

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RESEARCH COUNCIL
concerning
NAMING OF THE FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Presented at the 553rd

Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate

April 9, 1998

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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We are writing to report on our recent consideration of the suggestion that the Faculty Fellowships be named in honor of retired Vice Chancellor Samuel F. Conti.

This idea was suggested to the Research Council in late fall by several past members. It was the sense of the Council that the idea was meritorious, but that careful consideration of any such suggestion is necessary and appropriate. Accordingly, recommendations were solicited from former Chairs of the Research Council and winners of the Faculty Fellowships, as well as other referees suggested by those groups. The response was enthusiastically in favor of the idea with a very strong response, especially over the semester break. We are confident that many more statements of support can be obtained, but that these are not needed in view of the strength of those in hand. The letters are not included as part of this report, because we did not solicit permission of the authors, but a list of respondents and their contact information are attached.

Based on this information and related discussions, the Research Council voted unanimously in favor of the following motion at our regular meeting on February 6, 1998.

The Research Council approves and strongly endorses naming of the "Conti Faculty Fellowships" to recognize the leadership and dedication of Samuel F. Conti to graduate education and research at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The Council requests that Vice Chancellor F. W. Byron, Jr. pursue the implementation of this motion, effective for the Fellowships to be awarded in May 1998 and thereafter.

In support of the recommendation, we offer the following for your consideration.

1. The naming of these fellowships acknowledges their historical importance, S. F. Conti was the first Vice Chancellor for Research on this campus and was a driving force in moving the University toward an internationally recognized research institution.
2. S. F. Conti was instrumental in establishing the Faculty Fellowships, which have had an enormous positive impact on the faculty.
3. The Faculty Fellowships are already called the "Conti Fellowships" by many and this recommendation would formalize and recognize this fact.
4. Conti was equally effective in promoting Graduate Education through student participation; we also refer you to the attached biographical sketch for more details.
5. There appears to be no formal procedure for naming of the fellowships. We submit that this formal consideration by the Research Council should constitute the bulk of a due process, and that the Faculty Senate endorsement should complete a suitable review.

We are hopeful that arrangements can be made for the Awards Dinner in mid-May, 1998. Accordingly, we request consideration of this special report at the earliest opportunity.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the renaming of the Faculty Fellowships as the
33-98 "Samuel F. Conti Faculty Fellowships" in recognition of the leadership and dedication to graduate education and research at the Amherst campus shown by Samuel F. Conti, as recommended in Sen. Doc. No. 98-035.

Attachments: a. List of Respondents (2 pages)
b. Biographical Sketch of S. F. Conti (1 page)