INTERCAMPUS FACULTY COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
PRESIDENT’S OFFICE, 33rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ROBERT CARET

JULY 27, 2011

AGENDA

I. Introductions

II. Remarks by President Caret

Possible topics (suggested by members of the IFC), or whatever else is on the President’s mind:

- Current challenges to public higher ed (nationally)
- Specific strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in Massachusetts
- Initial priorities for the UMass President in 2011-12

DISCUSSION

III. Some specific topics suggested by members of the IFC:

(1) Role of the President’s Office in relation to State government and the campuses

(2) President Caret's administration at Towson had great success increasing retention and graduation rates, particularly for minority students. Now that he is in a new role, how does he see himself using this experience on behalf of the UMASS campuses? Could he comment about what he thinks were key elements of the Towson success?

(3) Allocation of state funds across campuses

(4) Plans to increase the autonomy of the university system from the state in line with the cuts in funding over the last two decades

(5) Community Engaged Scholarship – any emphasis there, additional resources? Is this a priority for UMASS?

(6) Early ideas about systems centralization – which systems are worth centralizing? Why? How will such centralization enhance or diminish campus autonomy?

IV. Questions from President Caret for the IFC

V. Further Questions and Open Discussion, for example:

A number of fine institutions—including UMass—are pursuing the objective of becoming AAU-like universities. Are there plausible alternatives to this objective?