

PRESS RELEASE

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FROM: Faculty Senate Office, University of Massachusetts Amherst

SUBJECT: Task force leader to address Faculty Senate about academic reorganization

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FACULTY SENATE TO HEAR REORGANIZATION TASK FORCE FEEDBACK

Academic restructuring to be examined

Jane Fountain, chair of the UMass Task Force on Reorganization, is scheduled to address the Faculty Senate about faculty and staff responses to proposals for academic reorganization at the University at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in Room 227 Herter Hall. She also will be presenting information about how other universities evaluate and make such changes.

The task force, which comprises chairs from some of the University's academic departments plus three at-large members, was established by Chancellor Robert C. Holub to closely examine the criteria for reorganizing the academic side of the campus. It is also charged with weighing pros and cons of several reorganization models under consideration.

"The economic crisis has abbreviated the time available for analysis and planning," Fountain said, "but the task force has worked hard to examine best practices nationally as well as to deliberate in detail about reorganization in light of the strategic needs of our campus and its future."

The task force established a blog Feb. 19 to engage the University community in the discussion <http://blogs.umass.edu/reorg>.

"This is the only opportunity for faculty and our campus community to publicly post proposals, suggestions and other thoughts regarding the reorganization," Fountain said.

A question and discussion period will follow her presentation.

The Senate's agenda also includes the annual report of the Graduate Council.

The University's principal administrative officers will offer updates about their areas of responsibility and will entertain questions from the audience.

The meeting is open to the public.

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