

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

3:30 P.M.

CAMPUS CENTER 101

ROBERT WILSON, PRESIDING OFFICER

ERNEST MAY, SECRETARY

**AGENDA
(REVISED 9/25/07)**

I.

Introduction of any Officers of the University, Members of the Board of Trustees, or representatives of State government who may be present.

II.

Report on developments since the last session of the General Faculty Meeting on June 21, 2007.

Secretary Ernest May, MSP President Max Page, members of the Executive Advisory Council.

Questions and discussion.

III.

GF 01-08 WHEREAS Chair Tocco, at the Board of Trustees meeting on September 19, 2007, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, announced that the Board of Trustees would hold a Retreat and private dinner on November 2-4, 2007, which, according to Chair Tocco, will result in a series of action steps for the Trustees,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty and Librarians of the University of Massachusetts Amherst express their lack of confidence in this closed process, specifically with respect to the failure of the President and Board of Trustees to consult faculty and other university constituencies with respect to critical matters of long-range planning, reorganization, and other specific actions, in apparent violation of the spirit and letter of AAUP documents, Trustee governance documents, and the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

IV.

GF 02-08 That the Faculty and Librarians of the University of Massachusetts Amherst reiterate their insistence that any and all reorganization plans strictly adhere to the spirit and letter of established governance documents of the Board of Trustees, particularly the Wellman Document, requiring the full participation of faculty and other constituencies in all such planning processes, and express lack of confidence in any and all such plans created or promulgated without such participation.

(OVER)

V.

GF 03-08 WHEREAS the proposal entitled “Achieving Liberal Outcomes,” which contains substantial curricular and unfunded budgetary implications, burdens and expenses for the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, was prepared by the President’s Office staff and other administrators with zero participation by faculty, thereby clearly violating faculty primary responsibility for the curriculum,

AND WHEREAS the President’s Office has refused to defer or withdraw this proposal,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty and Librarians of the University of Massachusetts Amherst express lack of confidence in this proposal as it stands and request the President’s Office to defer action until such time as an appropriate level of faculty participation from appropriate faculty curricular or General Education governance bodies from the affected campuses has been achieved.

VI.

GF 04-08 The Faculty and Librarians of the University of Massachusetts Amherst appreciate the Governor’s creation of a subcommittee in the Readiness Project that will focus on the issues currently facing the University of Massachusetts and Public Higher Education. In light of the complexity and urgency of the many challenges that specifically confront the University however, we are keenly disappointed that this subcommittee does not include any current students, faculty, or staff from any of the five UMass campuses. It is these constituencies who have the best understanding of the needs of our public university system.

Therefore, we call on the UMass and Public Higher Education Subcommittee to hold at least one open forum on each of the five UMass campuses over the coming months so that the Subcommittee hears from people who actually learn and work at the University.

VII.

GF 05-08 The Faculty and Librarians of the University of Massachusetts Amherst appreciate the Governor’s creation of a subcommittee on UMass and Public Higher Education in the Readiness Project and call upon it to: (1) dedicate itself to a democratic, transparent, and accountable process; (2) focus on outcomes that will preserve the unique values of each university in the UMass system, including Amherst as a Research I institution that competes on a national and international scale; (3) address the most pressing problems of the university system: lack of openness and accountability in governance; inconsistent and insufficient funding; decreasing affordability; rising barriers to accessibility; serious infrastructure issues; and the reduction of the research faculty that provide students with the experiences that define a high-quality research university education.

VIII.

GF 06-08 That the Faculty and Librarians of the University of Massachusetts Amherst will reconvene this General Faculty Meeting not later than December 20, 2007, or at any other date during the Academic Year 2007-2008, with the final date to be set by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate in consultation with the Rules Committee of the Faculty Senate and the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Society of Professors.