Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 691st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on February 4, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

Senator M. Christine King shared a tribute to Distinguished Faculty member and alumna Eileen Hayes, from the Nursing program, who recently lost her battle with cancer.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

   James Staros, Provost, stated that he knows it is of great concern that we do not have a budget distributed yet and noted that the administration cannot send out a budget until the Governor’s budget is released. He assured everyone that they are working on this issue and that he and the Vice Chancellor have been meeting about this issue. They expect to have budgets out in the next week to ten days. Provost Staros noted that he is acutely aware that departments are awaiting those budget figures to make admissions and TA decisions.

   John Cunningham, Deputy Provost/Dean of Undergraduate Education, provided an update on the General Education course upgrades. In the fall semester, there were close to 200 course approvals submitted to change 3-credit Gen Ed courses to 4-credit courses. Currently, 180 course upgrades have been approved and 20 are still under consideration. Deputy Provost Cunningham noted that an interesting aspect of the changes is that some of the faculty have expressed interest in delivering the newly-converted courses this summer instead of waiting until the fall semester. He noted they will be accepting another round of course upgrade proposals that will be offered in spring 2011 this semester. There will be information meetings for faculty members interested in submitting an upgrade proposal to learn more about the upgrade process. Deputy Provost Cunningham said the University is ready to make the Gen Ed switch to 4-credits in the registration process that begins in April and continues through the fall. He noted that issues of TAs are not resolved because of the budget. Applications to the University are up 8% overall from the previous year for out-of-state and in-state students. The Admissions Office is currently processing 30,000 applications. For the first time, the University is offering merit awards for out-of-state students.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

   Marilyn Billings, Acting Faculty Senate Secretary, noted that she began serving as Acting Secretary in late January at the beginning of the spring semester. She welcomed Dr. Andrew Whiteley, a new Senator from the Department of Natural Resources Conservation. Acting Secretary Billings noted that the Faculty Senate Office is completing the orientation process for over 20 undergraduate students who will be serving on Councils or Committees this semester. The students are all enrolled in the Faculty Senate’s one-credit course, Faculty Senate Practicum 298A. The Faculty Senate Office had one orientation session this afternoon and will have another session tomorrow afternoon. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, will present an update on Framework for Excellence – Research and Engagement Strategy and Senator Stanley Rosenberg will give an update from the Massachusetts Legislature.

3. The Chair of the Rules Committee

   John McCarthy, Chair of the Rules Committee, read the following prepared statement. Senator McCarthy noted that he had sent this statement to administrators prior to the meeting.

   “On September 17, 2009, this Senate passed a sweeping change in the University's General Education requirements. The change reduced the number of courses that students must complete, but at the same time it increased the workload of those courses from three to four credits.

   The minutes of that Senate meeting and the reports of the committees recommending the new Gen Ed system make it very clear that mere cosmetic changes in courses would not do: there had to be a significant increase in student workload and learning.

   I’m sure everyone present understood that this meant more work for the faculty who teach these courses. Courses would need to be redesigned to accommodate the additional work. That additional work would need
to be presented to students and evaluated. When faculty were asked to propose how they would change their courses to four credits, they were also asked what additional resources they would need to make this possible.

TAs are the mainstay of our Gen Ed program, and a lot of those resource requests involved TAs. Since I am on the committee that evaluates the proposals, I’ve seen many of them, and I don't understand how they could be implemented without additional TA resources. This is not a surprise; the minutes of the September 17 meeting make it very clear that both the faculty and the administration recognized this.

I have heard from department heads, and to my knowledge none of those requests has been acted on. The faculty went into this with a reasonable, good faith expectation that, if they were willing to take on this additional work, they would get the support they need to do it. This hasn't happened yet.

I am now starting to hear that more TAs aren't really needed because it's all a wash: students will be taking the same of credits under the new system as the old system, so no further resources should be necessary. Yes, it will be a wash -- four years from now, when the students covered by the old system will have graduated. If you think it's just a wash, imagine this scenario: Take every Gen Ed course that needs more TAs to change to four credits. When the TAs aren't provided, reset the enrollment cap so that number of student credit hours remains constant -- for instance, a course with an enrollment cap of 200 becomes a course with a cap of 150. The result would be chaos because we wouldn't be able accommodate all of those sophomores and up who need a larger number of Gen Ed courses to graduate.

While I realize that there is still much uncertainty about next year's budget, departments need information about TAs now. They are deciding now how many grad students they can afford to admit. Before preregistration starts, they will need to decide whether to lower enrollment caps so the new, higher workload is manageable with the old number of TAs. Where do these TA requests fit into the administration's priorities, and when will they be acted on?"

4. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

W. Richards Adrion, Delegate to the Board of Trustees, reported that he and Associate Delegate Marilyn Billings attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Boston yesterday. He noted that Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement Michael Malone made an excellent presentation at the meeting. During his presentation, Vice Chancellor Malone mentioned three grant competitions for projects that might have innovation possibilities which Vice Chancellor Malone outlined in an e-mail sent to department heads this afternoon. Delegate Adrion said the Advancement Committee seems to be doing well. There was also a presentation by Provost Staros on the BA in Computer Science.

C. NEW COURSE

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<td>NURSING 715</td>
<td>“Intermediate Biostatistics”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course NURSING 715, as recommended by the Graduate Council.
24-10

The motion was seconded and adopted.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning An Exchange Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA and the Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-023 with Motion No. 25-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Exchange Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA and the Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-023.
25-10

The motion was seconded and adopted.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Master of Science in Design: New Concentrations in “Historic Preservation” and “Design Studies,” as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-024.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Rules Committee’s Report concerning Search and Appointment Procedures for Deans, Academic Department Heads and Chairs, and Academic Program Directors, as set forth in Sen. Doc. No. 90-029B and recommend that the Trustees accept the provisions of Sen. Doc. No. 90-029B.

Provost Staros proposed an amendment changing the term ‘acting’ to ‘interim’ throughout the document. He explained that the term ‘acting’ is used to describe temporary and short-term replacements such as in the case of the Chancellor traveling abroad. The term ‘interim’ refers to the filling of a vacant position.

Senator M. Christine King asked how program heads fit into the document, since they do not have the whole document.

Senator Richard Bogartz noted that sometimes program heads are not located in departments.

Senator John McCarthy noted that this document is not the whole Search and Appointment Procedures document, just the sections that have been amended.

Senator Howard Peelle asked if the word “search” is implicit in the document and whether or not it includes outside or internal searches?

Provost Staros clarified that it could mean an external or internal search. He noted that a search means the position is posted; it is not an appointment.

Senator McCarthy noted that the document is not about internal or external searches, which he said is a very different question.

Senator Norman Sims is the document retroactive?

Provost Staros noted that, in the case of the Interim Dean of the School of Engineering, for example, the procedure would be followed as if it were a third year. The second year is a consultative process. Provost Staros said that he would be comfortable in observing it for interim incumbent administrators.

Senator McCarthy expressed his agreement with Provost Staros since the document does not contain a grandfather clause.

Senator King asked if Senator McCarthy could explain the clause about a second or third year.

Senator McCarthy noted that, the way the document is structured in the third year, the appointment process becomes much more difficult for the administration. In the second reappointment, the procedure becomes much more burdensome. The document states that the school or college shall form a search committee. The ad hoc search committee should consult with faculty and present an unranked list of candidates to the Dean. If none of these candidates can be agreed upon, then the Chancellor would become involved. As a final option, the Rules Committee would become involved.
Senator King asked if this process happened each year?

Senator McCarthy explained that the process is less complicated the second year.

The motion was seconded and adopted as amended.

The 691st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:08 p.m. on February 4, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Billings
Acting Secretary of the Faculty Senate