September. He was not sure of the catalogue deadline.

Senator Richard Bogartz moved to table the motion.

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson stated that the motion had been made that the General Education Designation ALG for SPANISH 266 be tabled until the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The motion to table was seconded and passed.

Senator Atallah stated that the course was a Literature course that included specific requirements such as encouraging the writing, feedback, and the critical thinking of the students in examining aspects of the literature to qualify to be a General Education course. The designation of Global Diversity was based on whether the course discussed issues related to diversity on the global level. That was the base by which the committees decided whether the course got approval for this designation or not.

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The 649<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:18 p.m. on February 23, 2006.

The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate