A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

   Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, stated there was a General Faculty Meeting last week, and the meeting was widely reported in the press. There was cooperation from the President’s Office and the Board of Trustees acceding to our request to make the retreat/meeting, scheduled for Nov. 5 and 6, open to the public. The General Education issue, which they had been considering, has been deferred pending further developments on the campus. It seems that a General Education Task Force is in the process of being formed on this campus which will be more effective than what the President’s Office had imagined. The new trustees have also been invited to visit the campus. One of the Trustees, Ed Collins from Springfield, should be here a little later this afternoon. Phil Johnston is scheduled to visit the campus on October 15.

2. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

   W. Brian O’ Connor, Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees, stated that, after the General Faculty meeting, several representatives from the Rules Committee and MSP went to the University Club for an informal discussion with Trustee Karam and Chancellor Cole. It was a productive and informational meeting that was reminiscent of the old days when Senators like himself were invited to talk informally over a glass of wine or beer and a nice meal. Over the last few years, Senators have not been able to do that, but when Jim Karam was the Chair, they were able to. Senator O’ Connor said he thought Trustee Karam appreciated it also.

3. The President of the Student Government Association

   Ruth Thompson, Student Trustee, introduced herself, stating she is a senior studying Social Thought and Political Economy, Women’s Studies with a minor in Education. She was elected Student Trustee last spring and is a voting member. She is also planning to sit on the Search Committee for the new Chancellor. She is looking forward to working with the different faculty members and other community members who are working on the search.

   She is also working with the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts and wanted to announce that Adolph Reed will speak about free higher education on October 17. It will be from 5-7 p.m. in the New Africa House.

   Student Trustee Thompson stated that her office is located in 420 Student Union. Her phone number is 413-545-1288.

C. PRESENTATION BY PAUL KOSTECKI, VICE PROVOST FOR RESEARCH

   “CLEAN ENERGY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH – POWERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY-WIDE CLEAN ENERGY WORKING GROUP” (See attached)

   Secretary May stated he remembered when Vice Provost Kostecki made this presentation to the Board of Trustees, and Trustee Lawton asked whether nuclear energy fell under the rubric of clean energy. Trustee Lawton seemed very convinced that it did. Secretary May wondered if there has been any follow-up to that conversation.

   Vice Provost Kostecki stated no, there had been no follow-up on that conversation. Trustee Lawton was familiar with a faculty member at Lowell that was, according to him, one of the top-level nuclear researchers in the country. They also have a reactor at Lowell, but when the University talked with Lowell, they said, “No, no. Don’t say that. We have a reactor because someone gave it to us from
somebody’s basement. We really do not have a program around that. We use it for environmental, health and safety training.” They did not believe they had an active program. Secondly, as someone in the audience mentioned, nuclear power may not be considered a clean energy source if you consider everything, not just what comes out of the stack, but the mining of the uranium, the getting rid of the low-level uranium waste. Derek Lovely made a great career out of getting money out of the Department of Education (DOE) to clean up the waste from nuclear plants.

Senator Marta Calas stated from the view of the consumer, she was curious if any work was being done in biodiesel.

Vice Provost Kostecki stated he believed there was a little bit of work being done on this campus in biodiesel and that it may be out of the polymer science group. Most of the work with biofuels on campus has to do with ethanol from cellulytic stocks, not corn. There is some work being done with woody material that would be left over from the paper industry which would be very relevant to what we do here. So, it is more in that area.

Senator Calas wondered to what extent global warming and presenting a face that has public relations interest is part of what they are doing.

Vice Provost Kostecki stated that this is doing basic applied research, and no one has talked to them about those issues. They are certainly real issues, and they could put in a few more circles on the matrix from our campus, and Ray Bradley’s work in the climate change area and the ethical and societal implications of that.

John Reiff, Director, Office of Community Service Learning at Commonwealth College, asked if any of the work being done on energy efficiency is being applied to the UMass system.

Vice Provost Kostecki stated he did not know whether the actual work they are doing in the research community was being translated directly to the campus, but he said that when the campus tells its energy story, it is a great story. In fact, Vice Provost Kostecki said he was not even aware of it because he tends to hang out with the same groups and listen to the same things. But, when Joyce Hatch started telling it, it actually peaked the interest of the Trustees. They actually want to include it on their energy research portal because UMass Amherst is the poster child of state agencies with regards to energy efficiency. No one knows that. The campus will come out looking very good when that story gets published.

If Joyce Hatch were here, she could tell you about the hundreds of thousands of gallons of water UMass Amherst is saving because of the new power plant and the efficiency ratings the campus is getting.

D. PRESENTATION BY BRYAN HARVEY, ASSOCIATE PROVOST, ACADEMIC PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

“UMA 250 PLAN – STATUS REPORT AND PROGRAM OUTLINE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008” (See attached)

Provost Charlena Seymour stated she would like to recognize the collaboration between the faculty and the administration in the development of the Amherst 250 Plan. She said she appreciates the support, the promotion and the continuous effort to help make certain the administration brings the best faculty possible to this campus. The new faculty that are here were either the number one or the number two choice. There is not much differentiation between number one and two. She said that sometimes the number two person could almost be the number one person. Eighty percent of the time, UMass Amherst is getting the best choice.

She also wanted to recognize the collaboration that begins with the faculty through the departments to the Dean to the Provost to the Chancellor. Everyone has been working well together. They have been working conscientiously, and they have been working together to produce the Amherst 250 Plan. But, in terms of this process, one person stands out. Bryan Harvey has tweaked, massaged, and improved, not only the process, but the narrative of the 250 Plan.

The Plan has a few differences but the process has remained constant in terms of seeking feedback at various levels. This year, they decided to make a few changes based on feedback that they received
from the faculty and other areas on campus. They are going to look at what they can do about improving General Education courses. One of the carrots that they have to bring about improving is bringing new faculty, bringing new blood into some of those particular courses. They are also going to think about when to teach those courses, how to teach those courses, and how to get more feedback from the campus in terms of what is happening with General Education. The office is going to have a Task Force on General Education that is going to be chaired by Deputy Provost John Cunningham.

There have been a few obstacles with regards to the Amherst 250 Plan, and some of those obstacles are internal, some of them are external. Many of them have been overcome. The important point is the administration will be bringing a hundred and fifty new faculty to the campus, and this is extraordinary. This will help the campus get involved in some of the new energy projects that Vice Provost Kostecki was talking about as well as take leadership in other types of teaching and research initiatives.

**Senator O’Connor** stated that other faculty are saying that right now, October 4, 2007, it is too late to advertise for people in certain disciplines, expecting to hire them for September 1, 2008. With that in mind, the University is still going forward. Senator O’Connor wondered what would happen if a department does not even show up on the NRC. What is that going to do if they have already been allocated a position?

**Associate Provost Harvey** stated that it is true that they will not know until after the holidays what the NRC results are; those positions are going to be carried over to another hiring cycle. In terms of the other ones, there is a lot in the pipeline already from the previous year. There are a few departments, a few disciplines that have early meetings, where it is important to be talking to folks. Many more occur in October, November, December, some even in January. Some Deans have put out ads or notices of anticipation with a contingent on funding statement. So, the Provost’s Office is trying to do everything they can to meet the cycles, but unfortunately they cannot allocate them until they know what the budget says. They cannot make the decisions until people have had a chance to look at the data.

**Senator O’Connor** asked whether the protection for everyone here is contingent on funding.

**Associate Provost Harvey** answered, yes. That is always true.

**Senator Roland Chilton** stated he was curious to what extent Associate Provost Harvey involved the faculty, other than by sending them short-term requests for proposals.

**Associate Provost Harvey** stated that, in terms of working with the faculty, the Senate – two or three years ago – established an Amherst 250 Task Force to help walk through this process. This is a presentation that they made there awhile ago, and they have been trying to work as closely as they can with the governance process.

In terms of how faculty in the department could get access to some of these resources, certainly on the performance side that is based entirely on the work that goes on in the departments. The benchmarking data that was collected last year was an entirely faculty-driven process. The NRC data are collected by someone else but reflect the effort of faculty here, and the campus decided what faculty were in what areas and so forth.

On the instructional side, that really is purely an effort to try to send some help into places that have the worst problems, but the Provost’s Office has not yet encountered a department that did not want to get those lines. So, there is not much being done in terms of making these decisions that is not completely a reflection on what is going on in the departments and recognition of faculty effort.

**Senator Christine King** asked if this means the Schools and Colleges should soon be hearing about possible allocations for this year. She stated that Associate Provost Harvey made a very salient point – that meetings are occurring next week. Mid-October through early December is national meeting time for most professional organizations, and so the School and Colleges are anxious about when they might hear.
**Associate Provost Harvey** stated that is exactly right – which is why they have been prodding the Deans to get the proposals in and prodding themselves to respond to them. He said the Office is just about on the verge of making some of these allocations, and more will follow in rapid order.

**Provost Seymour** stated, with regards to the process, that those are dates that represent the last possible time that the Provost’s Office would like to get the information. If people turn in the information earlier, the Office definitely can respond to it. As a matter of fact, in terms of trying to keep the process as fair as possible, they are trying to wait until they get the information from all the Deans before they begin to distribute out the positions. However, there have been some that they would like to move forward with these positions because their hiring process begins much earlier in some Schools and Colleges than others. The Provost’s Office wants to respect that and try to get the information back to people as quickly as possible. They are going to have sort of a rolling process. Once the information is in their office and they have done all of the consulting, they still have to discuss with the Chancellor what they are going to do before they release the information. But, the fact is that there are some they can distribute now with the idea that it is possible still for a School and College to get more.

**Associate Provost Harvey** stated that Ernie May has scheduled an Amherst 250 Task Force meeting for the 15th of October and there should be a lot to report at that point.

**Senator King** asked, in terms of the concept of addressing future, either curricular or programmatic needs, based on emerging external or internal trends, do Schools and Colleges start creating program proposals and send them through faculty governance hoping that positions will be allocated, or do they just ask for positions because there is an emerging trend and then go through the work of developing the proposal to address the need?

**Associate Provost Harvey** stated that so much of this is still trying to correct the imbalances of the past. For example, there are many students who want to get into the School of Management. The School of Management is of a certain size. More students want to get in than they can accommodate. This has been true for a long time. Many of those students come anyway, and they go into places like economics. This creates a problem in economics, not because anyone wants to be there, but because they are trying to accomplish something in a different way. The Provost allocated positions to the School of Management in the last cycle of this which are going to be filled this year now that there is some stability in leadership that will start to resolve that.

Associate Provost Harvey stated that he does not know if it is a good idea on the instructional side to invent new demands because there are a lot of issues related to satisfying existing student demand that have to get sorted out first.

E. PRESENTATION BY

**JOHN REIFF, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING AT COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE**

**MISHY LEIBLUM, STUDENT BRIDGES GRADUATE COORDINATOR**

**VANESSA SNOW, STUDENT BRIDGES UNDERGRADUATE COORDINATOR**

**AYLA BAILEY, STUDENT BRIDGES INTERN**

“STUDENT BRIDGES & THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN COLLEGE ACCESS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT” (See attached)

**Secretary May** stated he would like to recognize the presence of one of the newly appointed Trustees, Ed Collins from Springfield.

**Senator O’Connor** commended the group for doing what they do. He hoped that this type of information can somehow get out to the local press and the Boston press, because Student Bridges is just one of many things that this University does very well.

**Harream Purdie, Student Bridges Volunteer**, stated that working with the youth in Holyoke is really important. The student volunteers learn so much and give so much, but, at the same time, it is an amazing experience. Purdie said he wanted to let the Faculty Senate know that the volunteers really love what they do and can use any support possible.
Director John Reiff stated that if anyone was interested in continuing this conversation about the role of the University in engaging with the surrounding communities, there will be a campus-wide symposium on scholarly engagement on Monday, October 22. He said that the Faculty Senate Outreach Council, working with UMass Amherst Outreach, has organized this and there will be a range of opportunities to carry a discussion about what the campus is now doing and what it ought to be doing.

Provost Seymour wanted to follow-up on Senator O’Connor’s comments. She said this is unbelievably impressive and she would encourage Student Bridges volunteers to write it up and submit it to some local, regional and national organizations for presentations. If Student Bridges is accepted, the University will help them get there.

Student Bridges Graduate Coordinator Leiblum stated that Student Bridges also received funding from the student government for a director, and that search is about to be underway. They will need support with that search for a director to ensure that the director is representing the agency. The new governor, Deval Patrick, has a deep interest in civil engagement. He is hosting a statewide convention on Friday, November 16 all about civic engagement. One track focuses on civic engagement in educational institutions. Hopefully, representatives from the University will join Student Bridges at that event.

F. OLD BUSINESS

Revision of Appendix E, Academic Honesty Board, Statement of Procedures in the Policy and Procedures concerning Academic Honesty, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 07-040A with Motion No. 45-07.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of Appendix E, Academic Honesty Board, Statement of Procedures, in the Policy and Procedures concerning Academic Honesty, as Presented in Sen. Doc. No. 07-040A.

Secretary May stated that these were technical corrections in which the body of the report differed from the appendix, so they needed to make them align correctly before they published them.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 665th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:12 p.m. on October 25, 2007.

The proceedings of this meeting are available on audiotape in the Faculty Senate Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretory of the Faculty Senate