The 758th meeting of the Faculty Senate will start with Announcements and Questions, then work through a lengthy and significant agenda.

**Election of a Presiding Officer for the Year 2016-2017**

The substantive proceedings begin with the annual task of electing a Presiding Officer for next year. The Bylaws specify that this should be done at the last regular meeting in the spring. There is currently one nominee, but there will be an opportunity to make nominations from the floor. Newer Senators: please note that the Secretary presides over this portion of the meeting to avoid awkwardness.

**A Note on Voting Rights**

There have been occasional questions about who holds voting rights in the Faculty Senate, and with the prospect of several votes at this meeting it seems useful to remind Senators of the formal rules regarding voting privileges.

The Constitution of the Faculty Senate defines two groups of Senators, those selected from constituencies and those serving ex officio. The ex officio members include the Chancellor and Provost, Vice Chancellors, Deans, and the Secretary of the Senate. Ex officio members holding concurrent faculty appointments have voting rights; those not holding faculty appointments (such as the Vice Chancellors for Administration & Finance and FOR University Relations) do not have voting rights. While an administrative officer may have someone act as her or his spokesperson at a particular meeting, that spokesperson cannot vote on that administrative officer's behalf, just as an elected Senator may not delegate her or his voting rights to another person. This means Senators must be present to vote at a Senate meeting, a rule that avoids confusion.

**New Business: Thanks to Professor Judith Goodenough**

The Senate has a fine tradition of thanking long-serving members of the Senate or its Councils and Committees for their contributions to campus governance on the occasion of their retirement from the University. Compiling the service records of those we honor always provides moments for reflecting on the variety of ways faculty members contribute to campus governance.

**New Business: Motion from a Group of Senators**

A group of Senators has proposed that the Faculty Senate adopt a resolution regarding the future of UMass football. As decisions about athletic budgets come within administration primary responsibility, it is formulated as advice.
Chancellor Subbaswamy requested that I circulate a letter regarding football to all Senators. It contains some factual information best seen in written form ahead of time as well as a statement of his views. The letter is included as an Appendix to these Notes.

New Courses

Again, some of the courses recommended for Senate approval are coming from the Academic Matters Council and others from the Graduate Council, and we are following our usual practice of consolidating the course motions into a consent agenda. Any Senator may request that a particular course be separated out for individual discussion and consideration. It would be helpful if anyone desiring separate discussion of a particular course notifies the Senate Office before the meeting, but such requests can also be made from the floor when the consent agenda is announced.

New Business: Program Changes

We have a particularly long consent agenda of program proposals, ranging from small revisions of existing programs, to creation of entirely new programs, to establishment of a new academic department (Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering). Most of these changes will become effective with Faculty Senate approval; the proposals for new degree programs and new departments must receive system-level approval before becoming effective.

New Business: Membership on Faculty Senate Councils and Committees

Members of Councils and Committees serve three-year terms, but they are staggered not only by year but by semester, so the Nominating Committee offers a main report with recommendations at the last regular Senate meeting of every semester. Those whose nominations are approved today will begin their three-year terms in September.

Old Business: Resolution on an Inclusive Campus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

This is the revised version of a resolution offered at the April 7th meeting by the Rules Committee. Senators will recall that, after some highly engaged debate, consideration was suspended at that meeting to permit formulation of a more widely-acceptable statement. The current version was developed in consultations among members of the Rules Committee and other Senators led by Rules Committee chair Yemisi Jimoh, and is endorsed by the full Rules Committee.

MJ Peterson
Secretary

[The Appendix appears on the next page]
Dear Faculty Senator,

On the agenda for the April 28 Faculty Senate meeting is a resolution introduced by a group of senators calling on the university administration to either drop back from Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS, Division 1A) to Football Championship Subdivision (FCS, Division 1AA) or completely withdraw from intercollegiate football. The resolution cites financial, logistical, and concussion concerns as reasons. I would like to offer some clarifications and counterpoints for you to consider. Intercollegiate football is a complex matter with implications for student life, alumni cultivation, and public perception.

1. The decision to transition from FCS level to FBS level was made prior to my arrival. Many on campus were upset by the lack of broad consultation, and lack of clarity as to financial implications. During my four years here, I have spent considerable amount of my time and goodwill to bring complete transparency to the finances, and to put the financial commitments on a stable footing. The financial data for the past three years, which I have made public, show there are “no runaway costs,” and that less than a third of the football expenses can be reallocated for other purposes even if we completely got out of football. Please write to me at chancellor@umass.edu if you would like more information.

2. For most of the 135 years UMass has participated in intercollegiate football, it has been an integral part of campus life, involving students, the Marching Band, alumni, and community. While the transition to FBS has been rough because it entailed playing all “home games” at Gillette Stadium in the first two years, the move back to McGuirk Stadium has already started to bring back old traditions (including Homecoming) and increased attendance (we have more than met NCAA minimum). By 2017, there will be six home games played at McGuirk, making football weekends a joyous part of campus social life again.

3. Withdrawing our football program from the MAC conference has in no way affected the viability of our football program. Game schedules for the next three years have already been completed. Due to changes on the national scene, FCS (Division 1AA) membership is not a sound business model for UMass moving forward as the costs continue to rise but the revenues have a very real ceiling. Having Independent status has allowed UMass to sell its own television and media rights which will yield additional revenues and a 16-18 game package per year that will include six football games and 10-12 additional television production opportunities for our Olympic sports and women’s sports, opportunities not available hitherto. We continue to seek appropriate long-term conference affiliation for our football program.

4. We are very closely monitoring the public discussion of concussions in the national sporting landscape and intercollegiate athletics as a whole, including football. UMass has not seen an increase in concussive cases in football or any other sport at the University over the last five years. UMass uses NCAA best practices to maintain the highest level of care to guarantee student-athlete welfare. Most of the tragic outcomes of concussive traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) discussed in the media have been centered on the (professional) National Football League where the game is faster and more physically demanding, athletes play more games each year, and injuries are more frequent. No college has dropped football out of concern for CTE so far.

As always, I make decisions based on the best long-term interest of the campus. I have concluded that the best interest of the campus is served by maintaining the current course in football. I urge you to vote against the resolution.

Kumble Subbaswamy, Chancellor