

**SPECIAL REPORT**

of the

**ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL**

concerning

**COURSES TAKEN BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS  
THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS (SYSTEM)  
EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Presented at the  
641<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
April 28, 2005

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## **Courses Taken By Undergraduate Students Through the University of Massachusetts (System) Exchange Program**

### **I. Background**

The President, in consultation with the Chancellors, has issued amended guidelines for implementing the University of Massachusetts Policy on Undergraduate Transfer and Visitor Exchange. The revisions were worked on at the suggestion of the campuses, including suggestions from the Director of Financial Aid at this campus. The resulting changes considerably clarify the conditions under which eligible matriculated undergraduate students at one UMass campus can attend one of the other campuses, full-time, for one or two semesters.

The amended guidelines affirm that "Course work taken as part of the Exchange Program will be transferred back to the home campus in accordance with home campus procedures for transfer credit. Students must follow the host campus procedures for requesting an official transcript to be sent to the home campus at the end of the Exchange semester. Only credit for course work taken will transfer; grades and quality points will not transfer. The home campus reserves the right to determine if credit earned on UMass Exchange will count towards residency requirements and/or any limitations on allowable transfer credit."

### **II. AMC Observations**

In light of the above, the Amherst campus is required to establish how credits earned by its students through this University of Massachusetts (System) exchange will be counted towards the Amherst campus residency requirement, taking in consideration that:

1. University of Massachusetts Amherst's limitations on allowable transfer credit are already well established.
2. University of Massachusetts Amherst is a regular and long-standing participant in the National Student Exchange Program. The credits earned through the National Student Exchange Program are awarded and count towards the residency requirements; however, the grades are not calculated into the GPA.

### **III. AMC Recommendations**

The AMC recommends that University of Massachusetts (System) exchange credits be treated symmetrically with those earned through the National Student Exchange Program. Credits are awarded and count towards the residency requirements, but the grades earned are not calculated into the GPA.

**MOVED:**      **That the Faculty Senate approve that credits earned through the University  
39-05            of Massachusetts (System) Exchange Program count towards University of  
Massachusetts Amherst's residency requirements, though the grades are not  
calculated into the GPA, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council  
in Sen. Doc. No. 05-034.**