Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 681st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on February 26, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. PRESENTATION BY LAURA GILES, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RESIDENCE LIFE, ANJALI CADENA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, AND KELLY GRAY, FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST (INTRODUCTION BY ESTHER TERRY, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS LIFE) “RESIDENTIAL FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE PROGRAM” (QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW) (See Attached)

Madeleine Charney, Reference Librarian, asked how the program might interface with the Library. She stated it seemed like there would be a lot of room to talk about information literacy and to help students navigate databases, catalogues and evaluate information.

Kelly Gray, First-Year Experience Specialist, stated Peer Mentors are trained via the Learning Commons. When there is Peer Mentor training in the summer, they take a tour of the Learning Commons. A lot of Peer Mentors take their residents to the Learning Commons and walk them through some of that. There is a lot more that could be done. We have been expanding for the last five years. Now is the time to hone in on some of the things we can do.

Senator Marta Calas asked if the RFYE program has collected actual data on the academic differences between the students who did not participate in the program and the ones who did.

Specialist Gray stated they do not have that kind of data, but they are working on collecting it. That is something they have been working with Liz Williams from SAREO on, and they are in the process of looking at GPA and retention.

Senator Calas asked if students are becoming more dependent through this program. She stated she often gets students when they are seniors, and she has seen a regression in independence over the years. She would like to know how that plays out in the RFYE program.

Anjali Cadena, Community Development Director, stated that is often one of the weaknesses reported about Living Learning Communities. She stated that rather than holding the student’s hand, they try to focus on having students transition to their sophomore year in the spring semester. Knowing that that is the weakness of first-year experience programs, they try hard to prepare students to take ownership for their academic and personal development. The RFYE staff often sees this development in students where they start to say, “We are all set now. We can go do this on our own.” Empowerment is a big part of this program. The RFYE program does not want to put students in a sink-or-swim situation where they either survive UMass or they do not. At the same time, the staff hopes to balance this support, so that students are ready to be on their own by the time they reach their sophomore year.

Specialist Gray stated there is a training session with Peer Mentors about the transition to sophomore year and the skills the first-year students need to be successful. If a student comes to visit a Peer Mentor with a problem, the Peer Mentor should not solve the problem for them. Instead, they take them to the Residential Academic Success Center (RASC), pull up the problem on the computer and walk through it with the student. Then, the next time, the student will know how to do it on his/her own. The RFYE program works on training staff about the mental transition needed to go from giving students answers to showing them how to get the answers.

Senator W. Brian O’Connor asked if the Talent Advancement Programs (TAP) are involved with the RAPs program.

Specialist Gray stated there are two TAPs remaining. They are categorized with the RAPs. There is the biology TAP which is in Dickinson Hall and then the English TAP which is in Butterfield Hall. They are still there, and RAPs still connects with those.
Senator O’Connor stated he has been in the biology department for 17 years. The alumni of the BIO TAP are still out there. At the Medical School, the students from this campus who were BIO TAP members and went on to UMass Med have an alumni group for students who were in the TAP program. It establishes a social network and an academic support network. He stated he thought they were doing a great job.

B. ANNUAL REPORT


Rod Warnick, Co-Chair of the Athletic Council, thanked Carol Barr, Co-Chair of the Athletic Council, Secretary Pat Vittum, who helped prepare the report, members of the Council, and also John McCutcheon and the athletic staff for making reports available and providing background reporting. This report is from the 2007-2008 year and does not reflect the athletic teams’ accomplishments this spring or past fall.

Co-Chair Warnick stated he wanted to highlight some of the achievements of student athletes, teams and coaches and also briefly touch on some of the highlights from each of the subcommittee reports. There were six meetings this past year. There were a number of special guests including Interim Chancellor Thomas Cole. Dante Milligan, a member of the Men’s Basketball team spoke to the Council at the end of last year. The team physicians also came in to speak to the Council about athletic injuries. A number of coaches also presented to the Council, including Elaine Sortino from Softball; Marnie Dacko from Women’s Basketball; Sam Koch from Men’s Soccer; Derek Kellogg, our new Men’s Basketball coach; and Justine Sowry from Field Hockey.

One hundred and seven student athletes from the fall and 80 students in the spring were on the academic honor role. A couple of our outstanding athletes included Zack Simmons who was a National Academic All-American of the Year. He was a walk-on athlete who became a scholarship athlete. He has recently been accepted to Yale and also been accepted into Major League Soccer. Also, Sean Krygier was an Academic All-American on the Men’s Lacrosse team and one of the scholar athletes of the year. Erin Parker, on the Field Hockey team, and Lauren Proctor, on the Softball team, were also on the academic honor role.

The Cross Country Women’s team also received academic accolades for having one of the highest GPAs as a team. They ranked 35th out of 106 teams nationwide with a team GPA over 3.5. Eleven players from the Football team, twelve on the Men’s Hockey team and four from the Lacrosse team were Academic All-Americans. Ryan Durkin won the Francis Clement Scholarship. He was awarded it in Boston, and The Boston Globe did a nice piece on him. He was also awarded the 21st Century Award and was an academic honoree in track and field.

John McCutcheon won the athletic director of the year award from the American Football Foundation. In 2007, Coach Don Brown was Coach of the Year. Sam Koch was regional and A-10 Coach of the Year. Justine Sowry was Division I Field Hockey Coach of the Year and A-10 Coach of the Year. Judy Dixon was inducted into the United States Tennis Association New England Hall of Fame. Elaine Sortino won her 1,000th career victory as a coach and 14th consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament. Russ Yarworth was A-10 Coach of the Year and Mandy Hixon was Diving Coach of the Year.

In 2007-2008, the Men’s Soccer team went into the NCAA Championship. They won the A-10 Conference Championship and also the Eastern Regional and advanced to the Final Four in a D1 Soccer Championship. This is the first time in the team history that the team went that far. They eventually lost to Ohio State in the Semifinals. The Football team reached the NCAA National Semifinals after being consistently ranked in the top ten in their respective division. The Men’s Basketball team reached the final of the NIT in New York City, defeating two-time National Champion Florida and also Big East Power Syracuse twice in one season at Syracuse. They eventually lost to Ohio State in the NIT Finals. The Softball team made its fourteenth consecutive appearance after winning the A-10 Championship. The Field Hockey team won the A-10 Championship, and the Men’s Baseball team won the Boston Bean Pot over Boston College. The Men’s Skiing team also won the National Championship in the Giant Slalom.
The Athletic Council participated in the dedication of the new Recreation Center. It looked at upgrading the facilities in the track and field complex. There have been improvements made to McGuirk Stadium, the softball complex and Garber Field. The Council is also looking at a Champions Center and a new facility for relocating the baseball field. The Athletic Council received the A-10 Conference Compliance Report. That was conducted in the summer of 2007 and presented in the Fall of 2007. It also looked at the Equity, Minority and Student Welfare Report. The Council discussed some of the fan behavior issues at games and looked at the financial standing of various athletic issues, including ticket sales, practice facility timing and the registration process for student athletes.

Joan Hopkins, who heads Academic Advising for the Athletic Department, has continued to enhance student advising for student athletes. She has four academic advisors who deal with about 135 student athletes. She has implemented a new online progress reporting system for faculty to monitor student athletes. That has been received very well, and there has been increased participation from faculty in that area.

The A-10 Compliance Report was positive. The Council just finished the NCAA Report the year previous and monitors compliance violations twice a year with subcommittee reports. There were only minor violations which deal with practice and contacting prospects. Compliance has started to look at the Academic Progress Report (APR). This covers the previous four years of student academic progress. The first official report was released in May 2008. This is a multi-year Academic Progress Report figure. It looks at ranks in terms of all sports, Division I teams, public institutions, etc. All of the teams are doing well. Graduation rates have been good. The Men’s Skiing and Women’s Rowing teams had perfect scores. The APR compares favorably to other Division I teams and other public institutions. The women’s sports are doing particularly well across nearly all of their comparisons, and the only sport that was below the 925 rating was Men’s Basketball which was 903. That sometimes is a reflection of coaches changing. There were two coach changes during this four-year period. By all indications, those numbers are going to improve.

In terms of the Equity, Minority and Student Welfare Report, the student population is about 50 percent male and 50 percent female. The undergraduate population is 50.3 percent male and 49.6 percent female. In regard to our student athletes, it is 50.7 male and 49.2 female. The campus is compliant under Title IX. In terms of student athlete minority opportunities, in 2007-2008 our representation of minorities was 24 percent. Thirty-one percent were male and 16 percent were female student athletes. Of the 207 male student athletes receiving scholarships, 34 percent were minorities. Of the 170 female students receiving scholarships, 11 percent were minorities. In terms of scholarship aid, about $3.1 million, or 56.8 percent, is going to male student athletes and $2.3 million, or 43.2 percent, is going to female student athletes. This has improved from 58 percent for men in the previous year and 42 percent for women.

There were 16 full-time Athletic Department positions searched for in 2007-2008. Four were offered and filled by minority candidates. Three of these minority candidates were males and one was female. Seven new coaches were hired, including two women and one minority. Of the 162 full- and part-time staff members, eleven percent are from a minority ethnicity. This has increased from 7.5 percent in 2005-2006 to 9 percent to 2006-2007. In this past year, it was at 11 percent. The Athletic Department also conducts an annual exit survey, and the response rate is about 66 -67 percent. All indications are that our student athletes are having a good experience. They also participate in a pilot study for the NCAA. UMass Amherst had the highest response rate of all schools in that pilot study.

There have been improvements to the softball complex and the Mullins Center plaza. The tennis courts have been repaired, and there have been upgrades to McGuirk Stadium. There are also some upgrades in terms of the Campus Recreation Center coming online soon. Co-Chair Warnick said he thinks it is still scheduled to open in August 2009. The lights at McGuirk Stadium have given the campus additional opportunities to broadcast games, and improvements at Garber Field and the softball complex have allowed the campus to host NCAA tournaments. There are some facility plans for the future. The actual performance of our teams has helped in terms of revenue. The final revenue figures for 2007-2008 were $22.9 million. The total expenses were about $22.2 million which means there was a positive gain in terms of income over expenses.
Senator Richard Bogartz stated that of the $23 million in revenue, $10 million comes to the Athletic Department in the form of state and University subsidies and another $7 million comes from student fees. What is the sense that the Athletic Department is in the black?

Co-Chair Warnick stated the department has more revenues coming in than it has expenses going out. Supported funds traditionally come to the department through the University, student fees and other revenue accounts. He stated the Athletics Department is not losing money.

Senator Bogartz asked how much money the football team lost.

Co-Chair Warnick stated he did not have those figures in front of him.

Senator Andrew Donson asked what percentage of the scholarship recipients graduated in six years. What was the mean GPA of student athletes, and how does that compare nationally and to the University as a whole?

Co-Chair Warnick stated he did not have those numbers in front of him. He could give them to Senator Donson if he wanted. He would say that the graduation rate is higher than the University graduation rate. It is probably close to 60 percent.

Carol Barr, Co-Chair of the Athletic Council, stated the scholarship student athlete six-year graduation rate is 64 percent. That is comparable to the student body.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, stated all of the Councils and Committees have been asked to comment on the Chancellor’s Reorganization Proposal. Six Councils have been asked to write reports on very specific aspects having to do with their charge. For example, the Academic Priorities Council has been asked to report back on the academic vision. The Program and Budget Council is to report back on the savings and the costs of the Reorganization. The Graduate Council is focusing on graduate education, and the Undergraduate Council is focusing on undergraduate education. The report due date is March 6. The Rules Committee will be assembling the various reports that come in from the Councils and Committees. The Rules Committee will stay in touch with the Task Force on Reorganization, and then, after spring break, will prepare a report which can be deliberated in the Faculty Senate and voted on by the end of the semester.

D. SPECIAL REPORT

Special Report of the Nominating Committee for Secretary of the Faculty Senate, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-022.

Senator Marilyn Billings stated that the Nominating Committee understands that Professor Ernest May is willing to continue in the Secretary position. In the light of truly excellent performance by Professor May during his tenure in this position, the Committee is pleased to unanimously nominate him for reappointment to the Office of Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

(Report previously distributed.)

The final vote will be taken at this meeting.

Ernest May was re-elected as Secretary of the Faculty Senate.
E. **NEW COURSES**

There is no report associated with the following motion:

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANIMLSCI 421</td>
<td>“Fundamentals of Reproduction”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMPSCI 365</td>
<td>“Digital Forensics”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses ANIMLSCI 421 and CMPSCI 365, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

G. **NEW BUSINESS**

Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning the Exchange Agreement between EFREI, Engineering Institute, Paris, France and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-027 with Motion No. 28-09.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Exchange Agreement between EFREI, Engineering Institute, Paris, France and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-027.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

H. **OLD BUSINESS**


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2008-2009 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 05-038E.

*Senator Bogartz* stated he would like to amend the motion to include the remaining three calendars under the following three motions.

*Senator Calas* stated that 2008-2009 is the current calendar, so, if there is going to be a change in the current calendar, she would like to know that. The Senate has not approved the other three calendars at this point.

*John McCarthy, Chair of the Rules Committee*, stated the calendars for the subsequent three years present issues that are very different from the current calendar. The current calendar appears to present no issues whatsoever. He stated he would urge a vote against this motion.

*John Lenzi, Registrar*, summarized the changes across all four calendars. For 2008-2009, the only change is the July 4th holiday did not follow University policy. The holiday is on a Saturday. On the other calendars, the Council eliminated all of the “to be determined” calendars for Continuing and Professional Education (CPE). Those are the changes across the other three. There is also a correction of a mid-semester date in 2011-2012.

The motion to amend was defeated.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning the 2009-2010 Academic Calendar as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-043D with Motion No. 48-06.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2009-2010 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 06-043D.

Senator Donson stated in the spring of 2010, Amherst College begins on January 25, Smith College begins on January 25, Mt. Holyoke begins on January 27, and Hampshire College begins on January 27. That would make UMass Amherst the only of the Five Colleges that started a week out of sync.

Senator Calas stated that Dean Butterfield from the Isenberg School of Management wrote to her about the proposed calendars for the new intersession. The members of the campus have been asked to turn down the thermostat and make the rooms colder when they are not here. But, if these calendars are adopted, the campus will be open all of the time. This seems crazy when the University is trying to reduce costs. The old calendars were created during the oil crisis in the 1970s as a way to reduce the number of people on campus during the days that would have been the coldest.

In addition, the MBA program is concerned that they are going to lose approximately $600,000 due to the nature of the intersession. It has also been suggested that these calendars were created to accommodate students. The Career Center in the School of Management has stated that students do not begin working until June whether the semester ends in mid-May or three weeks into May. Therefore, what makes a difference is when they start looking for a job. If they do not start looking for jobs in January or March, they are not going to get a job no matter what.

Senator McCarthy stated he was also concerned about the effect that this schedule for the winter term would have on Continuing Education online courses. These are an important source of revenue for some colleges and departments. They may not be getting $600,000, but they are getting an amount that is a significant boost in what they have available. He fears that this new calendar will wipe out enrollments in the winter term. Winter term, in his experience, gets bigger enrollments than any of the other sessions. He would wager that having an extra term in the summer will not make up that difference. There is a particular interest and demand for the winter term course. Students are not even going to be thinking about taking a course on December 21.

Sharon Fross, Vice Provost for University Outreach, stated there has been a lot of work through the CPE Associate Deans Advisory Council. Associate Deans from across the Institution have looked at a variety of formats that could be used. A lot of the concern that has been expressed today was expressed there. The calendar that has come forward is recommended by that group of individuals as they looked at how best to keep that intersession, understanding that it is not ideal. People around that table, and the people that the Vice Provost works with are confident that the changes to the summer sessions will make a difference. They are not certain what the impact is going to be for the winter session. That is a concern. They have been looking at the enrollments for winter session and have continued to see a decline in face-to-face courses. They have seen an increase in online courses, although the increase was much smaller than they expected to see this year. Vice Provost Fross stated she understood the concern, but if the campus was looking at making a shift, this was the best recommendation that the Associate Deans and others could come up with.

Frank Hugus, Associate Provost and Director of International Programs, stated that the International Programs Office is negatively impacted by this as well. For the most part, this has to do with students who are studying abroad in the fall semester. Particularly at European universities, fall semesters generally do not stop until the last days of January or the first days of February. Under the current calendar, this is fine for students who want to study abroad during the fall semester. They can get back just in time for the beginning of the spring semester. On the other hand, if the new calendar goes into effect with the starting date of the 17-19 of January, this means that they will be at least two weeks behind when
they come back to the University. This will leave them with the dilemma of not being able to study at the University of Massachusetts in the spring semester or taking a year instead of a semester off to study abroad. This will push more enrollments, probably, into the spring semester. The International Programs Office is not sure whether it has the capacity in its partner universities and programs around the world to do that. Furthermore, in January, there are a number of short-term programs.

Figures indicate that perhaps 150-200 students a year would be impacted by the change. Also, International Programs does not know what the effects would be for students coming into the University from other universities or degree students who begin in the spring semester. Those are some concerns that the International Programs Office has. It is not necessarily a monetary concern, but it is a concern about academic programs.

John Jenkins, Chair of the Academic Matters Council, stated when the Academic Matters Council received the request to review these calendars, it was asked to consider the best option for moving the spring backwards. These calendars are a compromise, trying to take into account the Council’s primary concern which was the winter term and its success. The calendar was moved back a little less than was desired by those who favored moving the calendar and moved back a little more in order to help the winter term. But, no one on the Council was fully in favor of the change if they considered the winter session as a primary factor.

Senator Curt Conner asked who requested this change.

An unidentified speaker stated that John Lombardi requested the change.

Senator Conner stated John Lombardi is no longer here. Senator Conner stated he could not think of a single rationale for doing it. He heard the rationale was that the University has to be consistent with the Five Colleges, but it seems that the University now will not be. He stated he was concerned the University was doing some things for the wrong reasons.

Chair Jenkins stated that the Academic Matters Council will always consider any proposal it receives whether it is a new proposal or a proposal for a change.

Secretary May stated the Five Colleges have shorter semesters than UMass Amherst does, so the semesters will always be a little mismatched by a few days.

Senator Calas stated, aside from the original proponents who are no longer in the administration, many members of the Committee proposing this change no longer work here or are retired. She stated she did not know who was proposing this calendar any longer and wondered if the matter could be tabled.

Secretary May stated these are amended documents. One of these calendars was adopted in 2007. They are adopted well in advance. The Committee that is listed was the Committee that made the original recommendation.

Secretary Marios Philippides asked what happened to the Space and Calendar Committee. Why does the Academic Matters Council determine the calendar?

Secretary May stated that several years ago, the Space and Calendar Committee became a subcommittee of the Academic Matters Council.
Senator Philippides asked why this happened.

Secretary May stated the Space and Calendar Committee was a separate committee for years. They only did one thing a year, and that was to present the calendar for the successive year. It was felt that they should be melded into the Academic Matters Council because they did so little.

Senator Philippides asked if this change had anything to do with the change in the academic calendar.

Secretary May stated no, the Space and Calendar Committee was melded into the Academic Matters Council way before that.

Senator Philippides asked when this happened. He was on the Space and Calendar Committee four years ago.

Secretary May stated he does not remember the exact year.

John Cunningham, Deputy Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, asked Professor Hugus to follow up and state if he knew how other major universities who follow this spring calendar are able to send students to study abroad in the fall.

He also asked for clarification: if the Senate does not pass this academic calendar today, will the campus revert back to the previous calendar? Will the Continuing Education slots remain to be determined?

Secretary May stated Deputy Provost Cunningham is correct. The Senate has already voted on the new calendar. The pieces that were to be determined mainly have to do with Continuing Education, setting the dates for beginning and ending the winter and summer sessions. The Council had to do a lot of research to figure out how they were going to handle that. The early start has already been voted on. It is quite possible to send the calendar back to the Academic Matters Council and the Calendar Subcommittee with the sense that they should reconsider the current calendar. But, at the moment, the fallback is the “to be determined” calendar.

Associate Provost Hugus stated that many of the other universities rely on short-term study abroad programs, not fall or spring semester programs. UMass Amherst is still an exception to the trend in this country of having a greater number of short-term programs. There are still a number of students here who study on a semester or a year basis.

Senator O‘Conner stated that the students were really behind this proposal. He has polled his students for six successive semesters, and with no exaggeration, 100 percent of the students favor this change. All of their friends go back to school at least 2-3 weeks earlier than they do. If you watch college basketball the first and second week in January at places like Duke or North Carolina, the students are all back at school. UMass Amherst is really the outlier here. He cannot think of any other large university that is comparable to UMass that has a long January break. In the science area, the number one reason that students support this proposal is for the jobs.

The motion was defeated.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2009-2010 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 07-050C.

55-07

The motion was defeated.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2011-2012 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 08-031A.

Senator Brian Ogilvie stated that in the previous years, the fall semester is only 13 weeks long. On this calendar, the spring semester also has only 13 weeks, whereas the previous spring semesters, including the current one, have 14 weeks. Is this the result of a deliberate decision to shorten the spring semester, or is it a result of some quirk in the calendar?

Registrar Lenzi stated the standard the campus maintains is 13 weeks. In SPIRE, UMass Amherst maintains a 13 week minimum. It is a fluke of the calendar when it shifts from 14 to 13. It will go back and forth, but the University is required by law to maintain 13 weeks.

Senator Ogilvie stated it seemed like the spring semester is rarely 13 weeks and is mostly 14.

Registrar Lenzi stated this is due to the shift in the calendar as well.

Senator Ogilvie asked if it would continue to be 13 weeks in the spring.

Registrar Lenzi stated he has not projected how many times that will repeat.

The motion was defeated.

The 681st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:02 p.m. on February 26, 2009.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate