

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 652nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on April 13, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ADDRESS BY JACK M. WILSON, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
(See attached)

QUESTIONS

Secretary Ernest May stated that the UMass budget was such a complicated issue. There was the capital budget, the operating budget, the salary increases, supplementals, etc. Once we back out the salary increases and even when it comes to the capital, what we have left is a license to borrow and we have the debt service on all that. Once we have netted all of these out, what was the margin of actual new resources that we can reinvest in the quality of the place?

President Wilson stated that it was a good question. The answer was not a pretty answer. The state appropriation was at 20%. Almost all of that was in the salary area. If you factor out the salaries, there was essentially nothing to invest in new resources which was why we invested \$800,000 in a new Development Office at Amherst and why we are getting a new Foundation Director and why we were glad to have that \$28 million from CVIP. One of the President's goals this year was that he was trying like crazy to get more investment in capital because what we have been getting was the investment in the operating budget which basically goes into the salaries of individuals. There was not a lot above that that has been available for reinvestment. It was the bigger wedge that we were using to reinvest. So there was good news on that. The bad news is that we do not believe that we are doing as well as some of our peers. President Wilson stated he met with the Secretary of Administration and Finance talking about this and also the Ways and Means chair, Bob DeLeo. He told them that he had just come from a nice chat with Philip Austin, the President of UConn, and was telling him just how jealous we were of him because he had about three billion in capital. When President Wilson talked to him, President Austin said that it had been really good. For awhile there, they did not think that they were going to get their billion this year, but they got it. President Wilson said that we were jealous because the whole University of Massachusetts got \$16 million for capital last year. He thought there was room for growth. They are working very hard on it and making the case as best they could. The Senate Task Force has done well getting the conversation going. This was part of the conversation about a capital reinvestment in the University of Massachusetts. There are several bills still out there that have capital in them. We have high hopes for additional capital. We have a lot of room for growth. We are setting that as a very high priority, getting some capital investment.

Secretary May stated that the President mentioned CVIP, which was great, but as he understood it, most of that comes from the Medical School. Faculty members here have had varying levels of difficulty with the CVIP administration because it was mostly oriented towards the Medical School. Was there something good to report about making it user-friendly to all of the campuses?

President Wilson concurred that most of it was coming from the Medical School. There were a variety of issues. We created a Trustee Committee on Science and Technology chaired by John Armstrong. It was at work now. They have just begun work and they are creating a system-wide Research Council. They are taking a look at those issues. Amherst has a newly-hired person here to administer it. There was always going to be rub on this. Pick up the last issue of *Prism*, put out by the American Society for Engineering Education. There was a cover story last month. Commercial entities want to come in and say they should own all of the intellectual property. They will make a very strong argument for that and the state will say that they own the property. We have received exemptions from a lot of the state laws, but we still have to pay attention to it, so, in the end, a commercial entity cannot claim title to intellectual property created by faculty at the University of Massachusetts. That has been a rub point with some of them. We were not alone in that. That said, we were looking at it and trying to make it as flexible as we can; work through that so we meet all of the state laws of protection of intellectual property. We also have to have the protection of the faculty's intellectual property because, in our policy, it was sorted out and a faculty member has rights to that, too. We are not going to give that up either. It has been a wrestling match. We have a new person on campus and we have a new committee working on it as we speak.

Senator W. Brian O'Connor asked how UMass Online was working out, campus by campus. Since we are the biggest, are we doing the most or the least?

President Wilson stated that he did not think that Amherst was doing the most yet, but we were very close. This campus has been growing very fast. It started out in second place to Lowell. Lowell got started much earlier and they built a big program. The programs that have come online on this campus have been of very high quality. We distinguish ourselves from these other online programs by saying we use only UMass faculty, curriculum, and admissions requirements and you get a University of Massachusetts degree when you are done. All of the quality conditions are held constant for our online programs. By sticking to that, we have built one of the best and strongest programs, with 21,200 students and \$21 million in external revenue. The biggest program on this campus was in the Isenberg School, the PMBA program. It brings quite a lot of external revenue. He thought that Amherst had passed Lowell, but he was not sure.

Senator Richard Bogartz mentioned that he was going to be teaching an online course in the fall. He was particularly interested in how people address the question of who was taking the exam.

President Wilson confessed that he did not have the details on how each department does it. There were several ways that it was addressed. In some situations, the exams were typical papers so it was not much different than it would be in a regular course. How did you know who helped a person with a paper that they brought in? Courses that have exams often have security arrangements for proctoring. Those can be done in a variety of ways. He apologized for not having the detailed knowledge of that. There always was the question of whether the work was the work of the individual who was purporting to submit that work, whether it was an exam or it was a paper. It was a problem in face-to-face courses and it can be a problem in online courses. There were security ways to deal with that.

Senator W.C. Conner asked where this promise of hiring new faculty under the UMA 250 plan will come from if the finances are the way you project them, in terms of adding the new faculty and being able to support them for the first couple of years?

President Wilson replied that it was a 7% projection and that was just on the state appropriation. The fact was that start-up funds and so on are often coming from other sources within the budget, within that other non-state wedge. If we were to depend just upon state funding for that kind of a thing, we were dead in the water. He did not think that we could do it with state funding. He worked this year to try to see if we could get a specific appropriation just for that. He could not get the political support of a champion in the House or the Senate that was willing to carry that forward. He thought it could happen and that other states have done that. If we could develop the political support to go at that, then that was another area where we could get very specific, targeted support from the legislature. He brought it up regularly with the leadership in the legislature. They will continue to do so and hope that, one day, they will break through on that. In the meantime, it was coming from the other wedge. It was going to be a heavy lift.

Senator Marilyn Billings asked if President Wilson could speak about a Portal Project for the university system.

President Wilson replied that there was a Portal Project that has been out there and being discussed for some time. There was a cross-campus group working on it called a Portal Cabinet.

Senator David Vacchi stated that he had the opportunity to interact a bit with UMass Dartmouth in the fall regarding ROTC curriculum. Providence College oversees their ROTC. He got the distinct impression that there was a little bit of fiefdom stuff that goes on within the overall University. He wondered if the President could speak to the synergy of the overall UMass system and what we were doing to improve that.

President Wilson stated that the history was that we are a young system. We have done better at fighting against each other than fighting with each other. We are trying to put groups together. In their role in the President's Office, we encourage those discussions. There were these relationships that were historic. They were important to the institutions. As we move forward, we want to do it in unity, but we also want to be very respectful of the strengths that we get from the other kinds of relationships that we have, too.

Secretary May thanked President Wilson for all of his work. UMass was a young system. Across the country, he always thought of Michigan and California as the two poles. Michigan has independent campuses and they really do not have a system to speak of. The campuses are all separate. In California, they have a very integrated system. UMass falls somewhere between those. Could the President reflect a little about the strengths in relation to the state government here and the culture that we have in terms of what the best course was for us?

President Wilson replied that Michigan was interesting because they had several systems. The University of Michigan has multiple campuses, as does Michigan State, and so there are many different forms of systems. The closest one to UMass seems to be Maryland. They have their flagship at College Park, but the Medical School was up in Baltimore. They have the upstart urban campus that was doing incredibly well under a very dynamic president. They have some serious campuses in a small system. We have a small system. It was hard to compare us to the University of California because our scale was rather dramatically smaller than theirs. All that said, he thought that the University of Massachusetts system was in a pretty good place. He spent a lot of time thinking about the level of autonomy and the level of togetherness and he thought that UMass was not far off from what may be the optimal place. He thought that we wanted to have the place where the campuses made a difference in interaction with students, their research, faculty, and their programs. He did not think that UMass Boston should look like UMass Amherst. They were really different and that was not a bad thing. But, there were other areas where we could work together. When it came time to pass that budget, it sure was great to be able to call on a few senators who had some really heavy lifting power who were willing to do the lift for us as long as we were unified. That had been a strength for us and it had helped us get through this and get back. A few years ago, we had five payroll systems and none of them worked very well. Today, we have one payroll system. We have managed to make that work. We used to have five student information systems; we now have two. Amherst has one and then the other campuses have one. No campus was made distinctive by how well they do payroll unless they do it so badly that they become famous for that. What we do is focus the autonomy in the areas that really make a difference. We have an opportunity, because we are young, to define this system in the way we can make it best for all of us. It comes back to the fact that this is the flagship campus. It has 50% of the budget. It has almost 50% of the students. It has huge research programs. The flagship was where we have located our big athletic programs, with one historical exception at Lowell of a Division I hockey team. We also have a Division I hockey team here. He thought that we had an opportunity, if we work together on this, to make this work to our advantage and make them all stronger because of it.

B. BYLAW CHANGES (*Second Reading*) (*Report previously distributed*)

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-023A with Motion No. 24-06.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-023A. 24-06

(Inasmuch as this is a change to the Senate Bylaws, this is the second of three readings of this motion. It will be read again at the 653rd meeting. The motion may be debated and amended at all three meetings.)

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Changes to the Existing B.A. Degree in Theater, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-029 with Motion No. 30-06.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes to the Requirements for the B.A. Degree in Theater, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-029. 30-06

The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Guidelines for Cross-Listing Courses, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-030 with Motion No. 31-06.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Guidelines for Cross-Listing Courses, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-030. 31-06

The motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Student Affairs and University Life Council concerning An Administrative Requirement for Alcohol Education, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-031A with Motion No. 32-06.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate endorse the administration's plan to require incoming first-year students to complete the 75-minute online course called MyStudentBodyAlcohol.com, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-031A. 32-06

Senator Roland Chilton stated that the Student Affairs and University Life Council was asked to review and seek Faculty Senate endorsement of an online short course providing alcohol education for incoming students. This was part of a comprehensive approach to reach subpopulations of students regarded as high risk for problem-drinking behaviors. It was also designed to help students who drink little or nothing. The Council thought that the Vice Chancellor's confidence in the program was justified because of the controlled clinical trials that have been used to evaluate it. Therefore, the Student Affairs and University Life Council recommends that the Faculty Senate endorse this effort to allow University of Massachusetts Amherst students to obtain personalized alcohol information in a confidential way.

Senator Conner asked whether this pertained to graduate students.

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson stated that he assumed it was for undergraduate first-year students.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May stated that, at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate, Robert Francis and James Cahill will present an annual report on building facilities activities.

The 652nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:41 p.m. on April 13, 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