Presiding Officer Robert Wilson called the 693rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on March 25, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. PRESENTATION BY JOHNNY WHITEHEAD, CHIEF OF POLICE
(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(see attached)

Senator Patricia Vittum took exception with Chief Whitehead’s comment that 99% of the pedestrian accidents with cars are the driver’s fault. She asked if he had spent any time watching the students. She said that somehow they have lost the message we got in kindergarten to look both ways before they cross the street. Her question is whether or not there has been any thought to instituting some kind of jaywalking penalty for students that are being stupid.

Chief Whitehead explained that when he said in 99% of the cases the drivers are at fault, he is talking from a legal standpoint. If a person is struck, particularly in a crosswalk, it is pretty hard not to hold the driver responsible. He agreed with Senator Vittum that pedestrians have to take some responsibility. Most of the students use the crosswalks, from what he has seen. What is happening is that the crosswalks are creating a false sense of security and students are not actually looking. They are assuming cars are going to stop. He thinks that people who jaywalk are actually more cautious because they will actually look to see if a car is coming. Most of our pedestrians use the crosswalk. He said the Department is looking at that also. If you look at North Pleasant Street, there are 15-16 crosswalks between Mass. Avenue and Governors Drive. You have all of this foot traffic crossing and crossing. What would happen if there were only 2-3 crosswalks? Part of that is because there are cuts in curb or paths leading from one building to the street but, if you take Commonwealth Avenue, there are only a few crosswalks, but most people use those crosswalks. There is not a lot of zigzagging of pedestrian traffic. Chief Whitehead does think pedestrians can take on more responsibility for their own safety though he hates to blame them. It is like crime prevention. You do not blame the victim of the crime, but if there are some common-sense things you can do to prevent a crime to your property or yourself, you should do that, and the same applies to pedestrians as well. The advertisement focuses on not just the driver but the pedestrian and they are starting to focus too on the bicyclists on campus who are zipping past people and flying through crosswalks. That is one of the things they are looking at next.

Senator W. Brian O’Connor said that his big pet peeve is cyclists. Can a bicyclist who is riding on the sidewalk coming out to the Whitmore parking lot, for example, use a crosswalk without stopping? They do not stop and just whip across the crosswalk because they think they are pedestrians. Half of the time you do not see them. At least you can see the pedestrians. The bikes are coming at such a clip. Is that illegal?

Chief Whitehead explained they are looking at that issue. In town, for example, you are not allowed to operate your bicycle on sidewalks but here, in some cases, we have created bike paths. We will start out with education. We will work with the bicycle shops. A number of students register their bikes with the Police Department every year and we will educate them when they come in to register their bikes. We will look at the laws and start doing some enforcement as well. You are right, that when a bike comes to a crosswalk, technically the bicyclist should dismount and walk like everyone else, but they do not do that. Chief Whitehead said he does not know that the average bicyclist knows that either. Pedestrian safety is a big issue with the Department and the whole University which is why we have the Pedestrian Safety Committee with a cross-section of people across campus. We do a lot of work with the College of Engineering and its students as well. Dr. Michael Knodler and some of his graduate students have done some surveys of pedestrian flow on campus. The Department is looking at the feasibility of a traffic signal at Commonwealth Avenue and Hicks Way. With the opening of the Recreation Center, there is a lot of foot traffic up and down Commonwealth Avenue and it is difficult to get off Hicks Way or turn onto Hicks Way. Facilities has actually hired an engineering firm to study the feasibility of a light or some other traffic control device or signage at that intersection and they are working with the College of Engineering students on that as well.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

James Staros, Provost, reminded everyone that this past week he sent out a memo concerning posting information about textbooks. This was in response to word he received that faculty did not have enough to be peeved about so he thought he would provide something! In reality, this is in response to a new federal
regulation that requires the posting of enough information to purchase textbooks by the time students register for courses, whenever feasible. OIT has developed a page in SPIRE to make this relatively easy and painless. There will be fields to add the information into SPIRE. At the time this was created, though the federal regulation only requires textbook information, they also provided space to include a syllabus, or for those faculty who do not want to post a full-length, detailed syllabus in a public place, an outline syllabus. The reason for including this is that some courses have multiple required and recommended textbooks and students may not have the information they need to know to purchase the texts unless they see how it is used in the course. Students have been asking for earlier access to syllabi anyway. This seems like a good time to provide the opportunity to do that. You do not have to complete that field to close the page, but, if you have six or more required and recommended texts (which is what we are supposed to be posting), the syllabus will be a great help to the students.

John Cunningham, Deputy Provost, followed up on Provost Staros’ comments. He reminded faculty that registration starts next week for the Fall Semester. Anyone who has taken a course on our campus up to now is still following the old General Education requirements. They are welcome to take a 4-credit course to meet a 3-credit requirement which is not a bad thing. It should be pretty easy to get through spring registration as far as General Education goes. It is during the summer orientation for new students where we start to transition the program.

C. QUESTION PERIOD (10-Minute Limit)

Senator Marta Calas stated that on the issue of textbooks, she feels it is quite important for students to have that kind of information whether it is required by the Federal Government or not. She explained that before Provost Staros came to UMass, there were a lot of complaints by students about the rising costs of textbooks. It is an industry problem that has to do with a lot of companies that have been acquired by each other. There is basically an oligopoly in the textbook market at this point. Some companies attempted to lower textbook prices by introducing paperbacks. At the beginning, this may have been a solution, but now they are as expensive as the old hard-bound textbooks were. That in itself is calling for an alternative. What about those of us who create web sites and materials ourselves so the students do not have to buy textbooks? Is it okay to say that we do not do textbooks?

Provost Staros answered that if you are not requiring or recommending purchasing a textbook, he believes you can simply state that. He is sorry that Marilyn (Billings) is not here. In ScholarWorks, there is the ability to post, within the Library, your own developed materials. You could use the page in SPIRE, to simply put a link to that. This might inspire students to take an early look at that as well. Part of the statute’s intent is in response to the economic issue of intending to lower the prices. By listing this information, it gives students a little more time to buy books online, and there may be a bigger market in used textbooks and so forth. This issue can also inspire self-published, open-access materials for students. We do have the capabilities on campus, thanks to the Library, to have a central location to posting and downloading such materials.

Senator O’Connor said that he has a concern about a temporary situation that has scared him the last several nights. His concern involves the stop sign at the intersection opposite the Newman Center, between Hills North and South as you are coming down Infirmary Way with the Hills buildings on your left and the New Studio Arts Building on your right. A fence has been erected right there by the walkway, which is fine, but the fence is orange and it is not transparent. It sticks way out so you must nose yourself out into the street and, at that point, a car is coming from the South very rapidly.

Joyce Hatch, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, said that she was not aware of the problem. She was just there last week coming out that same way, but there was not any traffic so it was not a problem for her.

Senator O’Connor noted that the orange fencing is more recent.

Vice Chancellor Hatch said this is a good point and she will look into it.

Senator Andrew Donson explained that a lot of times, just a few weeks before the semester begins the books that are on our syllabi go out of print. It happens all the time. He is concerned about posting the textbooks for the class only to find out later that one of those textbooks or more are not going to be used in the class due to this issue and he will have students who will already have purchased the books in advance. He asked how faculty should address that problem?
Presiding Officer Wilson added that sometimes a publisher announces a new textbook and, when the semester comes, it is not quite ready to be published so you end up using the old edition.

Provost Staros said that once we post the books, we have to try to stick to them. This is a matter of planning. If you know a new edition is coming out, you may just want to delay it. The legislation allows a little bit of flexibility. If we have 80-90% of the courses covered by the postings, then he does not think we will be in trouble with compliance. If you really know there is a decision on the cusp, you might put that in the comments. For the most part, once you put textbooks on SPIRE the only way you could change it (in meeting the letter of the statute) is to generate an e-mail message to all of the students registered for the course. This can be done internally on SPIRE and there will be a link to allow faculty to e-mail registered students as a group online. Once you post something, if you are going to change it, you need to notify all the registrants in the course.

Senator Brian Ogilvie wanted to follow up on Senator Donson’s question. It is not usually a new edition but a book that was published 10-15 years ago that is the problem when half the students buy it four months in advance and then three weeks before the class starts the publisher says, ‘sorry, we are out of stock.’ In that case, half the students cannot get the book and half have already paid for it. It is a kind of Hobson’s choice.

Provost Staros agrees that it is but, by posting the books earlier, bookstores (whichever ones you use) will be able to get their orders out earlier creating fewer of those situations. A lot of times, those last-minute crises are because people have run up to deadlines and the bookstores are getting them in on a just-in-time basis, rather than putting the orders in months in advance. If you upload this information early, you should get that information back in time to disseminate to the students.

Senator Ogilvie feels that publishers do not want overstock so they wait for returns before printing new editions.

Provost Staros agreed that this is a problem.

D. BYLAW CHANGES

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-028 with Motion No. 30-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-028.

30-10

(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 694th and 695th regular meetings of the Faculty Senate and voted on at the 695th meeting. The motion may be debated and amended at all three meetings.)

E. NEW COURSES

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<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>GEO-SCI 426</td>
<td>“Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEO-SCI 468</td>
<td>“GIS and Spatial Analysis”</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPORT-MGT 485</td>
<td>“Economics of Sport”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses GEO-SCI 426 and 468 and SPORT-MGT 485, 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>CE-ENGIN 527</td>
<td>“Earthquake Engineering”</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 555</td>
<td>“Topics in Philosophy of Mind”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>PHIL 571</td>
<td>“Philosophy and Feminist Thought”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CE-ENGIN 527 and PHIL 555 and 571, as recommended by the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
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<tr>
<td>CMPSCI 660</td>
<td>“Advanced Information Assurance”</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 771</td>
<td>“Seminar in Feminist Theory”</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBP&amp;ADM 651</td>
<td>“Social Inequality, Technology and Public Policy”</td>
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<td>PUBP&amp;ADM 653</td>
<td>“Family Policy”</td>
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<td>PUBP&amp;ADM 654</td>
<td>“Gender and Social Policy”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses CMPSCI 660, PHIL 771, and PUBP&ADM 651, 653 and 654, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning an Increase in Semester Credit Maximum from 18 Credits to 19 Credits for Undergraduates in the College of Natural Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-029 with Motion No. 34-10.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve an Increase in Semester Credit Maximum from 18 Credits to 19 Credits for Undergraduates in the College of Natural Sciences, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-029.

Senator Donson asked how many hours of homework per credit hour is expected in the College of Natural Science?

John Jenkins, Chair of the Academic Matters Council, said that his understanding is that they conform to the general expectations within the University and that they have not ever had a separate issue raised about that college.

Senator Donson commented that if students did just one hour of homework per week for every credit hour and if they had a 10-hour job that they would have 29 hours of work.

Deputy Provost Cunningham explained that this was the maximum for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics before they merged these two colleges, and then they had a merger of 18 and 19 credit limits. Part of this increase is to make a single, college-wide maximum. The maximum is not required of anyone; the maximum is a maximum. There are also overrides from Commonwealth Honors College students who typically take 21 credit hours. If they work, they work, but they know what they are doing and the courses they take are not in the College of Natural Sciences. They are in your college and other colleges across campus so the question is what the campus does for homework, not what a college does.

Chair Jenkins added that one reason for this increase in the college is that before the Council approved this increase, an inordinate amount of students had to previously request an override for additional credit hours in order to fit an independent study, practicum or laboratory in their schedules. These were being more or less routinely approved and taking a great deal of time to do so.

Senator O’Connor noted that one of the problems in the College of Natural Sciences is that they have an awful lot of 4-credit courses. Sometimes students will take as many as four 4-credit courses. Each one of the courses has a lab and, if students want to take a General Education course, this brings them up to 19 credits. He knows it is a problem and has mixed feelings about it because he remembers when they went from 17 to 18 credits and now we are going from 18 to 19 credits. He thinks it is because the majority of the science courses now are all 4 credits and the majority of the incoming freshman have AP credits so they will take 12 credits plus 6 credits plus maybe a 1-credit independent study.

Senator Donson said that it strikes him that more of the burden of learning is being put on the professors when there are so many credit hours and, if they are trying to make a more efficient system at UMass, it would make sense for the students to take fewer credit hours and do more homework.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
G. OLD BUSINESS (Tabled from 692nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate, February 25, 2010)

Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning the 2012-2013 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-027 with Motion No. 29-10. (Report previously distributed.)

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2012-2013 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-027. 29-10

Senator John McCarthy explained that he had asked that the Academic Calendar be tabled at the last meeting in the hope of getting an explanation from the Academic Matters Council about why we could not use the days in late August as part of the summer term. He said he has received quite a satisfactory explanation that they need to get grades out, not only to our own students but for students at other colleges in New England who are taking courses from us and time for these students to register in September and deal with issues such as academic discipline. UMass Online also needs downtime for system maintenance and there also needs to be an allowance for the fact that CPE students taking the courses in the Fall have to have access to the course a week in advance under the current contract.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 693rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:34 p.m. on March 25, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Billings
Acting Secretary of the Faculty Senate