Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 671st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on March 13, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. PRESENTATION BY CHARLENA SEYMOUR, PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND BRYAN HARVEY, ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT
“PREPARING FOR THE NEASC REACCREDIATION SELF-STUDY” (QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW) (See attached)

Maurianne Adams, Chair of Rules Committee, introduced Provost Charlena Seymour and Associate Provost Bryan Harvey. She stated that when Associate Provost Harvey announced that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges would be making a reaccreditation visit in November 2009, the Rules Committee decided it would be a wonderful opportunity for a Faculty Senate presentation. It is a time to discuss some of the lessons learned from previous reaccreditation visits, to coordinate and work together to gather the information needed. It is most important to think about decisions to be made regarding the areas of emphasis for self-study.

Senator W.C. Conner stated that UMass started with a little less than 1,000 faculty at the beginning of the Amherst 250 Plan. Now that the Plan is nearing its end, Senator Conner asked whether the University has passed the 1,100 mark. He also questioned whether the Amherst 250 Plan counts faculty replacements.

Bryan Harvey, Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Assessment, stated his presentation was from the planning perspective. The University has completed three years of the five in the allocation of resources. It is going to take more than five years to see all those new faculty members on campus. According to the Amherst 250 Task Force, there are 105 searches going on. Hopefully, this will be a big hiring year, and the campus will start to see substantial increases in the net size of the faculty. But, this is based on money already allocated. The critical question is what happens this year, next year and post 250.

Senator Mokhtar Atallah questioned how much time there is to write the strategic plan if it is due to the Trustees in July.

Associate Provost Harvey stated the Trustees wanted an outline. The slideshow is a view into the ongoing conversation the Provost’s Office has been having with the Rules Committee. But, in the next month or so, all of this has to get tied up and put forward.

Charlena Seymour, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, stated that the resolution that is before the Trustees spoke to an outline of a strategic plan. There is not an operational definition of an outline, so it will be up to the campus to decide what the outline looks like. We have started a structure. How we are going to flesh it out has not been decided yet, but it is in the works.

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, stated that the resolution has not yet been adopted by the Trustees. It could be amended or defeated.

Secretary May also stated he shares some of the anxiety about creating a so-called outline of a strategic plan that has not been fully vetted by the campus. Associate Provost Harvey is suggesting that the University assess itself against a group of peer flagships, using about 8-10 criteria. Secretary May encouraged faculty to get in touch with the Rules Committee if they had concerns. However, he stated that the only practical step is for the Rules Committee and other councils and committees of the Faculty Senate to help create this outline.

Senator Richard Bogartz wondered if it was strange to create a strategic plan and then hand it to the new Chancellor when he arrives.

Secretary May stated that the strategic plan was a vague idea of how to move the University into the top-tier of public institutions in the country. The new Chancellor will determine how to implement that plan.

Provost Seymour added that any new Chancellor coming to the campus will want to do a strategic plan. It will help him/her know that the campus has at least considered the guiding principles, structure and timelines needed to do a strategic plan. The vision of the plan will be driven by the Chancellor.
Senator Steven Brewer suggested that the Executive Advisory Council also look at the outline before it goes before the Trustees.

Secretary May stated that was a great idea.

B. PRESENTATION BY SUSAN KRAUSS WHITBOURNE, DIRECTOR OF THE UMASS OFFICE OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ADVISEMENT, INTRODUCING KATIE HUSTON, RECIPIENT OF A MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP AND BEN CLEMENZI-ALLEN, RECIPIENT OF THE GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP

Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Director of the UMass Office of National Scholarship Advisement

We are thrilled to present some outstanding students and talk about the program. Let me just say a little bit about what I do. I am a professor of psychology and the director of the Office of National Scholarship Advisement, which is housed in Commonwealth College. We have been in existence since 1998, and I have been directing the office since 1999. Year after year, we have had a number of winners of a lot of scholarships such as the Fulbright, the Truman and the Goldwater. This last year, we finally cracked the code on two of the ones that have been particularly desirable: the Marshall and the Gates Cambridge.

The Marshall Scholarship is for graduate study at any school in the United Kingdom for a period of 2-3 years, fully funded. The Marshall has been around for a while. The Gates Cambridge was initiated in 2000 by the Gates Foundation to bring scholars to Cambridge. The process is arduous, to say the least. It is just mind-numbingly difficult. Any scholarship or position you have ever applied for, multiply that times a hundred or a thousand, and you can see what it is like to get one of these. There are approximately 900 people who apply for one of 44 Marshalls. There are approximately 600-900 who apply for the Gates Cambridge.

Katie Huston traveled to Chicago where she was interviewed by the Chicago Marshall Commission. She reached the point of becoming one of several dozen finalists, and then was interviewed in an intensive period that lasted for twenty minutes. Ben was brought down to Annapolis earlier this year and exposed to a similarly grueling interview which he also passed with flying colors.

Ernie invited us to come here. He thought it would be great for you to hear about the wonderful students we have who have really achieved this pinnacle of success. It is not the end of a process, of course. It is the beginning of a learning journey for them. Hopefully, you will be inspired to nominate your own students to come and see me.

Katie Huston, Recipient of a Marshall Scholarship

I am a senior journalism major with a political science minor and an international relations certificate. I work at the Daily Collegian as the managing editor. I started working there my freshman year. I went abroad to South Africa during my junior year. I am in Commonwealth College. I was also in the International Scholars Program which prepares you for going abroad. During your sophomore year, you take classes and discuss global issues with a group of 16 students. Junior year, you go abroad. Senior year, you come back and talk about your experiences and where to go from there.

Maybe you are curious about why I applied for the Scholarship. I had a specific teacher/mentor, Madeleine Blais in the journalism department, who really pushed me and said, “You know, you should do this.” I had never thought to do something like this, and she said, “I think you should apply.” I was in a lot of small classes because I was in the honor’s college. I also sought out smaller classes because I felt like I learned a lot more in them. In the journalism department, we have a lot of small classes anyway. You get to know your professors. When I went to them for recommendations, they apparently wrote me great letters. Just having good relationships with faculty who said, “I believe in you, and I think you should do this,” was really what helped me see myself as someone who could do this. People can get lost at UMass, but it is also easy for students who care enough to take the initiative to get to know faculty and get the most out of their courses.

The ONSA department helped a lot. I am not sure I would have known how to go through the application process otherwise. You do not know what they are looking for, and you have to know how to play the game. The Marshall Commission has very specific rules. Some of the essays I wrote were too literary, and Sue Whitbourne had to sit me down and say, “No, it has to be very straightforward.” I would not have known that without her help. Also, the mock interviews were incredibly helpful. They set up a committee of
professors who sat down with me, and they videotaped me. It was excruciating to watch the videotapes, but the three mock interviews prepared me to do a lot better on the final one.

I am actually going into something I did not study here. I became really interested in sustainable international development when I went abroad. I was working with a community development program, teaching journalism to kids in the townships in South Africa. I loved it. I decided that I knew the least about the economic side of development, so I am going to study global political economy for a year. I feel I need to understand economics because no matter where you want to effect change, whether it is in education, human rights, or environment, it is also driven by the money. My second year, I applied to study human rights. I will most likely be at the University of Sussex.

Ben Clemenzi-Allen, Recipient of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship

I am a senior in the Commonwealth College, and I study English. My navigation to this scholarship began with a different, interdepartmental scholarship. It was for a year-long study abroad at Oxford University. I had been nominated for that and was one of three candidates. I did not get that, thankfully, because I would not have gotten this one if I had gotten the other one. But, the scholarship brought my attention to the British education system. I just became fascinated with it.

Working with Dr. Whitbourne was very helpful in motivating me. I have no idea what it is like to apply for a faculty position, but these are tough scholarships and are pretty rigorous. It took a lot. Really, I think the enthusiasm from faculty members, and their willingness to work with and mentor me through various independent studies that I have done here, has been helpful. It is nice to be noticed, and it is really great to have those relationships with faculty members.

I came from a community college. It was a smaller environment, and they also helped out a lot. I was involved with one particular organization that helps first-generation, low-income and minority students, and I’m first-generation, low-income, so for me, this is a particularly rewarding scholarship. I owe a lot of this to other people and to the assistance from the ONSA office.

I am studying for a master of philosophy in American literature. I am studying American literature in England because the poets I am studying, Gertrude Stein and Ezra Pound, wrote in Europe, one in the U.K. and the other in France. I am going to be looking at their notions of linguistic representation and how that corresponds with cultural experiences Pre- and Post World War I.

Senator W. Brian O’Connor congratulated Katie and Ben stating it was certainly an inspiration for faculty to hear their enthusiasm. Senator O’Connor also congratulated Professor Whitbourne for ferreting the students out, encouraging and coaching them through the interviews. It is a tremendous opportunity, and Susan has shown tremendous dedication and commitment for the past ten years.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

   Secretary May noted that the Board of Trustees is meeting next Wednesday, during Spring Break. They will be voting on fees. They have also done an extensive report on financial aid. Twenty percent of the fee increases will be pumped back into financial aid. There is a growing concern for how the increasing costs of higher education affect, particularly, middle class students. Financial aid cares for students up to the $32,000-40,000 bracket, but, after $40,000, it stops affecting them much. Harvard has recently raised its threshold to $180,000, which is an interesting discrepancy. There is concern, but there is not much we can do about it if the increase on the academic side is less than the cost of inflation. Housing is going to increase quite a bit, but students have a choice there. It is state mandated that housing meet all of its own costs. There is no way to subsidize that. They had some increased costs which are not changeable.

   The budget prospect for next year is quite constrained. The Governor’s budget will leave us with about $2.85 million ahead of this year. That would partly fund UMA 250 next year. We hope that we get a little bit more because it will take more than that to fund UMA 250. The fee increases will cover inflationary increases in other areas of the campus.
The Intercampus Faculty Council will also be meeting after the Board of Trustees meeting. There are some interesting emails flying among our sister campuses. Of the four DNP programs which have been proposed, only two have been approved, at this campus and at the Medical School. Two, one at Boston and one at Lowell, have been deferred pending some mission differentiation talk or study at the Trustee level. At Indiana, mission differentiation identified signature programs to be protected at the smaller campuses. That is the only way that they can actually be protected from incursion by the flagship or one of the other campuses.

2. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Senator Maurianne Adams responded to a question from the last meeting about the placement of the question and answer period. The Rules Committee looked back at its practices and noticed that over the last few years, the question and answer period has been placed toward the beginning of the agenda. About two years ago, there were a number of committees of the whole on issues of alcohol, violence and plagiarism. At that point, the question and answer period was placed at the end of the agenda. Chair Adams and the Rules Committee assured its colleagues that they value shared governance and the question the answer period. They also value looking at cross-campus issues, as well as attending to business as usual.

3. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Steven Brewer, Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, commented on the email regarding the dispersal of the computer replacement funds. The funds came from .3% of payroll that was negotiated in the last contract. The Union negotiated $100,000 toward computer replacement, which has been an ongoing issue on the campus. At the time, they tried to push for more money coming from the University to provide the resources. Once the Union received and looked over the applications, it turned out that there were 179 faculty members who had either never received a University computer or whose computer was more than three years old. The University agreed to put in enough resources for the other 79 faculty to get a computer immediately and also provided enough money for software, so that they would also receive at least Microsoft Office.

Representative Brewer recognized the administration for contributing to the computer replacement fund. Also, if colleagues did not get a computer this time around, the money will become available again July 1. It is going to be an ongoing cycle with opportunities for faculty to receive replacements.

D. QUESTION PERIOD (10-Minute Limit)

Secretary May stated it has now become likely that the University will be invited to join a couple of other prestigious university systems, Wisconsin, Oregon and California State, in a grant that will emphasis General Education and bring underserved student populations into the limelight of the educational experience. It involves the Carnegie Foundation and the American Association of Colleges and Universities. It certainly would be a good thing to help crystallize and promote the kind of student success and General Education initiatives which have had limited success in the past. There has been a lot of enthusiasm for it on the campus, and this provides an opportunity to catalyze that.

E. NEW COURSES

There are no reports associated with the following motions:

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<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY 127H</td>
<td>“Introduction to Topics in Neuroscience”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUDAIC 354</td>
<td>“Jewish Theater and Film”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses BIOLOGY 127H AND JUDAIC 354, 21-08 as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
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<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>E&amp;C-ENGIN 636</td>
<td>“Reconfigurable Computing”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 652</td>
<td>“Planet Earth”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 658</td>
<td>“Knowledge &amp; Skill Application Lab”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses E&C-ENGIN 636, EDUC 652 and 658, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education Designations for BIOLOGY 127H and 190A, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-024.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 671st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:42 p.m. on March 13, 2008.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate