

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**of the**  
**RULES COMMITTEE**  
**concerning**  
**A FACULTY AND LIBRARIAN**  
**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE**

**Presented at the**  
**603<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate**  
**March 14, 2002**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Roland Chilton, Chair**  
**Alexandrina Deschamps**  
**Frank Hugus**  
**Arthur Kinney**  
**Ernest May**  
**W. Brian O'Connor**  
**Ronald Story**  
**Michael Williams**  
**Robert Wilson**

**A Faculty and Librarian  
Declaration of Principle**

We, the faculty and librarians of the University of Massachusetts:

- Deeply, distressed at the budget cuts that have been inflicted on our campus and on the whole state higher-education system;
- Deeply distressed at the silence surrounding those cuts;
- Deeply distressed at the prospective loss for our students of access to a first-rate affordable higher education;
- Aware that others in the public sector are also suffering from cuts of various kinds,

Hereby declare, with due humility, but also with all due gravity:

- Our dedication to the idea of a university in its fullest and best sense;
- Our dedication to a first-rate higher education for our students;
- Our rededication to those objectives which brought us to this profession: the search for truth, meaning, creativity and understanding across the global reach of our disciplines;
- Our regret that a first-rate institution of higher education is being dismantled for reasons that have nothing to do with educational philosophy, commitment or vision.

Such a loss does irreparable harm to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its citizens. It does economic harm, in that an investment in the University is an investment in the active citizens of the Commonwealth. It harms the prestige of Massachusetts, in that we now rank fiftieth in the nation in supporting higher education. It harms the spirit of the state, in that students are now being told that if they cannot afford private education, then a second or third-class education is good enough for them.

Policies such as this are, or should be, intolerable. In the face of this, we will not tire in our beliefs that the University is a noble and vital institution that does significant work in and for society; that ours is a noble and vital profession; that our students deserve nothing less than the best that we can give them. In the midst of an onslaught against what we stand for, we will continue to uphold and be proud of those beliefs. Others may doubt, others may feel our time is past; we believe that the value of the University is timeless.

We call on the Governor, the legislature, the trustees of the University, the President of the University, and our own administrators, to declare similarly their belief in what we stand for, to represent us to the public, to mobilize opinion on behalf of our students, to reinforce the best visions of what the University is about.

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate endorse the Faculty and Librarian Declaration of  
21-02 Principle, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 02-026.