Presiding Officer W. Brian O’Connor called the 710th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on November 3, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

Before introducing President Robert L. Caret, Presiding Officer O’Connor noted that, although he could not attend President Caret’s recent inauguration, he noticed that Craig Mello served as Faculty Marshal at the event. In the days after the meeting, President Caret would dedicate the George M. Parks Minuteman Marching Band Building. To show some of the connectedness of the University of Massachusetts to its new President, Presiding Officer O’Connor shared the following story involving both Mr. Parks and Dr. Mello:

When Dr. Mello received the Noble Prize for Physiology or Medicine in August of 2006, Presiding Officer O’Connor was serving as a Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees. Almost immediately following the announcement of the award, the Board of Trustees decided that they needed to protect Dr. Mello from the press and public requests he would be inundated with. With that in mind, they formed a committee to protect him. Around Thanksgiving of 2006, Presiding Officer O’Connor met with a group of biological science majors that were part of the University’s Junior Fellows Program. As part of the program, the students would be conducting research throughout their senior year. Marking the end of the year and their research, the program hosts a large banquet featuring a speaker of repute. At the Thanksgiving meeting, the students asked Presiding Officer O’Connor if it would be possible to get Dr. Mello to speak. At the time, Presiding Officer O’Connor noted that it would likely be easier to contact then President George W. Bush than Dr. Mello. They persisted, and Presiding Officer O’Connor informed them about the committee that they would have to work through. He then suggested—with the warning that he would swear that he never told them to do this—that the students write a letter directly to Dr. Mello, asking him to come and including signatures from every student. To make a long story short, they did it, Dr. Mello responded, noting that he can’t say no to students, and he came.

Just prior Dr. Mello’s lecture in Mahar Auditorium, Presiding Officer O’Connor received a phone call notifying him that Dr. Mello was a big fan of the UMass Marching Band. Presiding Officer O’Connor then called Marching Band Director George Parks, asking him if he would be willing to have the band perform after the lecture. Director Parks—who never said no to anybody—agreed, and said he would line up the available band members behind the auditorium. Around 5:30, when the student-run question and answer session ended, the leading students signaled Presiding Officer O’Connor, who in turn signaled Director Parks, who had been hiding in the back of the auditorium. Surely enough, when the time came, Director Parks led in nearly 320 band members, who serenaded a flabbergasted Dr. Mello, whom Director Parks let lead the band.

A. ADDRESS BY ROBERT L. CARET, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

(See attached)

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, believes that the citizens of Massachusetts are certain that the state is number one in the country in private higher education, and that test results indicate that the state is number one in K-12 education. A recent Vision Project from the office of Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland attempts to construct a strategy for the state to become number one in public higher education. The University of Massachusetts obviously plays a critical role in this endeavor. Even attempting to consider the metrics of this vision, however, is exceedingly difficult. Secretary May wondered if President Caret had any comments on this project.

President Caret stated that UMass hopes to be able to take part in this project while maintaining autonomy. The University, although it is obviously part of the state’s public higher education system, has needs that vary greatly from the community colleges and the state universities. Commissioner Freeland has been measuring many of the aspects that President Caret also finds important. The University will continue to study its strengths—and its shortcomings—to help the Commissioner’s Office release hard data that proves that the University of Massachusetts is, in fact, one of the best public university systems in the country, even if it remains challenged. President Caret and other University officials have been in touch with Commissioner Freeland, and President Caret believes that those communications have been going well. While attempting projects of this magnitude, however, the state sometimes gets ahead of itself. State officials recently gave the University eight days notice to attend a caucus on core standards, requesting ten representatives from each campus. Of course, this was impossible, but representatives from the President’s Office did attend. President Caret believes that the University and the Board of Higher Education will work well together, but the University must maintain its own agenda. When the aspirations of the University and the Board overlap, he believes that the two will be able to work together effectively.

Randall Phillis, President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, applauded President Caret’s efforts to reach out to the workforce at the UMass system. He appreciates the positive way in which President Caret has interacted with the faculty, librarians and staff. President Phillis, moreover, appreciates President Caret’s effort to persuade the legislature and the Governor about capital expenditure in an attempt to get the state to supply a fair share of funds. There is a troubling issue of fairness surrounding funding, as more money will be required from students and their families if the state continues to
President Caret stated that the way for the University to grow is to first obtain the resources that it needs to do it well. The University will not grow without proper resources. At Towson University, President Caret made it clear to the Governor that the school would only continue its growth if the state maintained the $5,500 per student subsidy each year. Towson experienced a net growth of 1,200 students each year that the state offered a per student subsidy of $6,000. Those students averaged SAT scores of 1175 and high school GPAs around 3.60. When the subsidy dropped below $5,500, Towson had to stop accepting those deserving students. The campus continued to experience growth, but only at the rate of 200 or 300 students a year. By happenstance, a higher percentage of those students than ever before was coming from out of the state. Each campus must approach growth differently. However, one of the most fundamental and universal measures of the health of a campus is the student-to-faculty ratio. At Towson, that was 18.6:1. As Towson grew, it was adamant about maintaining that ratio. This can only be done by hiring faculty proportionally to enrollment growth. A university cannot accept enrollment growth without the faculty growth to support it. The University of Massachusetts absolutely does not want to be a low-quality enterprise. It may not be Harvard, which spends $60,000 on each student, but it needs to spend its money pursuing quality endeavors. The University must either receive the resources to grow, or choose not to accept increased enrollment. The only other option is to continue what UMass has been doing recently: privatize the campus and accept more out-of-state students. This is the situation among such public schools as those in the University of California system. The University of Massachusetts does not spend a fortune educating its students—generally between $13,000 and $16,000 per student—but the state wants to decrease that number even more. There must be the resources to grow. Otherwise, the University will need to realign its goals to provide the highest quality education with what is available. The state has ignored the University’s capital projects for too long. The University of Massachusetts, in many ways, is already a private institution. When a university accepts more and more out-of-state students to create revenue, when it takes out its own bonds to build facilities, when it takes 10-20% of its operating fund and allots it to financial aid, it is running like a private university. Private universities generally generate 60-70% of their revenue from tuition, and the University of Massachusetts is edging closer and closer to those figures. President Caret does not believe that society needs 18,000 private universities. Nor does he believe the universities would be able to function, as there would not be enough students willing to pay for private educations. Additional public support is needed. The one negative interaction from President Caret’s bus tour involved a citizen that disagreed with President Caret about the high fee/high aid model, claiming that such a model works, and that if the University raised its tuition to $40,000, or even $45,000, enrollment would not decrease and that it would be possible to operate the University at a higher level than ever before. President Caret responded by stating that the model plateaus, and that enrollment would dramatically decrease if the tuition was raised to that level. One of the characteristics that attracts students to public universities is the high quality education that comes at a reasonable cost. If the tuition were raised to levels equivalent to the private schools, many students that factor value into their matriculation decision would be lost to private schools. Moreover, such high tuition would dramatically limit accessibility to education. The University needs more revenue from the state in order to keep fees low enough to keep high quality education accessible.

Senator Max Page likewise applauded President Caret for the advocacy efforts for higher education that were a major feature of the President’s bus tour. Senator Page mentioned that he had been involved in a walk across the state for higher education, and he would have much preferred a dry, warm bus. Senator Page hoped that President Caret could address a problem that he did not create, but that he could possibly help the University solve. The University has been subjected to some of the worst budget cuts that any public higher education system in the country has faced over the past five years. Still, it was revealed last year that UMass Amherst would commence involvement in what Senator Page likes to call “professional college football.” As many know from the extensive research done on the effects of high-level football at universities, football is a sinkhole for money on a campus. There are essentially no aspects to the endeavor that make money or even come close to being of no loss. This is without mentioning the variety of other problems that come with college football. Senator Page wonders if President Caret will consider other options than moving to, and remaining in, the Football Bowl Subdivision, considering the severity of the financial cuts facing the University and the amount of money that is already being directed to football, including the consideration of a new stadium that would increase University debt by millions of dollars each year.

President Caret stated that the decision to move to the FBS is one that should be made by the campus. The University of Massachusetts system does not have a football team. Basically, the decision has already been made. Now, the University must see if the business plan works. If it doesn’t, the University will need to reconsider its options. The plan was blessed by the campus, and in many ways it could be disastrous for the campus not to follow through with the plans it has put forward. Comparing schools with FBS Football teams to those with FCS Football teams and schools with Division-I sports that do not play football, the average expenditure to athletics, among all three, is $10 to $12 million, and that money largely comes from
student fees. The difference is in the revenue that is generated by the sports from ticket sales, sponsorships, fundraising, bowl games, March Madness, et cetera. The FBS schools spend anywhere from $24 to $65 million, the FCS schools spend $18 to $26, and the schools without football spend around $12 million on sports, but they generally subsidize at around the same level—if they are running effective athletic departments. The issue is less about the division in which a school participates, but about how well the department is run. Very few schools make money on athletics. The plan that UMass Amherst has formed, which President Caret was not a part of, but which he was very aware of, assumes that revenue streams will be created by moving to the FBS that will eventually decrease the subsidy from the state directed to football. President Caret stated that “the Board of Trustees did not approach this issue haphazardly. It made sure that there were realistic—even conservative—figures on the feasibility of FBS Football. The stadium, as a capital issue, is somewhat separate from the Athletic Department, and no renovations or new projects were approved as part of the transition to FBS Football.”

Secretary May brought up the issues surrounding research at the University of Massachusetts. UMass Amherst and the Medical School are the loci of research activity in the system. UMass Amherst has been married to a concept of AAU aspiration for about ten years, and Secretary May wondered how President Caret viewed that conception, wondering if it is worthwhile to pursue AAU membership, considering the competition it faces from other universities aspiring to AAU membership.

President Caret stated that he believes, in any endeavor one is pursuing, one should attempt to be the “best of breed.” At Towson University, he made it clear that he did not wish to become a research-based campus because the state of Maryland already had a strong, public research-I university in the University of Maryland at College Park. However, Towson became more research-like, encouraging applied research and applied doctorates, as well as a few PhD options. States need and deserve a flagship institution, and UMass Amherst is that flagship for Massachusetts. UMass Amherst recently ranked 42nd in public universities in U.S. News and World Report. President Caret believes it could be in the top 25, which, ostensibly, would entail advancements that would put the University on par with members of the AAU. The University is lagging behind AAU institutions in areas such as post-doctorate appointments, doctoral student enrollment, endowment and alumni giving. These areas can be improved. Steps need to be taken, but President Caret believes that Amherst has the potential to be an AAU-type university, and therefore should do all it can to reach its goals. Of course, these goals cannot be reached overnight. Advancements will need to be made incrementally, strategically, and—in many ways—politically, because the way some numbers are counted affects the decisions of the AAU. It may be possible for the AAU to look at the University of Massachusetts as more of a system, at least including the Medical School as part of the flagship campus’ research endeavor. In any event, resources are necessary to reach this goal—one President Caret believes is appropriate for the University.

Money is essential to the endeavor and is sometimes difficult to come by in Massachusetts. While working in Maryland, President Caret and Towson attempted to build an academic building on the campus with a private contractor. The state did not allow this because it had never let a public university build an academic building with its own money. At UMass, 80% of the building costs are provided by the University. Recently, President Caret reminded a Massachusetts State Legislator that legislatures rarely have a problem with putting debt on future legislatures. The way that Massachusetts counts its debt gives it some of the highest debt figures in the nation. Moreover, public-private partnerships on construction are prohibited in Massachusetts. At Towson, a company bought a large apartment complex near the campus. Subsequently, a private, non-profit organization was formed with a plan to let the school gradually pay for the buildings while using them as dorms. After 35 years, the complex would automatically transfer to Towson ownership. Great deals such as this—deals where the debt is put on private organizations and therefore not included in the state’s debt services—are not allowed in Massachusetts. President Caret hopes to work with the state to change some of these laws and to work with unions to garner support for such partnerships, which would offer numerous union jobs.

President Caret considers himself a very competitive individual, and one that appeals to other competitive individuals, and can use their competitiveness to the University’s advantage. Does the Governor want to say that Massachusetts is number six or number twelve in the nation in public higher education? The University of Connecticut is ranked ahead of UMass. If UConn continues to be held in higher regard than UMass, it won’t be long before the state of Connecticut is considered superior to the state of Massachusetts. This is obviously something the Governor and the legislature want to prevent.

Senator Richard Bogartz welcomed President Caret and noted his appreciation for the sentiments expressed. Senator Bogartz has a theory that people reveal themselves right up front the first time you meet them. From what he has seen of President Caret, he believes that UMass will have a wonderful president who is fighting and struggling and working to make the University a better place.

Senator Mari Casteñeda referred to a report released last year about the number of students of color being recruited, retained, and graduated at Towson University. It was very impressive. The state of Massachusetts is declining in population, yet communities of color are growing exponentially. These are the communities that must be considered when one thinks about the future of Massachusetts. Out-of-state students generally return to their home states, and it is important for the University of Massachusetts to educate the citizens that will become the society and workforce of Massachusetts. She wondered if
President Caret had any plans for the University of Massachusetts system that might relate to those that he developed at Towson.

President Caret grew up in Biddeford, Maine, a gateway city that is not particularly far from western Massachusetts, yet he knew little of the demographics of this area until recently. Before visiting Holyoke on the bus tour, he imagined it as a town of green lawns, white picket fences, and cows. There are very large Hispanic populations in communities such as Holyoke, Lawrence, and Lowell. While he was President of San Jose State University, President Caret visited a group of alumni at the Saratoga Men’s Club. Most of the members of that club were white men over 70 years old. All the members professed to admiring San Jose State, but they wondered why President Caret was not hiring leaders like it had in past years. The truth was that he was hiring people that likely grew up in the same neighborhoods as the previous leaders, but now those neighborhoods had large Hispanic, Asian, and Native American populations. California had changed a lot in that time, and the San Jose State that President Caret resided over reflected those changes. Whether you are an idealist who praises the advantages of diversity, or a pragmatist who simply understands that we live in an evolving nation, you have to reach out to diverse populations in order to create a sustainable campus environment. Just as previous generations reached out to immigrant families like President Caret’s, we now have to support our state and country’s diverse populations. It is not enough to merely admit diverse students into the University either; they must have the support to graduate successfully. The low graduation rate of diverse students is awful not only because it is indicative of a lack of support, but because it is a waste of money and resources. The easiest way to improve graduation rates is to limit access, but we cannot simply do that. That model was followed by Trenton State in New Jersey, and it greatly increased their graduation rate, but it is socially unacceptable for the University of Massachusetts in that it drastically decreases diversity and limits opportunities. We must accept qualified students and continue to offer them the support they need to complete their educations successfully. Substantially increasing graduation rates is an impossible task to complete overnight, but, incrementally, it can be done. President Caret believes it is better to decrease the number of students admitted initially—without limiting access or diversity—and help the majority of those students graduate. To continue to increase enrollment with shrinking graduation rates is crazy. At Towson, President Caret faced great challenges to finding a balance between access and success. During his first year back from San Jose State, a mere 25 of 2200 incoming students at Towson came from the nearby Baltimore City Public Schools, which are primarily African-American and socio-economically depressed. President Caret then oversaw a program that offered free application, guaranteed admission, and a minimum of $4,000 in scholarship funds to students in the top ten percent of their graduating classes at Baltimore City Public Schools. In the first year, the number of students from Baltimore City increased to 200. And although these students represented the top of their classes, they were still challenged. In the second year of the program, Towson instated a dual-enrollment program in which Towson paid the tuition of students in the program to enroll in courses at local community colleges that would better prepare them for the coursework at the university. The graduation rate among these students, while higher than among students from comparable backgrounds nationwide, is still below Towson’s average. This is a difficult issue, but one that deserves much attention. It is critical to the nation’s future. The politics surrounding issues such as this are crazy. Nobody wants to say no to anything, and if standards are involved, saying no is required.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

James Staros, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, updated the Senate on some ongoing dean searches. He was disappointed to announce that the candidate he was negotiating with for the position of Dean of Engineering had to withdraw for personal reasons. Jim Kurose, who chaired that search committee, has been asked to reconvene the committee and move the search forward. The search committees for the SBS, HFA and Graduate School deans will have their first meetings soon and will present reports by December 1.

Carol Barr, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Continuing Education, reminded the faculty to post textbook information on SPIRE so it can be accessed by students. This is mandatory now in order to comply with the Higher Education Opportunity Act. She also thanked the faculty for its assistance and accommodation for off-campus students affected by the intense storm.

2. Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, reminded the Senate that a meeting of the Chancellor Search Committee would take place on Friday, November 4, 2011 at 9:15 a.m. in the Campus Center, Room 917.
5. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Randall Phillis, President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, noted that the MSP was preparing to engage in contract negotiations. Over 500 people have responded to the MSP survey on critical issues. A set of principles and proposals about the derivation of a new contract is being discussed. An open faculty meeting will take place on December 1, at which time a vote will be held.

C. QUESTION PERIOD (10-minute Limit)

Senator Richard Bogartz requested information regarding the pocking and holes in the cement surrounding W.E.B. Du Bois Library. Around a year ago, red marks appeared on the cement, yet no further work has been done.

Juanita Holler, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Campus Services, stated that testing is being done to determine what remediation will be most cost-effective and durable. Various strategies are being tested now. Issues have arisen with DCAM because the contract has been deemed unenforceable. DCAM is saying that the contractor has done its job, and the damages are the responsibility of the University. The University is no longer working with that contractor.

Senator Max Page asked when the Faculty Senate would have an independent discussion, public debate, and possibly motions regarding FBS Football and, more generally, athletics at the UMass Amherst campus. Senator Page believes that the Senate should have a discussion that entails more than merely responding to facts presented by the administration.

Secretary May stated that the discussion would take place at the December 1 meeting.

D. BYLAW CHANGES

Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-001B with Motion No. 02-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Bylaw Changes, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-001B. 02-12

(This motion was read at the 708th and 709th meetings of the Faculty Senate on September 15 and October 13, 2011, respectively. The final vote will be taken at this meeting.)

Secretary May proposed an amendment comprised of the following: add to the membership of the Status of Diversity Council: Director of the Fine Arts Center, serving ex officio; add to the membership of the University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee: Information and Technology Director from each school or college; delete from the membership of the University Press Committee: University Editor, serving ex officio.

The amendment was seconded and adopted.

Senator David Gross offered another amendment that would delete the first sentence of the proposed changes to section 2-1-2, which defines qualified voters, and replace it with two short sentences: Qualified voters are defined as tenure-stream faculty, non-tenure-stream faculty, librarians and retired faculty on post-retirement appointments. Qualified voters must have a half-time or greater appointment, excepting retired faculty.

Provost Staros stated that the proposed amendment presents very real changes to the qualified membership, including decreasing the required appointment from full-time to half-time.

Senator Gross stated that he made two important changes. He decreased appointment requirements from full-time to half-time, making the Senate more inclusive. The previous wording of the section excluded those with the title of Librarian I, who are members of the MSP. Retired faculty on appointments were included in the original proposal, but did not include the exception for those whose appointments are less than half-time, of which most are.

MSP President Phillis noted that the Senate rarely has a long line of visiting professors eager to vote. With respect to post-retirement appointments, President Phillis noted that there are legal constraints on post-retirement appointments. Retired faculty receiving 80% salary benefits cannot legally receive post-retirement appointments over 20%. There are many people on post-retirement appointments who are less than half time contributing significantly to the University.

Senator Curt Conner asked how these amendments would affect quorum requirements.
Secretary May answered that quorum is defined by the number of Senators present at a given vote. He then noted that the amendment presented by Senator Gross identifies the same population as the long list in the original proposal with the exception of Librarian I. There will likely be changes in titles across the University soon, and the inclusive language proposed may alleviate a need to change the titles in the Bylaws every time there are title changes.

Senator Tobias Baskin asked if these definitions applied to voting Senators, or those who vote to elect the Senators.

Secretary May answered that it would apply to both, because Senators must be drawn from qualified voters.

The amendment was seconded and adopted.

Senator Frank Hugus wondered if this vote would fully approve the new Bylaws, or if the amendments would postpone the final vote.

Secretary May stated that it is specified that there are three readings of new Bylaws, and that amendments can be made at any of the readings. There is no requirement in the Constitution stating that amendments would postpone the final vote.

Senator Hugus believes that the amended Bylaws present an entirely new motion.

Secretary May stated that past practice has been to accept amendments at all three readings.

Presiding Officer O’Connor stated that he understands Senator Hugus’ argument, but ruled based on precedent that the final vote was acceptable at this time.

MSP President Phillis offered some clarification of the proposed amendment that defines qualified voters. Currently, the MSP is considering renegotiating the categories of faculty. People will have new titles. The Bylaws should not have to be renegotiated to determine who gets to vote every time there is a slight variation in the contract. The intent of the proposed amendment is to simplify the language so tenure-stream faculty, non-tenure-stream faculty, and librarians are eligible to vote. Period.

Secretary May moved that the final vote on the Bylaws be postponed until the Faculty Senate meeting of November 17, 2011, by which time all amendments can be distributed to Senators for a review. At that meeting, it will again be possible to amend the Bylaws.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

E. ANNUAL REPORT


The report was received.

F. NEW COURSES

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<td>COMM 211</td>
<td>“Communication for Sustainable Social Change”</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 372</td>
<td>“Caribbean Literature”</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 373</td>
<td>“American Indian Literature”</td>
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<td>JUDAIC 322</td>
<td>“American Diversity”</td>
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<td>“Slavery in Comparative Religious Perspective”</td>
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<td>PLSOILIN 379</td>
<td>“Agricultural Systems Thinking”</td>
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<td>SOCIOL 343</td>
<td>“Hate Crime in America”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses COMM 211, ENGLISH 372 and 373, JUDAIC 322 and 324, PLSOILIN 379 and SOCIOL 343, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
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<th>COURSE</th>
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<td>“Business Intelligence and Analytics”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses HM&FNART 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509 and 510 and SCH-MGMT 508, 551, 552 and 553, as recommended by the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

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<th>COURSE</th>
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<td>E&amp;C-ENG 644</td>
<td>“Trustworthy Computing”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the course E&C-ENG 644, as recommended by the Graduate Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils concerning An Accelerated Option for the Master’s Degree in Economics, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-005 with Motion No. 08-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Accelerated Option for the Master’s Degree in Economics, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-005.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Accelerated Master’s Option - Master in Public Policy (MPP), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-006.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

3. Special Report of the Academic Matters and Program and Budget Councils concerning a Change to the Bachelor of Business Administration Core Requirements and Accompanying Revision to the Finance and Operations Management Major, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-007 with Motion No. 10-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Change to the Bachelor of Business Administration Core Requirements and Accompanying Revision to the Finance and Operations Management Major, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-007.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
4. Special Report of the Graduate and Program and Budget Councils concerning Changes to the Master of Science in Public Health, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-008 with Motion No. 11-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes to the Master of Science in Public Health, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-008.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


The motion was seconded and adopted.

H. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BERLIN DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE IN THE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

The Research Library Council recommends that:

WHEREAS the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s longstanding commitment to the free and open publication, presentation and discussion of research advances the interests of the scholarly community, the faculty individually, and the public, and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate has received two Reports from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Impact and Implications of Digital Scholarship [Sen. Doc. Nos. 09-058 http://www.umass.edu/senate/adhoc/FINAL_RPT_DIGITAL_SCHOLARSHIP_0509_09-058.pdf and 12-007], and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate [Sen. Doc. No. 07-035 - http://www.umass.edu/senate/councils/RLC_resolution_scholarly_publishing.pdf], on May 10, 2007, endorsed the recommendations of the Research Library Council and encouraged faculty, librarians, staff, and administrators to be supportive of new and innovative models of scholarly communication and utilize these options whenever possible,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Massachusetts Amherst Faculty Senate:

1. Support the goal put forth in the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities to make scientific and scholarly research more accessible to the broader public by taking full advantage of the possibilities offered by digital electronic communication.

2. Support the efforts of the Berlin 9 conference, to be held in Washington, D.C. on November 9 and 10, 2011, to evaluate the progress made to date towards the goals of the Berlin Declaration, and to provide support and momentum towards continuing progress.

3. Join more than 300 universities, research institutions, funding agencies, foundations, libraries, museums, archives, learned societies and professional associations that have signaled their support for the goals of Open Access by signing the Berlin Declaration since its inception.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate endorse the recommendation of the Research Library Council that the University of Massachusetts Amherst Faculty Senate join the signatories of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

Secretary May noted that the Research Council had requested more time to thoroughly understand and act upon this motion. He then moved that the motion resolving to support the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities be referred to the Research Council with the expectation of a report from the Research Council before the final meeting of the Fall 2011 semester.

The motion to refer the previous motion to the Research Council was seconded and adopted.
The 710th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:05 p.m. on November 3, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate