

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 688th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on October 15, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ADDRESS BY JAMES V. STAROS
PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(See attached)

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Welcome back again. All our Councils and Committees are up and running and doing their important work to keep propelling the campus forward. Just an update on the progress of the General Education reform and the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Revision and Implementation (GERICO) that we voted in at the last meeting on September 17th. We needed a minimum of 40 course-conversion proposals. We received 150 proposals to move from three-credit to four-credit courses. This appears to have been a popular program so GERICO will certainly have its hands full in the next two weeks because I think they need to be reviewed in about two weeks.

C. COMMENTS BY NEAL ABRAHAM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIVE COLLEGES, INC.
(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(See attached)

D. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. Annual Report of the Academic Priorities Council for Academic Year 2008-2009, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-004.

The report was received.

Kathleen Debevec, Chair, Academic Priorities Council. The Academic Priorities Council met a dozen times this past year and its major initiative was to facilitate discussions among the campus community about the Chancellor's proposed reorganization program. The Council held a series of four meetings in the spring in which it invited Deans, Associate Deans, Department Heads/Chairs, Faculty and Staff to share their perspectives on the proposed restructuring and reorganization. The Council tried to summarize what was said in those meetings and the minutes of those meetings and the Council's recommendations based on the input we received is posted on the Faculty Senate web site as is our annual report. You are invited to spend time reviewing that.

Another big thing that the Council did throughout the year was to look at academic programs. Over the year, we looked at ten different academic programs and acted upon them. Nine of the ten proposals were supported. Members often go through a give-and-take process where they review a proposal, have questions, sometimes ask for clarification, revisions, and have speakers in sometimes to address questions. Over the year, the Council ended up supporting nine proposals. Three of them were in Computer Science. There was a revision for the Minor in Computer Science, a revision of the B.S. in Computer Science, and a proposal for a B.A. in Computer Science. There were four graduate certificates that were supported, one in Public History, one in Film Studies, a Certificate in African Diaspora Studies and a Social Justice Education Certificate in Teaching for Diversity. Also supported was a proposal for Multicultural Theater Practice which was a certificate program as well as the Center for the Study of African American Language which is also on our agenda this afternoon. One proposal the Council evaluated was to establish a combined Juris Doctor and Master of Science Labor Studies Program with Western New England College School of Law which was reviewed and, at this point, is still in transition. We asked for a revision of that proposal and some clarifications. That piece of business is still standing. That is the major work we did over the year.

2. 2008-2009 Annual Report of the International Studies Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-005.

The report was received.

Donal Carbaugh, Chair, International Studies Council. Very briefly, the Council meets every month. We do a variety of business including hosting delegations from all over the world. The Council has reviewed and approved several memoranda of understanding between this University and others, reviewed several specific programs from a variety of academic departments as well as reviewed specific courses that have an international dimension as part of them. Two issues that are on our agenda at the moment have to do with joint or dual degrees which involve our University or departments and other universities elsewhere, both of which are educating students and students are receiving degrees from both universities and programs. This Council is reviewing procedures for doing this with Dean Mullin and others trying to design a template for this University-wide. Our Council is also concerned with recruiting, admitting and retaining students from outside of the United States. Not only is it good for a variety of reasons to have students from outside of Massachusetts, obviously it is good to have students from elsewhere in the world on campus as well.

E. **BYLAW CHANGES**

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-003 with Motion No. 04-10. (*Report previously distributed.*)

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-003.
04-10

(Inasmuch as these are changes to the Senate's Bylaws, this is the second of three readings of this motion. It will be read again at the 689th regular meeting of the Faculty Senate. The motion may be debated and amended at all three meetings.)

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Program and Budget and Research Councils concerning the Establishment of a Center for the Study of African American Language, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-006 with Motion No. 05-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of a Center for the Study of African American Language, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-006.
05-10

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 688th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:03 p.m. on October 15, 2009. The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate