Announcements

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Juanita Holler, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Campus Services, stated that Vice Chancellor Joyce Hatch asked her to give an update on some of the major projects the Office of Administration and Finance is undergoing. The Office has been working on a comprehensive science and engineering study. That is coming to conclusion in June. As a result of that study, the Office will be breaking ground in October of this year on a new $144 million science facility. Seventy-two thousand net square feet of space will come online when that building is completed in May 2012. There will be an additional 72,000 net square feet that will be shelled out and can be completed at a future date. That will be a very big accomplishment for the University as well.

The Office of Administration and Finance has also started a comprehensive academic and facility classroom study. That will be wrapping up in December of this year. As a result of that study, the campus will be constructing a new academic classroom facility. Vice Chancellor Hatch’s Office expects groundbreaking to start in April of 2010 with that new facility being completed in January of 2013.

Charlena Seymour, Provost, stated the Renaissance Center is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. There have been a number of activities throughout the year. The celebration accumulates with a number of activities at the Center for the Renaissance on May 2-4. Provost Seymour stated she hopes to see many faculty members there either as participants or observers enjoying the festivities with a picnic.

Five candidates have come to campus to be considered for the Dean of the Isenberg School of Management. The Search Committee has been active in interviewing and showing candidates around campus. She hopes that those who have had an opportunity to meet with these candidates will provide the Committee with feedback as soon as possible.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, stated the classroom survey project is underway. Secretary May is the faculty’s representative on the Visioning Committee. This is an important once-in-a-century activity. The Committee is surveying all of the classroom teaching spaces and making recommendations. These recommendations will help determine building plans for classrooms that will be in place for the next 25-50 years.

A survey, which comes out today, asks faculty about classroom needs. Secretary May encouraged everybody to respond to that survey. If that survey is insufficient, or if faculty want to make other comments, Secretary May can serve as the conduit and get that information to the Committee. The consultants are very knowledgeable as in the case of the research firm, Wilson Architects, which was very thorough and smart about their recommendations. Burt Hill seems as if it is going to be similarly thorough. The Committee needs as much information as possible from the faculty because, after this, it is going to start moving fairly fast on the renovation or construction of new space. There will probably be a new, sizable classroom building.

Also, the Chancellor has requested that the Faculty Senate deliberate his “Framework for Excellence.” The Senate obviously cannot complete deliberations this semester but wants to get started so it can hit the ground running in the fall. In the back of the room, there is a report about the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Oversight. That will be voted on at the next meeting. Faculty members should give any suggestions about the charge, the membership or any other aspects to Secretary May. Many councils and committees will be involved, but this group will be involved in parceling out certain aspects of the “Framework for
B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(See attached)

C. PRESENTATION BY EMILY CACHIGUANGO, MARTHA BAKER, WILMORE WEBLEY AND STEPHEN GENCARELLA, MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE
“THE NEW GENERAL EDUCATION WEBSITE”
(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(See attached)

D. BYLAW CHANGES

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaws Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-034 with Motion No. 36-09.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-034. 36-09
(Inasmuch as these are changes to the Senate’s Bylaws, this is the first of three readings of this motion. It will be read again at the 685th and 686th Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate and voted on at the 686th meeting. The motion may be debated and amended at all three meetings.)

F. NEW COURSES

There is no report associated with the following motion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 423</td>
<td>“Biochemistry for Chemists”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASSICS 103</td>
<td>“Introduction to Classical Archaeology”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSCI 348</td>
<td>“Introduction to Knowledge and Discovery”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 335</td>
<td>“Comic Art in North America, 1895-Present”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 336</td>
<td>“The International Graphic Novel”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 317</td>
<td>“Writing in Nursing Ethics”</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CHEM 423, CLASSICS 103, CMPSCI 348 COMPLIT 335 AND 336, and NURSING 317, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters, Program and Budget and Undergraduate Education Councils concerning the RN to BS Online Program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-035 with Motion No. 38-09.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the RN to BS Online Program revision including the awarding of up to 15 residence credits for successful prior completion of the RN licensure exam, the elimination of the NLN ACE II exam requirement, and adding the existing Introduction to Healthcare Informatics course to the RN to BS online program, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-035.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning Undergraduate Program Revisions in Plant and Soil Sciences and Program Name Change from Plant and Soil
Sciences to Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-036 with Motion No. 39-09.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Undergraduate Program Revisions in Plant and Soil Sciences and Program Name Change from Plant and Soil Sciences to Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. 09-036 with Motion No. 39-09.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Curriculum for the Horticulture Major in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-037.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the General Education Designations for CLASSICS 103 and COMPLIT 335 and 336, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-038.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2009-2010 Continuing and Professional Education Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-039.

Eric Berkowitz, Associate Dean for Professional Programs in the Isenberg School of Management, spoke against the motion as well as the others to follow. He stated that he is responsible for the revenue generating programs in the Isenberg School. He knows that these proposed calendar changes are legacies of a previous administration and discussion. Marta Calas, the Faculty Senator from the Isenberg School of Management, has raised issues with regards to this at prior meetings.

This shortened winter term works at a significant disadvantage with regards to Continuing Education courses. The online and part-time programs represent about $400,000. In an era of declining revenue and state support, colleges are going to depend on these revenue opportunities. According to these calendars, faculty will be completing their fall terms and starting the winter terms in an overlapping time period. It is going to be difficult for individuals such as Associate Dean Berkowitz to convince faculty members to do this over the next three years. It is going to be especially difficult to improve on these initiatives and encourage students to take these courses. In the past three years for our college, these programs have grown at about an 18-20 percent gross revenue.

Associate Dean Berkowitz does not want to speak to the rationale for making these calendar changes. He was not on the committees and does not understand or have a full appreciation for why this was done. For those who are responsible for bringing budget dollars to the school in light of the dim budget realities, this will have a really significant, negative impact. It is going to hurt students and units. He asked faculty members to deliberate long and hard on this.

John Jenkins, Chair of the Academic Matters Council, stated there is a point-of-order to consider here. This calendar was already passed. The current discussion is about how the Academic Matters Calendar Committee proposes to adapt the Continuing and Professional
Education academic scheduling to the calendar in which the Senate previously passed. The Rules Committee would have to decide to reopen the calendar for consideration. Associate Dean Berkowitz is correct. This is a legacy from a previous era. The Academic Matters Council is now faced with dealing with what the Senate has given them. Chair Jenkins raised this as a question, not an answer, as to what to do next.

Robert Wilson, Presiding Officer, stated that the Senate has already voted on the new academic calendar for the fall and spring semesters. This motion is in response to the attempt to fit the winter session into the time that is available.

Senator Andrew Donson stated he thought the Senate defeated the motion on the 2009-2010 calendar and sent back to Academic Matters Council precisely because of the problems that were just raised.

Chair Jenkins stated the instructions to the Academic Matters Council at that time were that they were not to reconsider the entire calendar. They were charged with considering how to adapt Continuing and Professional Education. They were also trying to remedy scheduling related to the Fourth of July. These were small issues within the calendar. There is nothing that says that the calendar cannot be totally reconsidered. It is just that in order to do this, the Academic Matters Council has to be charged with this responsibility.

Senator Donson stated his understanding was that the Senate did charge the Committee to do that at the last meeting.

John McCarthy, Chair of the Rules Committee, stated that at the meeting when the Senate last discussed the calendar, he and a few others specifically objected to the winter term calendar and asked the Academic Matters Council to reconsider it. The Academic Matters Council did this and then brought back the same calendar. Chair McCarthy believes they tried to improve the calendar but could not.

John Lenzi, University Registrar, stated he is not authorized to speak for Continuing and Professional Education (CPE). However, the Registrar’s Office did go back to CPE and discussed this with them. It seemed faculty members were concerned with the flexibility of the winter term start time. CPE said they would respect the faculty. They did not have to start immediately after the fall term ended. CPE felt it would be best to offer the widest range of time to both students and faculty and then work with the CPE to establish an actual start time. They still felt that this was the best range of dates for the winter term.

Associate Dean Berkowitz stated there has to be academic integrity to the courses the University offers. The winter term is being reduced by a number of days. It gets to the point where you cannot offer a course with any academic quality or integrity to it. When this was proposed a few years ago, there may have been a logic to it. This University is now dealing with constrained fiscal realities.

It seems that the calendar was asked to be reconsidered. It might be beneficial to reconsider this in the next few years, in light of the Five College realities. It also might be beneficial for all academic units to improve upon their Continuing Education programs. Winter term can be as beneficial to everyone across the campus as it has been to the Isenberg School and its students. If you shorten this semester dramatically, it hurts academic integrity. It also hurts the University fiscally.

Secretary May responded that the suggestion to change the calendar came from student sources. This is a residential campus. There are almost 20,000 undergraduates here. Associate Dean Berkowitz’s program brings in $400,000. That is great, but the curriculum fee brings in $150 million. The Faculty Senate sponsored a survey. The survey showed that over 80 percent of the students were in favor of shortening the January session and getting out earlier in May in order to begin their summer jobs. The parents overwhelmingly support this proposal as well, because the students have nothing to do during the winter term and cannot find jobs for such a short length of time. The Senate also conducted a survey of the faculty. The faculty was two-thirds in favor of keeping the calendar the same; the students
wanted to start two weeks earlier. Ultimately, the Senate split the difference, and the new calendars are starting one week earlier.

The Five Colleges have indicated that they are going to change their calendars to align more with UMass Amherst’s situation. Also, the second semester has never been completely aligned between the Five Colleges and the University, because the Five Colleges have 12 week semesters (while UMass Amherst has 13-14 week semesters).

This new calendar definitely hurts some programs on the campus. The athletes use the January term. International Programs is considerably inconvenienced by this change. The question is whether these special interests, which represent 500-2,500 students, should override the clearly expressed interests of 80 percent of 20,000 students. The original suggestion was that the Continuing Education would go with a May-semester in order to make up for losses in the January term.

If faculty members wish to revisit this, the Senate would have to conduct surveys again. But, they would probably show the same results. There are certain University processes, mainly in the Registrar’s Office, that cannot be moved back any earlier than they are now. It does leave Continuing Education in a situation where it would be pretty hard to fit a course in between the end of the first semester and the beginning of the second semester. That is a loss. But, in this situation the Senate has to be mainly responsible to its primary customers, the 20,000 undergraduates who come here and provide most of the income on which this University operates.

Senator Donson stated he would like to start earlier in January, but the priority, in his view, should go to some of these other issues. Right now, UMass Amherst starts one week earlier than each of the other four colleges. There is pressure from the administration to cooperate with these colleges.

He is not sure that any students from the four colleges will come one week earlier in January to take courses. He was on leave last year and was not here to vote on the calendar. But, he was told that the new calendar was to be coordinated with the Five Colleges. UMass Amherst is now one week off from the other colleges.

Registrar Lenzi stated there have been meetings with the Presidents, Chancellors and Deans Five Colleges groups and the Five Colleges Directors in the past four months. They have made a verbal agreement that the other four colleges will move closer to the UMass calendar. They have also agreed that UMass will not make unilateral calendar changes. These negotiations are ongoing, but all the other colleges are reevaluating their January terms at this time.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2010-2011 Continuing and Professional Education Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-040.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2011-2012 Continuing and Professional Education Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 09-041.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
The 684th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:38 p.m. on April 23, 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