

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 667th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on November 15, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

- A. ADDRESS BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE BENJAMIN SWAN (D-SPRINGFIELD)
(QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO FOLLOW)
(Representative Swan was unable to attend this meeting.)
- B. PRESENTATION BY SALLY LINOWSKI, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES
“SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY: BASICS AT UMASS AMHERST”
(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(See attached)

An unidentified speaker stated that when he sees a sign that says two-thirds of the students have four or fewer drinks, he immediately concludes that one-third of the students drink five or more drinks.

Sally Linowski, Associate Director of University Health Services, stated social norming looks at the majority measure. This year, the numbers have dropped a little bit more. The reality is students, faculty, staff, and community members overestimate the amount of drinking that happens. One-third of students are having five or more drinks. Those are the folks we want to outreach to through some of our individual interventions. Also, the healthy majority – that two-thirds that want more policy enforcement, that want stricter sanctions – their quality of life is being impacted.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate. A formal session of the legislature was called today, so Ben Swan had to cancel at the last minute. We hope we get him here again. He graduated from this campus with a Master’s degree, and he always comes to our events and is a fine supporter of the campus. I also served on the Diversity Commission with him.

I just wanted to say a couple of things about a presentation we are putting together. Basically, we are saying, since the Readiness Commission is going to be here on November 29, we are getting ready to provide input into the subgroup which is looking at UMass and the other publics. One thing we can ask, since it is about 17 years since the UMass system was put together: how well has this campus fared under the governance of this “system” which emerged after the Saxon Report?

We prepared a few slides which present the story. The first one has to do with federal research compared to our closest peers, UConn and UNH. You will see that since 2000 we have gotten better, but you will also see that UNH has gotten a lot better, and that UConn has moved up quite fast on us. There is a special circumstance at the University of New Hampshire which has to do with the fact that the Senator from New Hampshire, Judd Gregg, was the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee during this period of time. That might have had something to do with the extraordinary increase. On the other hand, that same position is now held by Ted Kennedy.

The next slide also talks about research, but it is about the percentage of increase. As far as the percentage of increase is concerned, we are improving, but the competition is improving at a much faster rate.

One reason for this has to do with our facilities and the deferred maintenance, where we are truly in a class by ourselves. This is a slide which you have seen before, but this is something which is not the campus’ jurisdiction, really. This has to do with governance, and undoubtedly it had something to do with the Big Dig that was going on in Boston and absorbing all of the state dollars that were available for facilities and construction. For whatever reason, and it is not our fault, the campus was tremendously neglected.

Again, the capital divided by the number of students. You can see what UConn 2000 has done for UConn, but even UNH has been doing more than twice what we have been doing.

Then there is the slide which you have seen about UMass faculty numbers since 1990, when the system was put together. You can see that the tenure-track faculty has had a notable decrease, and the tenure-track faculty is, of course, the faculty that does the research and upon whom the reputation of the school depends. Under the governance of this Board of Trustees, it declined significantly. Enrollment, on the other hand, has increased somewhat.

Student charges have gone up. This is the graph of the most recent years. The figures going all the way back to 1990 show that we have experienced an overall average annual increase of 6.5 percent. But, you can see there are tremendous spikes at certain times. In 2004, it was a 35 percent increase. It is something that they have tried to smooth out now recently by saying, "We are not going to have the decreases. We are not going to have the huge spikes. But we are going to have a certain amount of predictable increase around the level of inflation." That is a very brief view of how we have done under the system. It is not a tremendously positive story.

Just another brief update on centralization – I do not believe that this centralization push is over. There are two issues out there currently. One has to do with the fundraising, and eventually the removal of the alumni and donor database from this campus to the President's Office. That, as I understand it, is still being pushed by the President's Office. My position is that these alumni belong to the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. They do not belong to the President's Office.

Another issue which has come back is General Education. I quote from a document called, "UMass Online: Strategic Priorities AY08," page 2. Under 2, the second bullet, it says: "work with key Continuing Education academic staff on campuses to explore sharing General Education courses across campuses, potentially building collaborative degree completion programs." Now the issue there has to do with system curricula, and the faculty has primary responsibility for the curriculum. If they are going to have system-wide General Education courses or any other system-wide curricula, they need to have a system senate. I believe that we are going to have a discussion with the President about that.

2. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Stephen Gencarella, Vice President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, stated that MSP is working with the Rules Committee to prepare for the Governor's Readiness Project. They are beginning to educate their members and have encouraged them to turn out at the November 29 meeting.

MSP met with student leaders in preparation for the strike of today and tomorrow, and the MSP Board voted to encourage – not require – faculty to sign the no-retaliation pledge.

PHENOM, associated with MSP, held a higher education summit at Framingham State on October 26. They have prepared an affordability crisis publication that is available to anyone who would like to see that.

Finally, MSP is beginning its contract preparations. It is sending representatives to, hopefully, all departments on campus, to talk to them about the past contract and to inquire about needs to address in the next contract. Several committees have begun meeting with the administration in preparation for the next contract, including those concerned with online education, senior lecturer implementation, family issues, computer replacement, phased retirement, sabbatical, and liabilities when on excursions with students. There will be a retreat on November 30 for all MSP and then all other unions in the state in order to organize together for the next series of contracts.

D. QUESTION PERIOD

Senator Steven Brewer stated the representatives of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) came to an MSP meeting and discussed the issues that were going to form the basis of the general student strike on campus. According to Senator Brewer, of the four issues that they brought forward, there was one issue that seemed a legitimate issue to address to the Faculty Senate: with respect to the diversity funding, is there anyone who can discuss whether diversity funding is being done in an accountable and transparent way and whether or not the NEGAP Project that the University has undertaken has changed where diversity students are located in the University?

Secretary May stated that would have to be answered by the Graduate School, but it was discussed yesterday at the Graduate Council meeting. Secretary May did not want to give definitive answers, but the Dean of the Graduate School, John Mullin, gave a pretty complete report on that. Of the \$800,000, in the Graduate School, \$600,000 was used to match the NEGAP outside grant, and that meant that students in other colleges were not able to receive that money. The other \$200,000 was spent in different ways, but basically the presumption of what Senator Brewer said is correct. If there is press here, hopefully, they will confirm this with Dean Mullin, who gave the report.

Senator Maurianne Adams stated she had a question regarding the movement of the alumni and donor databases. This may look like an administrative issue, but Senator Adams stated this is an issue of tremendous interest and importance for the faculty as well. The alums are people whom the faculty continue to stay in touch with. They may be funding particular programs or particular concentrations. Senator Adams wondered what is happening with this presumed physical movement of the database, and what would that mean in terms of long-term access to that database and the donors and the alumni who identify with this campus? She did not know who is in the position to answer this question, but she stated she would like to have it answered.

Secretary May stated that there are a lot of discussions going on about this. Many people on the campus administration think it is at least premature, and Secretary May knows others who are opposed to it. The issue goes on. Secretary May has written to President Wilson, and Stan Rosenberg has also been in touch with the President's Office, opposing this move, or at least asking a number of serious questions about why it would benefit anybody to do this. Secretary May has not yet received a response, but the history of it is this: the Trustees voted to do this on March 14 of last year. This is before the campus had any idea of the Vision for One University. In retrospect, it turns out to be another one of those types of actions which, when you add them all up are quite significant. It was presented like the platform for UMass Online, something that happens in the background. You do not really know where the server is located when you get on your computer. Things just happen. It was presented as a way to save money for the system. It would allow the smaller campuses to have a more sophisticated database, and it would not really hurt Amherst. All the real stuff would take place on the campuses. There would be no control for the Central System.

As it turns out, there is a huge debate going on about the Guidelines about how this is going to be controlled. It is not as benign as was originally presented. The removal of the database, at the very least, should be delayed until UMass Amherst has a new Chancellor onboard who will go along or not go along with this. Others are urging that this at least be delayed until we have a new Chancellor who will be the chief fundraiser for the campus, and that the campus not go ahead with this. Secretary May also believed this is a union issue because jobs are involved, and he believes that the Professional Staff Union is not at all happy about losing these jobs for the campus.

E. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Annual Report of the Graduate Council for Academic Year 2006-2007, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-007.

The report was received.

Linda Shea, Chair of the Graduate Council, stated they had a busy itinerary. There were at least 15 new courses proposed, four or five new programs, around \$275,000 of fellowship funding in the University for graduate students, and also about \$40,000 for travel funds. Those are the main money items.

Also, they appropriated \$100,000 for diversity recruiting to try to balance that \$600,000 which were needed to be matched for a million. Some of the controversy and the issue with the strike was that the students would have liked that money to go to students to fund, for instance, TA's, but that amount of money might have supported one student of diversity for a four-year period. Instead, the Council chose to use that money to accept proposals from seven or eight different departments on the south side of campus, as we call the non-science and math, to incorporate diversity recruiting as part of their mainstream recruiting efforts and make that a part of their permanent procedures for recruiting. The idea was to take a long-term focus to try to put plans together for recruiting as opposed to just one-time payment for a few students.

2. **Annual Report of the Research Library Council for Academic Year 2006-2007, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-008.**

The report was received.

Marilyn Billings, Member of the Research Library Council, stated she was representing Arthur Kinney and Joe Black, both of whom could not be here today. Senator Billings had a few comments from Senator Kinney: he wanted to let everybody know that the Council has been actively engaged in library and scholarly communication issues this year. Some motions have come before the Faculty Senate in that regard. This year, they are looking forward to discussions of expansions of the Learning Commons, concept in the form of a Teaching Commons and possibly a research Commons, and continuing conversations about digitization of library resources, books and journals.

3. **Annual Report of the University Writing Committee, AY 2006-2007, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-009.**

Stephen Gencarella, Chair of the University Writing Committee, stated this is the report for the University Writing Committee from 2006-2007. He thanked Anne Benz for her help, Haivan Hoang who was last year's Chair and is here to answer any questions, Genevieve Chandler who continued as the Junior Year Writing Program Director, and Donna LeCourt who was the Writing Director last year.

The Committee had a high turn around in membership but Chair Gencarella reported that the Writing Center has moved successfully from Bartlett Hall to the Library Commons. The Committee is sad to report that Donna LeCourt will be stepping down as the Writing Program Director, having served four years. The Committee is very happy to report that David Fleming, however, has begun his role as the Writing Program Director, and the Committee looks forward to working with him.

There were a series of workshops that were held throughout the year, organized in part by the Center for Teaching and the Writing Committee with the thanks of Matt Ouellet, and a celebration of writing that was very successful. The Committee hopes to include more and more departments throughout the year. The major thing to report from last year, however, is preparation for what the Committee's doing this year – the five-year review of the Junior Year Writing Program. It is a campus-wide review and will involve the Committee's work this year. Last year, much of the work was done in preparation to do the legwork. Chair Gencarella said he looked forward to reporting to the Faculty Senate on that in about a year from now.

E. NEW COURSES

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
CE-ENGIN 211	“The Art of Structural Engineering”	3
CE- ENGIN 410	“Public Transportation Systems”	3
LEGAL 260	“Law in the Historical Context”	3
LEGAL 375	“Slavery and the Law”	3
LEGAL 470	“Race, Gender and the Law”	3
SPANISH 475	“The Story of Romance Language”	3

MOVED: 05-08 That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CE-ENGIN 211 and 410, LEGAL 260, 375 and 470 and SPANISH 475, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters, Academic Priorities and Program and Budget Councils concerning Changes to the Undergraduate Major in Germanic Languages and Literatures to the Major in German and Scandinavian Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-010 with Motion No. 06-08.

MOVED: 06-08 That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes of the Germanic Languages and Literatures Major to the Major in German and Scandinavian Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-010.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the General Education Council concerning A Recommended General Education Designation for HISTORY 390J, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-011 with Motion No. 07-08.

MOVED: 07-08 That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education Designation for HISTORY 390 J, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-011.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Committee of Committees concerning Nominations to the Academic Honesty Board, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-012 with Motion No. 08-08.

MOVED: 08-08 That the Faculty Senate approve the Nominations to the Academic Honesty Board, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-012.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 66th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:58 p.m. on November 15, 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