

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 661st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on April 19, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. SPECIAL REPORT

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning The Mass Killings at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on April 16, 2007.

“The senseless tragic events at Virginia Tech have shaken and saddened all of us at UMass-Amherst. We share their sorrow and sense of loss and offer our condolences to the faculty, students, staff and alumni of Virginia Tech and to their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Virginia Tech community as they struggle to cope with this horrible tragedy.

We encourage our community, especially those with connections to the Virginia Tech community, to contact the many individuals and offices at the university and offer their help to the families and friends of the victims of this unthinkable tragedy.

Events like these remind us how precious life is and how important it is that we redouble our efforts to prevent such senseless tragedies in the future.”

The report was received. A moment of silence was observed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Provost Charlena Seymour stated that she met with the International Studies Council (ISC) and Vice President Marcie Williams from the System Office. They talked about the activities that are going on, not only within the Council itself, but overall international activities on this campus and at the system level. For the most part, the common elements between our campus and the system involved relationships and collaborations with China and South Africa. Those are the most extensive relationships that we have now, in terms of research, teaching, and student enrichment activities. It appears that most of these activities are longlasting and started out with personal relationships between individuals from the different countries, and have developed into major, widespread types of research collaborations. It was a lively and effective discussion, and we all went away thinking of the things that we could do with regard to International Programs. One of the things that was brought to her attention was that the presence of the International Programs Office and its activities need to be highlighted more by the campus. She went through the catalog and did not find much information about what a student might do if he or she were an international student on campus. That needed to be fixed. It is also helpful for our domestic students to know what type of services we offer for international students when they come to campus, because they too might be international students elsewhere. When students do go abroad, they are often asked what is done on their home campuses for international students. Besides the web site, the catalog should be another source of information. We encouraged the ISC to become more engaged with other related Councils, particularly in relation to the sharing of resources. The Provost’s Office suggested that the ISC align itself with the Research Council, as well as the Graduate Council, and any other Councils that they might work with well.

The Celebration of Teaching dinner was held, and three additional Distinguished Teachers on campus were announced. Guy Blaylock from Physics, Dennis Goeckel from Engineering, and Barry Braun from Kinesiology were recognized. We were all very pleased about recognizing them at this splendid affair. This is something that is very important to the campus and their names will be in the Hall of Fame for Teaching which is in the Campus Center.

Also, the searches for three new Deans are moving along quite effectively. Candidates are coming and going, and all the searches are in process. No recommendations have been received yet. She met a lot of people and they are all very good. We have three very strong pools and she encouraged people to go and attend as many of these meetings with the candidates as possible. These individuals do not only speak on behalf of their schools and colleges, but they also represent the University, and it is important to feel comfortable with whoever is selected.

In other news, the Joint Task Force on Online Learning has been formed. Provost Seymour has not yet received their report, but they are working very hard on it. She is looking for that report soon, because there are initiatives that we would like to start on behalf of the faculty as soon as possible, and to develop not only guiding principles for online education for this campus, but to try to get faculty involved in online education in a calibrated way.

On an upswing, she talked about faculty searches that are in process on campus. We have authorized 86 searches. Of those 86 that have been authorized, 7 have failed and 79 are in various stages of approval. Of those 79, 40 offers have been made; we have authorized offers and are negotiating with 17. There are 15 visits in progress, and there are 7 in progress at different levels of deliberation. It looks very good. The demographic profile is very strong and encouraging. She thanked the search committees that had spent a great deal of time in selecting people. There is a splendid pool. These are very talented, young, and energetic faculty who come here because of the reputations of their colleagues and the department. They come here because of the good students that we have and the community at large. We have done a very good job of bringing people to campus, and, for the most part, we have gotten our first or second choice.

Robert Francis, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Campus Planning, stated that the Governor has signed into law an Immediate Needs Bond Bill. The Bond Bill includes \$150 million that will pass through the Division of Capital Asset Management. \$20 million is targeted for the University system, and of that \$20 million, about \$9.5 million will come to this campus. There are always several stages involved getting the money converted to cash, and we are compiling a list of projects right now to submit to the system office for the approval steps.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary Ernest May stated that the Faculty Senate had planned for Stephen Tocco, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, to be here at this meeting. He was unable to fulfill that commitment, so he has been rescheduled for 1:30 p.m. on May 3 in 102 Thompson Hall. He will be speaking at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate on that date. Chair Tocco has an impressive background. He was Secretary for Economic Development of the Commonwealth in the early 1990s. He commissioned and authored an economic plan for the state called "Choosing to Compete." His job now is the president of ML Strategies, the lobbying division of the largest law firm in the state, Mintz Levin. Chair Tocco has crafted a message in support of higher education which is quite powerful. He simply says that the knowledge economy is the only comparative advantage that Massachusetts has. The demographics say that White, middle- and upper-class people are outmigrating from the state and the immigration is in lower socioeconomic groups and immigrant populations. The future of the state of Massachusetts depends on the public higher education system, not the private. It is a powerful message, but, when it comes down to the budget, we compete with many other priorities. He is going to emphasize the capital budget and financial aid, which should relieve our operating budget if it all works. Secretary May hoped that people will come to listen to Chair Tocco. He is a powerful person in the state government, and we need him on our side. His daughter was a student at the University in the recent past, and chose this campus among many possibilities. He definitely has a good relationship with the campus.

Secretary May briefly discussed online issues. He is not an online teacher himself, but he serves on three committees related to online education: the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning, the Joint Task Force on Online Learning, and now the UMass Online Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. There is a lot of discussion about very important issues going on here and it is not very public. Progress has been made, and some things are still outstanding. There will be reports from all of these groups, but it seems that some of the big issues should be discussed by larger groups than the 15 or 20 people who may be in the room at any of these meetings. This will affect 1,200 people when the reports come out. One thing that we have already done is adopt a set of classifications in SPIRE for all of our courses, based on the degree of online content, ranging from In Person, through three degrees of Blended, to pure Online. This system was developed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning and approved by the Senate. It is policy and all courses on SPIRE are now categorized this way, so that students know what they are getting into when they enroll in a course.

What we currently have in our repertoire of online courses are mostly program-specific courses located in Continuing and Professional Education. Some of these are degree programs, and some are certificate programs. A very small percent of the total courses offered by the campus each semester are currently online or blended. The penetration is not very great, but it is also worthy to note that less than 50% of our current classrooms have the capacity to plug in a laptop and do a PowerPoint presentation. That may be one reason why we do not have more technologically-assisted instruction going on. It is getting better, and

will get even better in the future. There seems to be a feeling that faculty and students want to move to a more blended learning environment. Educated guesses are that online instruction is more expensive per enrollment than face-to-face, and as you ramp up from the 10,000 enrollments we have currently in CPE per semester to 125,000 enrollments that the campus provides its undergraduates per semester, even a small increment might turn into very large amounts of money if it were scaled up. Once you start considering the nature of what we are doing in CPE, which is where this is occurring, there are a number of dimensions to this problem. There is the issue of mission-driven versus profit-driven, institution-wide versus program-specific, the General Operating Funds -funded versus CPE-funded, the degree-student versus the non-degree student, the traditional student versus non-traditional student, and the residential versus the non-residential. He is substituting GOF for state-funded, because the campus is not state-funded anymore. It is funded through mostly student fees. Individual situations present a mix and match of these different things, but, typically, the more traditional, residentially-based academics are under the Provost, and the other programs and courses are under CPE. There is an impetus to eliminate distinctions among students relative to status and to consider all students UMass Amherst students. In other words, residential or non-residential, traditional versus non-traditional, degree versus non-degree, they are all UMass Amherst students. This could be made transparent to the student, although it would take some financial machinations behind the scenes to bring this about. Institution-wide versus program-specific is a real challenge, because the current business model is profit-driven, which means that programs make their proposals to CPE and, if they work, then they work through that financial model. The mission-driven side of the institution, educating the sons and daughters of Massachusetts in a high-quality way and at a reasonable price, is normally done through the GOF-funded part of the institution. Where we get into some potentially conflicting situations is where, using Nursing as an example, they are serving their core constituency, the mission-drive part, through a pure online format. Pure online is supposed to be profit-driven, and it is a conflicting concept. We have reached a point where the current business model is being challenged or even breaking down.

Faculty selection, course development, advising, admission, and the library are part of the core enterprise. CPE does its own registration for non-traditional students or for its own programs. The faculty support and training mostly takes place right now in CPE. UMass Online provides the platform and some advertising. We have three things involved there.

A number of factors will lead toward the demand for much more blended learning on campus in the core educational enterprise. Not only do students and faculty want to go there, but we will arrive at a place where we will not have enough classroom space to meet the demand. It will be advantageous to do some expansion into virtual space. A blended course that currently meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:10 a.m. could meet Tuesday at 10:10 a.m. and the rest of the work could be done online, a 50/50 split. That would free up the Thursday 10:10 a.m. hour for that same auditorium to be used for another class that is in the same kind of format. Also, students want to go in this direction. This means that some kind of new business model will need to be developed that has not been developed yet. The number of enrollments is less than 10% of the total academic enterprise. Right now, it is a small percentage of the total which is being offered using the support of online technology that will be needed. In the future, a great deal will be needed. The question is where to find these resources, and then, if the resources are found, another interesting question is whether to locate them: centrally or in a distributed fashion. It has been suggested that the Center for Teaching would be a good place to locate these resources, and that is probably true, but if we consider the magnitude of this issue, the Center for Teaching is not big enough to hold the whole thing. Maybe we would need to go to a more distributed model, similar to the way Advancement works, with some central people and Major Gift Officers located in each school and college. The technology people might have a similar type of combination structure, where there would be central people in Whitmore, but some would be located in schools, colleges, or the larger departments that do a lot of blended or online teaching. These are ideas in progress in the different forms that he mentioned. There will be a report from the Joint Task Force on Online Learning on or before June 15, which is the date in the charge. The chair, Professor Ted Djaferis from Engineering, is doing a good job of keeping the committee on track.

3. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Senator Marilyn Billings stated that she and Secretary May have also been meeting with senators from the various districts to talk about other topics of conversation that we can bring before the larger group. If you are a senator and you have not been invited to come to one of these lunches, please contact Secretary May or Senator Billings so that they can get comments and feedback.

C. BYLAW CHANGES (*Second Reading*)

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 07-026A.
25-07

Secretary May stated that the first motion to amend is concerning the Status of Minorities Council. The Council wishes to change its name to the Status of Diversity Council in Section 12 and all other areas of the Faculty Senate Bylaws where that title appears.

The motion to amend was seconded and approved.

Secretary May stated that the second motion is for the Graduate Council to change its membership in Section B, from “One Faculty each from Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, chosen by whatever procedure each college shall deem appropriate,” to “One representative from Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, or Smith Colleges, chosen from among or designated by Five Colleges Incorporated.”

Senator Mokhtar Atallah asked what the rationale was for this change.

Secretary May replied that they had never seen anyone from the colleges attend the Graduate Council meetings, and the Council would rather have one person who has been selected by Lorna Peterson at Five Colleges Incorporated, who knows that person will come to represent the interests of the four colleges, rather than having five slots that are never filled.

Senator Brian Ogilvie stated that he did not think it was grammatically correct to say “chosen from among or designated by Five Colleges Incorporated.” It is not clear what that would mean, or whether that person would have to be from Five Colleges Incorporated itself.

Secretary May stated that it should read “one representative from Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, or Smith Colleges, designated by Five Colleges Incorporated.”

The motion to amend was seconded and adopted.

Secretary May stated that the Campus Physical Planning Committee has a slot for a position which no longer exists among its membership, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services. They would substitute for that person the Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Campus Planning as an ex-officio member of the Campus Physical Planning Committee.

The motion to amend was seconded and adopted.

Secretary May stated that they would like to add to the membership of the Campus Physical Planning Committee. The motion is to add “two graduate or undergraduate students appointed by the Chair of the Campus Physical Planning Committee, with a concurrence by the Rules Committee.”

The motion was seconded and adopted.

Secretary May stated that the Program and Budget Council wants to enlarge its membership from ten faculty to thirteen. Under 5.9.2, where the membership is described, it currently says “ten Faculty Members or Librarians selected at large.” The proposal is to change it to “thirteen Faculty Members or Librarians selected at large.” The rationale is simply to have a good number of faculty there. We have had cases where people go on leave and do not get replaced or resign from the Council, and so it is an opportunity to have better attendance.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

(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 662nd meeting. The motion may be debated and amended at all three meetings.)

D. NEW COURSES

There is no report associated with the following motion.

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
CE-ENGIN 411	“Traffic Engineering”	3
NURSING 418	“Nursing Process: Families”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CE-ENGIN 411 and NURSING 418, as recommended by the
34-07 Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Senator Steven Brewer, Representative from the Massachusetts Society of Professors moved:

Whereas the Board of Trustees and the UMass President have encouraged students to participate in civic engagements and advocacy;

Whereas the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM) has organized a Lobby Day on April 25, 2007;

Whereas the Board of Trustees has encouraged the University system to make all suitable allowances for participation in such activities;

Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Massachusetts calls on faculty to encourage students to participate in the PHENOM Lobby Day and to make reasonable accommodations regarding class work, deadlines, and attendance for students who participate.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 661st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:08 p.m. on April 19, 2007.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate