

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 689th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on November 12, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ADDRESS BY STEPHEN KULIK, STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND ASSISTANT VICE CHAIRMAN, HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Representative Stephen Kulik welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that he seemed to address the campus on a semi-annual basis and that this was his first visit during the current academic year. Representative Kulik emphasized that he always takes away valuable insights from these meetings and hoped to have time for comments and questions after his remarks.

Representative Kulik reminded the audience that it was approximately six months ago when he was last on campus during the middle of the budget process. The news was very grim and there were many uncertainties for how the Legislature would create the budget process for FY10. He explained that his last visit was right before the budget was taken up by the Senate and things were changing so fast that estimates for state revenues decreased dramatically in a matter of weeks. He said that he felt the situation has gotten a little better since then.

Representative Kulik provided the group with an update on the upcoming legislative session. He reported that the budget has framed all deliberations this year. He noted that there was an abrupt change in leadership shortly after the session began in January when newly-elected Speaker Salvatore DiMasi resigned and has since been indicted on federal corruption charges. In late January, a new speaker, Robert DeLeo, was elected who had previously been the Ways and Means Committee Chair.

Speaker Robert DeLeo's aggressive plan for his first six months was to pass an ethics bill and pension bill which were particularly timely due to stories in the press (particularly in the Boston area) about tremendous pensions. Speaker DeLeo also sought to fix faults in the system and financing of the MBTA during his first six months. Those were three large items he was interested in passing and the fourth was getting a balanced budget through the Legislature in time for the beginning of the fiscal year in July.

Shortly after Speaker DeLeo was elected, Representative Kulik explained that he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee. Last spring, Representative Kulik explained, the Commonwealth was facing a \$4 billion budget shortfall. The state had a significant amount of federal stimulus funds, \$1.6 billion, much of which was targeted to education (both to higher education and Pre-K-12). He explained that the state also used roughly \$2.2 billion of the state's rainy day funds in order to meet declining budget scenarios. The state also had significant budget reductions which he explained everyone is probably feeling. Local aid was also cut. The state also sought to increase revenues by expanding the rate and scope of the sales tax, including expanding it to include alcohol sales. This move was expected to bring in \$900 million. It has not met those projections yet as it only recently took effect. Representative Kulik stressed that some of these budget fixes utilized one-time revenues and some did not.

The Legislature ended the fiscal year on July 1st with a balanced budget and with some tough decisions. He said that everyone has held their breath that revenue growth would begin to happen, but instead the economy continued to slow over the summer and has not met the state's projections. He noted that collections in the first quarter of the fiscal year were down \$200 million. Because of this shortfall, the Governor was required to issue spending reductions and, two weeks ago, he announced 9C cuts in the amount of \$600 million. He also submitted further reductions which are under discussion in the Legislature. The \$600 million figure was arrived at after the administration, House and Senate sat down and looked at revenues coming in and Representative Kulik thinks it looks like a good figure. The state's Director of Finance thinks that this figure is right and that we will not need any further cuts in the current fiscal year. In October, we had the first increase in revenue so all are hoping we have reached the bottom of the barrel.

Representative Kulik stated that the only way we are going to get out of this recession is to grow jobs in Massachusetts. Investing as much as the state can in Pre-K through College is something the Legislature understands. He stressed the importance of educating residents of the Commonwealth and explained that, if the state is educating people who are leaving Massachusetts, then they are not paying taxes. He stated that we want them to stay. He said that this involves addressing many other costs as well such as controlling the cost of living, housing and energy. Creating more affordable housing will be important - the types of things the state tries to do in good times. He said that sustaining the good things the state is looking to do is hard with such little money. There is talk of a second federal stimulus bill but it is unlikely. Some also say that this recession might be over. He said he hopes that it is true.

The state is looking towards FY11 just as are the cities and towns. Because the state used its one-time stimulus money this year, in FY11, the state will have \$1 billion less to spend. Rainy day funds were also used and currently that fund is at a historic low. Currently, there is only \$500 million left in the fund. The Legislature feels we need to keep that rainy day fund and not go below its current levels pending true emergencies. Representative Kulik stated though that, if it is a tough winter, the state may need to dip into that fund for plowing roads. He cautioned, however, that the state's bond rating would suffer and our cost of borrowing would go up if we continued to spend out of that fund. He explained it is a catch-22. The budget is one of the big problems the Legislature is facing. Going into FY11, we anticipate further budget reductions. The executive agencies of the state are looking at consolidations, workforce reductions and program reevaluations. They hope revenues will continue to grow, but, at best, the growth will be modest. He stated the state must look at other revenues but that it is unlikely that the Legislature will approve a broad-based tax increase.

Representative Kulik stated that since he has been on campus today, he has been asked about casinos. There have been various proposals which have been defeated in the past in the Legislature. Things have changed a lot. There is a new Speaker who is very much a proponent of expanded gaming so the odds have increased that this might pass. The added pressure of the fiscal crisis has caused people to look at this again. Representative Kulik stated that he could not predict how this will turn out but can say the Legislature is on a course to look at this early in the legislative session (January-February). It might be a repeat of what the Governor has proposed. Financing for resort casinos like the Governor proposed is tough and the payout will be long since initial construction costs are high. The quick fix option would be to have slot machines at the race tracks around the state. Everything is on the table. He stressed that leaders must be very mindful of the state lottery because this is a major source of local aid. Otherwise, cities and towns will be very upset. There is a campaign in Palmer to build a casino there which brings up a host of issues from problem gambling to the affect on local businesses. Representative Kulik stated it would be a really challenging year and that he is happy to take any questions, comments or guidance the audience had for the road ahead.

Senator Richard Bogartz asked why gambling is thinkable but an income tax increase is out of the question?

Representative Kulik responded that he thought the Legislature and the Governor were very mindful of the voters vote to reduce the income tax rate. The last recession in 2002 froze the rate at 5.3%, but leaders still receive enormous pressure from their constituents to reduce it further. There seems to be a significant part of the public who is adamantly opposed to income tax increases. Fortunately, Representative Kulik stated, many of the audience were opposed to a bill which sought to eliminate the tax. It would have decreased state revenue by half. There is not support for increasing it in the future.

There are studies on making the state's tax more progressive without increasing income tax. We cannot have a graduated tax, the state is constitutionally opposed to that. There may be other ways to do that without changing the rate. He said he hoped that had answered Senator Bogartz' question. The votes are not there in the Legislature or the public support. The Legislature did raise the sales tax in the middle of the recession to 6.25%. It does place a burden on people, but also allows the state to provide funds for public services. Representative Kulik noted that there are currently several ballot proposal initiatives seeking signatures for various proposals which would appear on the ballot in 2010 which seek to reduce the income tax to various degrees.

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, stated that the constitution prohibits a progressive income tax. Does it prohibit piggybacking on the federal income tax?

Representative Kulik answered that he was not sure, but assumed if it did allow such piggybacking, it would have already been proposed.

Secretary May noted that it seemed as though construction has been grinding to a halt. The Governor said that he would be funding capital budget at the Commonwealth's universities since he would not be able to increase their budgets. Here on campus, there is an incredible need for an academic classroom building for which the state funding has recently been cut. Secretary May explained that his classroom building is the linchpin of the campus business plan to increase its size and that the campus needs to move forward with its construction. Construction projects create jobs. This is a high priority for the campus. It is a critical component that enables our campus to fulfill its mission.

Representative Kulik made a note of the importance of this project to the campus. He also noted that the delegation recently wrote a letter in support of the science building.

Secretary May stated that he had been at the University for thirty-two years. During that period, classroom buildings always seemed to get knocked off the list. He noted that academic classroom buildings had been knocked off the list three times.

Representative Kulik stated that he would look into the issue.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, provided an update on the University's grant funding numbers. He thanked and congratulated faculty on their grant funding figures which are 92% ahead of where the University was compared to last year at this time. Vice Chancellor Malone explained that a large amount of that increase is due to ARRA grants which have totaled \$39 million this year. He stated that faculty can find more information on the Office of Research and Engagement website.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Secretary May provided an update on the work of the Faculty Senate's Councils and Committees.

- Academic Matters Council is considering shortening the add/drop period by several days.
- Academic Priorities Council is looking at the monitorization of teaching proposals which has components of a Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) method. They are specifically looking at how these are applied at sister institutions, particularly the University of New Hampshire. The Council is also looking at the University's academic Program review process.
- General Education Council is looking at the Integrated Experience curriculum change from 3-4 credits and the addition of a senior-level requirement.
- Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Revision and Implementation (GERICO) is working on the approval of four-credit course proposals. Secretary May reported that in order to begin the program, forty proposals were needed. The Committee received a total of 180 proposals, the first of which has already been approved.
- International Studies Council is considering a proposal from the University of Massachusetts President's Office with China. This proposal regards the memorandum of understanding between the President's Office and a Chinese University (which only affects 2 students).
- Program and Budget Council is looking at the University's financial aid model and application process as it pertains to the University's enrollment management strategy and particularly how it affects the University's middle-income students. Secretary May stated that this was critically important.
- Research Library Council has been considering digital scholarship as it pertains to copyright issues and the dissemination of scholarship. The Council is also looking at master planning regarding the use of the Library building.
- Undergraduate Education Council is very concerned regarding the fate of the Academic Classroom Building. This is a critical piece in our plan for success –we need enough classrooms so that we have the capacity to take some of them off line so that they can be renovated. Secretary May told the group that there will be several proposals coming before the Faculty Senate this year regarding this issue.
- Admissions and Records Committee is engaged in the Provost's Office search for an Enrollment Manager.
- Campus Physical Planning Committee is concerned that funding was cut by the state for the proposed master planning process and the Academic Classroom Building. The master plan started with a budget of \$2 million but currently there is only \$200,000 available.
- Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Oversight (AHCSO) recently met with accreditation officials from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) during a visit for the campus' ten-year accreditation process.

4. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

W. Richards Adrion, Delegate to the Board of Trustees, reported that the Board of Trustees will meet on December 10th on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus. The Subcommittees begin meeting next week and right after Thanksgiving. He reported that the Board's business seems fairly routine except for the Southern New England School of Law meeting.

C. NEW COURSES

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
PHYSICS 118	“Energy and Society”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course PHYSICS 118, as recommended by the
06-10 Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
EDUC 672	“Teaching Math to Students with Disabilities”	3
NURSING 614	“Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning”	3
NURSING 619	“Advanced Pharmacology”	3
NURSING 701	“Healthcare Quality”	3
NURSING 703	“Pharmacotherapy Management”	3
NURSING 735	“Informatics for Nursing Practice”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses EDUC 672, NURSING 614, 619, 701, 703 and
07-10 735, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Changing the Name of Commonwealth College to Commonwealth Honors College, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-009 with Motion No. 08-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Name Change from Commonwealth College to
08-10 Commonwealth Honors College, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-009.

Rules Committee Chair John McCarthy explained that this change was requested by Commonwealth College because it is not obvious from its current name that Commonwealth College is an Honors College.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning Changes to the Department of Computer Science Requirements for its Combined MS and PhD Degree Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-010 with Motion No. 09-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes to the Department of Computer Science
09-10 Requirements for its Combined MS and PhD Degree Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-010.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning Revisions to the Public Health Practice Program in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-011 with Motion No. 10-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revisions to the Public Health Practice Program
10-10 in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-011.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

4. **Special Report of the General Education Council concerning A Recommended General Education Designation for PHYSICS 118, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-012 with Motion No. 11-10.**

MOVED: 11-10 That the Faculty Senate approve the Recommended General Education Designation for PHYSICS 118, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-012.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

E. ANNUAL REPORTS

1. **Annual Report of the University Relations and Advancement Council, Academic Year 2008-2009, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-007.**

The report was received.

2. **2008-2009 Annual Report of the Program and Budget Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-008.**

The report was received.

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

(This motion was read at the 687th and 688th regular meetings of the Faculty Senate on September 17, 2009 and October 15, 2009, respectively. The final vote was taken at this meeting.)

Secretary May offered an amendment to the motion, based on technical changes, which changes the name of Commonwealth College and adds the Executive Director of the Five Colleges, Inc.

The motion to amend was seconded and adopted.

The 689th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on November 12, 2009.

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