PRESS RELEASE

DATE: Oct. 21, 2008
FROM: Faculty Senate Office, University of Massachusetts Amherst
SUBJECT: State Senator Stan Rosenberg to address Faculty Senate
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ROSENBERG TO DISCUSS STATE BUDGET CUTS WITH SENATE
Faculty leadership to consider changes to honorary degree process

State Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg (D-Amherst) is scheduled to talk about the commonwealth’s current financial state, including recent budget cuts by Gov. Deval Patrick, at the Oct. 30 meeting of the UMass Faculty Senate. A question and discussion period will follow.

The senate also will consider changes to the rules governing the conferring of honorary degrees by the University’s Amherst campus. As part of faculty governance responsibilities, under the proposed procedures, the Rules Committee of the Faculty Senate would be involved at each level of the process in order to ensure that “actions with respect to honorary degrees have broad community support,” according to the special report of the Rules Committee scheduled to be presented to the senate.

In other business, the senate will vote on whether to establish two entities: a Capital Asset Task Force to advise the University’s Capital Asset Board and the chancellor regarding the campus’s Capital Asset Plan, and an Ad Hoc Committee on Impact and Implications of Digital Scholarship.

Members also will consider annual reports from the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee, the Program and Budget Council, the Status of Diversity Council, and the University Writing Committee. The writing committee will present a second report reviewing the campus’s Junior Year Writing Program.

The University’s principal administrative officers also will offer news from their branches of management and will entertain questions from the audience.

The meeting is at 3:30 in Room 227 Herter Hall and is open to the public.

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