SPECIAL REPORT

of the

RULES COMMITTEE

concerning

THE REPORT OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE ON STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT (JTFSO)
ON PHASE II PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Presented at the
739th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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I. Background

A Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight (JTFSO) was approved at the 719th meeting of the Faculty Senate in September, 2012, and charged to "make recommendations to the Chancellor with respect to a high-level Strategic Plan" (Sen. Doc. No. 13-004C). That group, together with numerous committees and subcommittees, produced a draft of a first phase document that was put before the campus for review and comment during the spring semester of 2013. In all, more than 130 members of the community contributed to this document. JTFSO members presented the draft to more than two dozen administrative and governance groups, and convened four campus-wide open forums. On May 9, 2013, the document was presented to the Faculty Senate, which voted unanimously to "specifically support the report's broad goals of establishing UMass/Amherst as a "destination of choice for the next generation of the Commonwealth's high school graduates" and as an "investment of choice in the Commonwealth's and nation's future" and to "recognize and applaud the fact that this was the first strategic planning process in the institution's history that was genuinely collaborative among faculty, students and administration." The Senate vote also "look[ed] forward to continued collaboration as the campus moves into Phase II of the planning process during academic year 2013/2014."

II. Summary of Phase II Planning

During the 2013-14 academic year JTFSO is built on the Phase I report in three ways:

1. **Implementation of Phase I Recommendations.** The Phase I report included many specific recommendations consistent with the broader planning goals that can be implemented immediately or relatively quickly. These were identified and assigned to the appropriate offices or individuals for follow-up. “Phase I Planning: Progress on Recommendations" is attached as Appendix A, and describes progress to date in all areas of the Phase I report.

2. **Follow-on Planning at the Campus Level.** The Phase I document identified several areas requiring additional planning and elaboration to flesh out campus priorities and directions. These follow-on plans carry forward the goals established in Phase I and help set the stage for unit planning in Phase III (see below). Four such plans were completed during 2013-14:
   - Defining the distinctive character of a UMass Amherst undergraduate education (attached as Appendix B).
   - Organizing outreach activities for maximum impact (attached as Appendix C).
   - Identifying a preliminary list of research foci at the intersection of campus strengths and state, regional and national priorities (attached as Appendix D).

3. **Unit Planning Framework.** With campus goals and directions clarified, JTFSO developed a framework for unit planning asking colleges, departments and administrative units to assess their progress with respect to those goals and articulate the contributions they plan to make going forward. A summary of this framework is attached as Appendix E.
III. Motion

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate receive the additional reports of the Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight on the subjects of "What Defines a UMass Amherst Undergraduate Education?," "Research and Graduate Education: Potential Areas of Research Focus," and "Outreach and Community Engagement" that elaborate on points in the Phase I report; that it receive the report summarizing the efforts undertaken under Phase II of the Strategic Planning Process; and that it endorse JTFSO's conclusion that together the Phase I and Phase II documents provide effective guidance for the unit planning to be undertaken in Phase III, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 14-040. The Faculty Senate recognizes and applauds the fact that the strategic planning process has continued to be marked by collaboration among faculty, students, staff and administration, and it looks forward to continued collaboration as the campus moves into Phase III of the planning process during academic year 2014-15.