Presiding Officer Ernest May called the 668th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on December 18, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ADDRESS BY JOYCE HATCH, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE AND JIM CAHILL, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND CAMPUS PLANNING “CAMPUS LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN” (QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO FOLLOW) (See attached)

Senator Roland Chilton stated he was happy to hear Director Cahill speak on the importance of enforcing policy regarding vehicles on the walkways. If you look at the paths, you either have to keep vehicles that are too big for the paths off or you have to widen the paths. Senator Chilton stated he was surprised to hear the plan to limit the number of crosswalks. He said he hoped there was a plan to implement some imaginative techniques for stopping the traffic as they use at Amherst College. No landscaping is going to holdup or last unless something is done about the vehicles on campus. Senator Chilton stated that on some campuses, they have a nice way of handling short-cuts that are unplanned and the students develop themselves. Instead of trying to keep them from using the crosswalks, they simply pave the crosswalks. Students create a new path, they pave the path.

Jim Cahill, Director of Facilities and Campus Planning, stated the best way to change human behavior is to make a consequence for the behavior. That is what the campus is planning to do. Developing a policy is the first thing because you need a policy to enforce. Getting a commitment to enforce the policy is the second thing. There will be a transitional period. There is going to be a huge informational process that goes out to notify people of the change. Ultimately what is going to happen is there will be restricted zones on the campus where cars are off-limits. If you are caught with a vehicle on one of those paths, you will be issued a moving violation. The moving violation will go against your record, and your insurance will go up. As long as the campus provides paths that people can travel on to access where they need to be, we can keep people off the areas we do not want them to be.

Senator Tobias Baskin stated that UMass has an arboretum. There are some trees and plants of botanical interest. Is the CLIP working with a botanist to identify what those are, and to make sure they do not get destroyed? Also, the stretch of North Pleasant between Triangle and Mass. Ave. is completely pitted and potholed. Is it possible to get that part of North Pleasant paved?

Director Cahill stated they are talking with the Town of Amherst about a joint focus on North Pleasant Street, starting from Triangle Street, all the way through the campus. Right now, they are doing all the construction and want to get that done and get the buildings up and operating before spending a lot of money cooperating with Amherst to fix the road. But, that is something that is under discussion.

The arboretum was a major a focus of the CLIP, but there is also the Campus Physical Planning Committee of the Faculty Senate, and there is now a landscape subcommittee of that Committee, and facilities people are on that committee. It provides us with the opportunity to talk with Jack Ahern and people in the Landscape Architecture program that are very interested in preserving the arboretum.

Senator W. Brian O’Connor stated that at the Trustee meeting last Friday, a Trustee discussed the delay in the Recreation Center, stating they may even have to refund some of student fees. One of the Trustees stated she wanted to be on record, stating she was very upset with the group of people urging that the concrete Barn not be torn down. Is this a legitimate delay?

Director Cahill stated this could potentially delay construction. The contractors are working on the project right now. There is a lot of site development effort that has been underway: relocating the road, bringing the utilities onto the site from the road. That is mostly completed now. They are digging. The ground is getting harder, but they are digging to begin the footings for the building.

We do have a process to complete with the Massachusetts Historical Commission on the stucco Barn. If not preserving that structure, we need to find some mitigation for the adverse impact for demolishing it. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has issued a ruling of “Adverse Impact,” so that requires us to go through a process with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We do have a mitigation plan that is being
developed. We have completed the Massachusetts Environmental Agency process. What came out of that is a requirement to consult with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. That consultation could end up in a memorandum of agreement that could be resolved in a matter of a few weeks, and then we would proceed with the project. If we cannot reach an agreement with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, it will go on for probably a maximum of 90 days for the process to be concluded. Then, we will proceed with the project. If we are delayed in the project, there is probably 30-40 days worth of work on the site before we need to demolish the building and prevent a delay. If we do experience that delay, it will have a limited duration, and then we will be under construction. The project is going to go forward. Ultimately, this process with the Massachusetts Historical Commission will not result in stopping the project.

*Senator Mokhtar Atallah* asked about the lighting at crosswalks. There are some crosswalks where the lighting is not enough for cars to see if anyone is coming to cross or not. There are new crosswalks for the new dorms up Eastman Lane. There is another crosswalk on University Drive that is not lit properly. That creates safety issues that need to be taken care of. The same thing on North Pleasant—some of the crosswalks are not lit properly.

*Director Cahill* stated there are two issues with crosswalks: insufficient lighting, and in some cases, too much lighting or conflicting lighting between the high lighting and the low lighting and the creation of glare. That has to be attended to as well.

*Senator Marta Calas* asked what would happen to the marble benches donated in someone’s memory, which have been around for years. Are they going to be substituted with black iron?

*Director Cahill* stated no. If a bench was donated in someone’s memory, the intent would be to sustain those. We may try to direct people to do other things in memory of loved ones. That is a fairly complex part of the landscape planning process. Memorials are under discussion in terms of what kind of standards we should apply on the campus for those. Anything existing will either be sustained or there would be some process to replace them in an appropriate way.

**B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **Principal Administrative Officers**

*Paul Kostecki, Vice Provost for Research,* stated he wanted to give an update on the University of Massachusetts Amherst Greater Springfield Initiative, an activity convened by Chancellor Cole. This initiative was started in response to the Governor’s interest in the city of Springfield and the statements that the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus needs to get more involved with greater Springfield. The Governor will put his money where his mouth is at some point, and there will be opportunities for funding. UMass wants to be in a position to help Springfield with rehabilitation. That Committee was convened in November. It consists of the Chancellor; the Provost; the Vice Provost for Outreach, Sharon Fross; myself; John Mullin; Esther Terry; Ernie May; a representative from the President’s Office, Dave MacKenzie; a representative from the city of Springfield’s Development Office, the Chief Economic Development Officer for Springfield, Dave Panagore—also an alum of this campus; and then Eric Nakajima, who will represent Secretary O’Connell’s Office and will be the Governor’s representative as well.

The Committee met once for orientation. They have not met as a full Committee yet and are waiting for the second half of a home-and-home meeting. The Chancellor indicated our interest in helping Springfield in the future. The Mayor said we should have a home-and-home visit, so he invited us down to his home. We had that meeting. Unfortunately that meeting was scheduled after the election and became a meeting with fallen Mayor Ryan. At one point, it was cancelled by the Mayor’s Office. We decided to meet with one or two individuals that were supposed to be at that meeting. When we showed up, it turned out that Mayor Ryan was there; Mayor-elect Sarno was there; members of the control board were there. Eric Nakajima from Secretary O’Connell’s Office was there. It turned out to be a much larger meeting and actually much more significant at the time. The Committee is now waiting for the second half of that meeting to occur on January 11 or the first week or so in January. The Committee is going to ask them, in terms of moving ahead with the task force, what other groups should be involved.
A couple of points about that task force. It is not the Committee going down and telling Springfield what they have to do. It is UMass partnering with Springfield to ally their needs with the resources and talents on this campus. Everyone is aware that expectations have been raised and dashed in the past. We are all beyond that right now. We are talking about realistic expectations about what we can do and what should be expected to be done. Resources will be necessary for that, and so the task force’s goal is to work with all of the parties in Springfield and on this campus as well, and the deliverable will be a specific proposal about how this campus can work with Springfield to move them ahead economically. That proposal will have to be funded and have a budget attached to it.

Right now, it is looking like the first meeting of the task force will probably be after that home-and-home is finished, probably by the end of January. We are quite aware of the politics involved. We have already been apprised to that by the educational community down in Springfield. We are not going down there as carpetbaggers. We are going down there as willing partners to talk about how we can contribute to the wellbeing. We are going to do that with regards to the STCC, Westfield, AIC and the Educational Community down there, as well as industry working through the regional technology corporations.

An unidentified speaker stated there was an initiative last year and the year before led by Richard Rogers and the Provost’s Office to try and develop some partnership with Microsoft that would help the campus’ teaching mission and get some funding towards that, and UMass was talking about working with Holyoke at that point. Is Holyoke within the purview of the Springfield Initiative that Vice Provost Kostecki described?

Vice Provost Kostecki stated they were careful to describe it as the Greater Springfield Initiative. We had some good successes with Chicopee and Holyoke in the past. We do not want them to think we are turning our back on them. What is good for Springfield will be good for Holyoke and so forth. Another point is that, for example, Mayor Sarno believes the arts are going to play an important role in bringing back downtown Springfield. Certainly Northampton has a successful history of developing the arts, as does Amherst. Why should we exclude them? We should learn from what they have done in the past as well.

2. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

W. Brian O’Connor, Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees, stated that 18 out of the 19 Trustees were present on Friday. Everyone remembers what the weather was like on Thursday. The 19th member was there via speakerphone. It was the first time in memory that every Trustee was at a meeting, although the attendance has been very good. Ernie May was allowed to show the slides that the Faculty Senate saw in a previous meeting here, comparing our federal research expenses versus UConn and UNH, the slide on the 250 Plan and the backlog of deferred maintenance to the Trustees. Interestingly enough, there were no comments or questions.

President Wilson spoke about rebuilding the faculty and increasing the Capital Budget, hopefully to progress towards a 50/50 split with the state rather than the current 80/20, where we pay 80 percent and they pay 20. He announced that the endowment is now approximately $350 million, which is almost a three-fold increase in the past 5 years, although obviously we still have a long way to go. The Advancement Committee announced the appointment of a task force on Young Alumni Giving. It is chaired by the student trustee from the Medical School, and the report will be due before the semester ends because he is graduating. It will be interesting to see what this task force comes up with in terms of trying to improve young alumni giving.

Trustee Braceras talked about the progress of the Chancellor’s Search Committee here on campus. It is off to a terrific start. They have had 4 formal meetings and over 20 outreach meetings. The statement has been prepared for possible candidates, and in her words: “there are great prospects.”

There was then an orderly transition in which Steve Tocco stepped down as Chair and Trustee Manning took over, but before he left, Trustee Tocco gave a farewell speech in which he said that he was going to do three things while he was now no longer Chair. First,
he was going to work on affordability; the second—he made the statement that, with all due respect to the other campuses, he was going to focus on Amherst as the flagship of the University; third—as was just explained by Paul Kostecki—he was going to focus on Springfield, the Berkshires, and Western Mass.

3. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, stated the Joint Task Force on General Education between the Faculty Senate and the administration has been established. They have met. There was also an assessment conference yesterday that dealt with General Education and which we heard three wonderful examples of General Education courses, but then also some statistics and some actual feedback from students which certainly gives one some pause and some concern and opportunity for reflection on how we are dealing with what amounts to about a third of the undergraduate curriculum. The Faculty Senate Rules Committee was very engaged in providing input to the Governor’s Readiness Task Force Project, and we prepared a whole packet of materials that incorporate the testimony to that group, and we are going to present those to our Trustees, and we will be ready to publicize them early in January.

New York State has put out a draft report on very much the same lines as UMass’ Readiness Project. That is available on the web. There seems to be quite a lot of attention in that report on the research campuses which are 2 AAU campuses, Buffalo, Stony Brook, the medical college at Albany, and then Binghamton, which is more undergraduate oriented but a fairly high-powered research institution as well.

Connecticut, with the UConn 2000 Plan, has already done this over the last decade. Hopefully, the leaders in Massachusetts will get with the program. Finally, at the Trustee meeting, in addition to Steve Tocco making comments about the flagship, Jack Wilson used the word “flagship campus” in public twice!

Senator Marilyn Billings stated the Search Committee has been working on the campus “pitch document.” There has been a subcommittee that has been doing that, and the Committee has been revising the draft for that piece. The Committee was supposed to have met last Thursday afternoon. It was cancelled because of the weather, and they are meeting on Friday instead. The Committee took a lot of input from those input sessions that Brian just referred to. Some of us pulled together all of our comments. It all went forward to the Search Committee, which is Isaacsom Miller, and they have those documents to go over as well as other input from folks. The Committee is interested in Chancellor candidates. You can put those forward through Senator Billings. You can also put those forward directly through the webpage which is www.massachusetts.edu/amherstsearch. The Committee also had an ad in The Chronicle on the 9th of November. It also appeared in Diversity and Hispanic Outlook in those November issues. On Thursday the Committee will also be working in closed session on some of the applicants who have put forward their materials for review.

C. QUESTION PERIOD

Secretary May responded to an inaudible question from Senator W. Curt Conner stating UMass does have a UMA 250 task force, which has met, but the Senate has not been consulted on the allocation process. That has been considered an administrative process. The UMA 250 task force has monitored the process which has been preceded by a very large amount of number crunching, considering various factors. Whether Senator Conner is discussing the teaching allocations or the research allocations, Secretary May was not exactly sure. There are two different processes for those allocations, and if Senator Conner has a specific question, Secretary May said he would be happy to transmit that on, as Chair of the task force.

Senator O’Connor stated that what happened last Thursday when the University closed at 12:00 was an absolute disaster. He asked, is there any communication between the University and the town of Amherst? This is going to happen again; it happened a couple of years ago. Maybe there could be some cooperation between UMass and the town, so the police and the plows could say, “Okay, we will get the roads ready if you close the University.”
Joyce Hatch, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, stated that Senator O’Conner was correct; it is a problem. Last year, near the end of the season, we started planning how to dismiss using a staggered approach. We hit a wall at that point because of some equity issues around staffing. Early morning, there is a lot of communication about whether to open. But, during the day there is a gap in terms of how to communicate. We need to do a better job. We have our police, our transportation people, our bus PVTA people. We have a working group that is already underway to discuss lighting, directional and how we can connect with the town police.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah noted there were no police officers on the streets to instruct drivers last Thursday.

Secretary May stated this should be put on the agenda for the next Rules Committee/Administration Meeting. In Boston, they discussed staggering releases, although it seems as if it might not work here. It might work if we staggered people out at least at half hour intervals or something like that. It would probably solve the problem. In Boston, some people were in their cars for something like 7-8 hours. School children got home at 11:00 at night. There was a 45 minute tie-up here, which is pretty bad, but not like what they had in Boston.

D. NEW COURSES

There is no report associated with the following motion:

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<td>SOCIOL 388</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses FOOD-SCI 270, KIN 170, 171, 172, and 173, 09-08 PUBHLTH 324 and SOCIOL 388, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

E. NEW BUSINESS


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the indefinite continuation of the Interdisciplinary Minor in Information Technology, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-013 with Motion No. 10-08.

Senator Atallah asked if it was necessary to use the word “indefinite” in the motion.

Secretary May stated all approvals are indefinite unless there are reservations or contingencies for further review. The original approval of this program asked for a review. The word “indefinite” clarifies we are no longer asking for any further reviews.

Secretary May (Responding to an inaudible question). It is actually a very innovative program that has been very successful from both the point of view of students served and reaching out to many departments in the University with this kind of curriculum which is otherwise fairly restrictive.

An unidentified speaker stated every single department on campus has had an IT minor in the program.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
2. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning A New Minor in Scandinavian Studies in the German and Scandinavian Studies Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-014 with Motion No. 11-08.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the New Minor in Scandinavian Studies Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-014.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

4. Special Report of the Committee of Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-015 with Motion No. 12-08.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-015.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 668th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:47 p.m. on December 18, 2007.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate