

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 695th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on May 13, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Marilyn Billings, Acting Secretary, asked to suspend the rules to give a special motion of thanks to Presiding Officer Robert Wilson.

SPECIAL MOTION OF THANKS TO PRESIDING OFFICER ROBERT WILSON

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate express sincere appreciation to Robert Wilson for his dedicated service to the Faculty Senate and Rules Committee, serving as a Senator from 1998 to 2010, as a member of the Rules Committee from 2000 to 2002 and then from 2004 to 2010 as the Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate.

The special motion was adopted by acclamation.

5. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Randall Phillis, President, Massachusetts Society of Professors, reviewed the actions of the MSP over the past year and thoughts about the coming year. The MSP has been deeply involved in a contract and higher ed funding campaign. The contracts were agreed to and submitted to the legislature last spring. They have languished in the House Ways and Means Committee and are still there. We have organized a funding campaign statewide with all of our higher ed colleagues to meet with key legislators, both in the House and the Senate to try to move the contracts forward for funding, even as we have been asked for rescissions around those contracts and givebacks. It is a very challenging fiscal environment to try to get this done, but President Phillis wanted to encourage us, when we talk about funding for the University and funding for higher ed, to understand that funding for our meager contracts represents funding for higher education. They are one and the same and that when we fund the contracts, we fund higher education and that is a very consistent message that we are trying to communicate. As you may realize from looking at your checkbook, none of us have had a positive pay adjustment, except if you happen to have been promoted, since July 2007. There are about 8% fewer of us and about 13% more students on campus now. We have lost benefits. Our health insurance is rising. We are trying to push that battle forward and wish us good luck.

We are also engaged in a number of advocacy issues for our members which are most of you. We advocate around a healthy workplace environment. We advocate around promotion and tenure cases. We advocate for disputes that arise from time to time and, of late, because of the various mergers, we advocate around the impact of administrative change on our members' working lives. Though that impact can be potentially negative, we try to minimize the negative impact of administrative change on campus. My concern is that, as a result of that advocacy which is an appropriate role of the union, we are increasingly viewed as obstructionists. We are not. We are strong advocates for the University of Massachusetts. We work our tails off to help the University be the best possible place it can. To the extent that we are viewed as being in the way is unsettling and disappointing. In this past year, the MSP has filed more formal grievances against the administration than in its entire history. We are somehow being viewed as troublemakers. We are not. We advocate for our members when they ask. When they don't ask, we let people work their deals out as they may. One of the things President Phillis hears from administrators on campus is that ultimately we are responsible, meaning the administration is responsible for delivering the services for the University and he begged to differ. We are all responsible for delivering the services of the University. To the extent that we cooperate and collaborate in that delivery, we are better served. When it's viewed as somebody is responsible and the rest of us just do it, we are less well served and he encouraged everyone to strive for the proper collaborative environment where we work together as a group that has a common mission as opposed to an us and them pair that somehow views their differences as a problem.

Mari Castañeda, Member of the President's Search Committee and Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, stated that she will be serving on the President's Search Committee which is a Committee of 24 individuals. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 14 and, at that meeting, recruitment firms will be discussed along with the job description that we are going to be constructing in the next several weeks and then finalizing at that meeting. If anyone has any suggestions, Professor Castañeda asked them to contact her. She is very happy to be serving on this Committee.

B. QUESTION PERIOD (10-Minutes Limit)

Senator Steven Brewer mentioned that some faculty members went to the MTA Annual Meeting recently in Boston. The MTA is the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the parent union to which our union belongs, and Max Page has been elected to the MTA Executive Board. We can expect great things out of the MTA now that we have Max on there.

Senator W. Brian O'Connor stated that there were some unfortunate events at the Mullins Center earlier in April. The spring concert which is sponsored by the University went very well, but there were some events that he didn't think were totally sponsored by the University that seemed to go very badly. Senator O'Connor was there to pick up his granddaughter from a skating event and there were 10 year old kids there drunk. He stated he was exaggerating, but they were not college kids; they were high school kids. Is the management of the Mullins Center saying 'we just don't care who comes in here?' Who is going to take care of them? It is not a reflection on the University, but our favorite TV station, Channel 22, loves to knock the University and they made it sound as though they were all UMass students when it wasn't all UMass students at all. It was mostly high school kids. Senator O'Connor never understood how the Mullins Center was governed.

Joyce Hatch, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, responded from the point of view of the Mullins Center management which does report through her office. The Police also report to her so they were very involved in a lot of pre-planning for the event. Student Events report to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life. You could not get into that particular Mullins event unless you had a college I.D. From right up front, that was very clear. We went through the plans ahead of time and the Mullins Center agreed. It may not have been a UMass college I.D.; it could have been a Five-Colleges I.D. To get enough police officers, there is a formula to go by depending on how many people there are in an event. Vice Chancellor Hatch's impression was that a lot of things happened outside. There were students inside, but they came in drunk. There were about 11 or 13 of our students who we had to get town ambulances for to transport to the hospital. This doesn't sound terrific, but, at the same time, there was patrolling out and about in the parking lots and there were no weapons, no violent fights. This was not actually a bad night, aside from the intoxications.

C. ELECTION

PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Nominee: W. Brian O'Connor, Biology

There were no further nominations from the floor.

Senator O'Connor was elected by acclamation.

D. BYLAW CHANGES

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-028A with Motion No. 30-10.

(Copies of the amended Bylaw Changes were brought to this meeting.)

MOVED: 30-10 That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-028A.

(This motion was read at the 693rd and 694th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate on March 25, 2010 and May 6, 2010, respectively. The final vote was taken at this meeting.)

This motion was seconded and adopted.

E. NEW COURSES

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
ART 274	“Animation Fundamentals”	3
ART 384	“Computer Animation II”	3
CE-ENGIN 470	“Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Engineers”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses ART 274 and 384 and CE-ENGIN 470, as recommended
42-10 by the Academic Matters Council.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
ART 574	“Animation Fundamentals”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course ART 574, as recommended by the Academic Matters and
43-10 Graduate Councils.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
EDUC 608	“Classroom Management for Elementary and Early Childhood Educators”	3
EDUC 641	“Student Life Research: Assessing Undergraduates’ Experiences, Attitudes and Behaviors”	3
EDUC 643	“Master’s Seminar in Higher Education I”	3
EDUC 644	“Master’s Seminar in Higher Education II”	3
EDUC 675	“Master’s Integrative Seminar in Higher Education”	3
EDUC 680	“Doctoral Seminar in Higher Education I”	3
EDUC 682	“Doctoral Seminar in Higher Education II”	3
EDUC 717	“Research in Higher Education”	3
PUBP&ADM 633	“Political Economy of Public Policy”	3

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses EDUC 608, 641, 643, 644, 675, 680, 682 and 717 and
44-10 PUBP&ADM 633, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils concerning Guidelines for Accelerated Master’s Degree Options, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-043 with Motion No. 45-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Guidelines for Accelerated Master’s Degree Options, as presented
45-10 in Sen. Doc. No. 10-043.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning a Graduate Certificate in Native American Indian Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-044 with Motion No. 46-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Certificate in Native American Indian Studies, as presented in
46-10 Sen. Doc. No. 10-044.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning the Change in the Masters of Science Degree Requirements in the Department of Computer Science, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-045 with Motion No. 47-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Change in the Masters of Science Degree Requirements in the Department of Computer Science, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-045.
47-10

This motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Special Report of the Program and Budget and Research Councils concerning the Establishment of a Center for Youth Engagement, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-046 with Motion No. 48-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of a Center for Youth Engagement, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-046.
48-10

This motion was seconded and adopted.

5. Special Report of the Academic Priorities Council concerning the Merger of the Sociology and Labor Center Departments, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-047 with Motion No. 49-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Merger of the Sociology and Labor Center Departments, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-047.
49-10

This motion was seconded and adopted.

6. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning The Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Cultivating Cross-Cultural Awareness, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-048 with Motion No. 50-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Cultivating Cross-Cultural Awareness, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-048.
50-10

Senator Marta Calas asked what is meant by cross-cultural awareness. Senator Calas teaches international management and behavior in a global economy and the language that the student brings to the classroom usually is the idea of open mindedness. Cross-cultural awareness sounds like a very loaded term to her.

Senator Howard Peelle answered that he appreciated Senator Calas' question because he raised the same question. This motion and the establishment of this Committee are derived from discussions had by the International Studies Council and the discussions were all too brief. We were trying to move forward with the spirit of putting together a Committee and Senator Peelle expects that the first task the Committee will have is to establish a manageable number of specific objectives that can be accomplished and that includes clarifying the wording.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

7. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning The Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Health Insurance for International Students, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-049 with Motion No. 51-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Health Insurance for International Students, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-049.
51-10

This motion was seconded and adopted.

8. Special Report of the Academic Matters, Program and Budget and Undergraduate Education Councils concerning Commonwealth Honors College Curriculum Restructuring, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-050 with Motion No. 52-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Commonwealth Honors College Curriculum Restructuring, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-050.
52-10

President Phillis asked for a description of the nature of the changes that are proposed in this curriculum restructuring. He thought that this could have a significant impact across campus, that the faculty who are currently present in Commonwealth Honors College will most certainly be affected, that there will be redistribution of funds that are now currently designated for the Honors program as a result of this restructuring, and nearly all departments on campus have a financial plan that is related to the distribution of funds as it is currently aligned and this will change in his understanding of this document. He asked for someone to describe the impacts of this restructuring of Commonwealth Honors College.

Priscilla Clarkson, Dean of Commonwealth Honors College, explained that it is a separate issue from the restructuring plan. There is a plan underway to incentivize departments by using an RFP. If that was not implemented, this would still happen. Anything to do with financial arrangements has nothing to do with this proposal. This proposal has two items. The first part is to create a new Honors that is called General Education Honors. This is a way for students who take four General Education courses plus the integrative experience, get a B+ in the integrative experience and maintain a 3.4 GPA to be awarded General Education scholar. The second part is that there will be an application process to departmental honors or multi-discipline honors so the student must apply into the department or a multi-disciplinary honors program.

This motion was seconded and adopted.

The 695th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:04 p.m. on May 13, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Billings
Acting Secretary of the Faculty Senate