PRESS RELEASE

DATE: December 4, 2012
FROM: Faculty Senate Office, University of Massachusetts Amherst
SUBJECT: Upcoming Faculty Senate Meeting, December 11, 2012, 3:30 p.m., Herter Hall 227
CONTACT: Ernest May, Secretary - 413-545-3611

• “Update by the Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight”
  (Nancy Cohen, Bryan Harvey and Amilcar Shabazz, Co-Chairs)

• Interim Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football
  (Max Page and Nelson Lacey, Co-Chairs)

• Annual Report of the University Writing Committee, AY 2011-2012
  (Judith Holmes, Chair)

• Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Changes to the Undergraduate Major in English
  (Linda Shea and Cynthia Suopis, Co-Chairs)

• Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Changes to the Structure of Requirements in the
  Journalism Program,
  (Linda Shea and Cynthia Suopis, Co-Chairs)

• Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning an Increase in Credits for the M.S. in Sport Management
  (Linda Griffin, Chair)

• Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Program and Budget and Research Councils concerning the
  Establishment of a School of Computer Science at the University of Massachusetts Amherst
  (Richard Bogartz, Anurag Sharma and Caren Rotello, Chairs, respectively)

• Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning a Graduate
  Certificate in Higher Education Leadership
  (Richard Bogartz, Linda Griffin and Anurag Sharma, Chairs, respectively)

• Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning a Master in
  Business Administration (MBA) with a Focus in Entrepreneurship
  (Richard Bogartz, Linda Griffin and Anurag Sharma, Chairs, respectively)

• Special Report of the Academic Matters, Academic Priorities and Program and Budget Councils concerning a
  Five College Queer and Sexuality Studies Certificate
  (Linda Shea and Cynthia Suopis, Richard Bogartz and Anurag Sharma, Co-Chairs and Chairs, respectively)

• Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning Changes in
  the Core Requirements of the Engineering Management Degree Program
  (Richard Bogartz, Linda Griffin and Anurag Sharma, Chairs, respectively)
• Special Report of the Academic Priorities, Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning a Dual Degree – Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA)/Master of Regional Planning (MRP), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 13-027 with Motion No. 23-13.
  (Richard Bogartz, Linda Griffin and Anurag Sharma, Chairs, respectively)

• Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees
  (Arthur Kinney, Chair)

• Motion from Senators David Gross and Steven Brewer:

  WHEREAS changing the selection of a Learning Management System profoundly impacts the ability of Teaching faculty to accomplish their academic goals, and

  WHEREAS the Learning Management System Advisory Committee, in a short time and with minimal Teaching faculty input, has recommended that the University of Massachusetts Amherst switch from Moodle to Blackboard Learn, and

  WHEREAS a previous, year-long study, that included input from all of campus, had identified Moodle as the best fit for the campus,

  THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate (1) charge the Academic Priorities Council, the Academic Matters Council, and the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee to review the findings of the Learning Management System Advisory Committee and to present a report to the full Faculty Senate at its first spring semester meeting on January 31, 2013; and (2) recommend that the University of Massachusetts Amherst postpone action on switching Learning Management Systems until these reports have been received so that the impacts on teaching can be understood.

• Approval of new courses by the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils
  (Linda Shea, Cynthia Suopis and Linda Griffin, Co-Chairs and Chair, respectively)

[Remarks by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate and other administrative officers and leaders of other campus governance units (Questions)].