

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 4, 2008
FROM: Faculty Senate Office, University of Massachusetts Amherst
SUBJECT: March 13 Faculty Senate meeting
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ROLE OF FACULTY, OTHERS IN UPCOMING SELF-STUDY TO BE OUTLINED *UMass academic administration looking ahead to periodic accreditation process*

Preparations for an upcoming cycle of accreditation will be the subject of a March 13 special presentation to the university's Faculty Senate by Charlena Seymour, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs and Bryan Harvey, associate provost for academic planning and assessment. The three-part assessment process through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) assures ongoing quality at UMass and other educational institutions in the region.

The presentation will focus on how administrators, faculty, departments and programs can prepare for the initial phase of the effort, a guided self-study that will require at least a year of describing and measuring the university's achievements and locating and exploring ways to enhance the institution's pursuit of its mission. This self-study will lay the foundation for a peer-review, followed by an evaluation by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, a branch of NEASC.

The senate also will meet recent national scholarship winners, as part of a presentation by Susan Krauss Whitbourne, director of the Office of National Scholarship Advisement.

The meeting will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

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