Presiding Officer W. Brian O'Connor called the 712th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on December 1, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

WHAT NEXT FOR THE UMASS AMHERST FOOTBALL PROGRAM?

MODERATOR: W. Brian O'Connor
TIMEKEEPER: Joseph Bartolomeo

Rules:
1) Opening statements of 3 minutes each (for any participant who wishes to make an opening statement) – 15 minutes maximum
2) Questions from panelists to each other (limited to 2 minutes), followed by responses (limited to 2 minutes) – 10 minutes maximum
3) Questions from the floor (limited to 2 minutes), followed by responses (limited to 2 minutes) – 15 minutes maximum

PANELISTS:

MAX PAGE, ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND ART HISTORY, FACULTY SENATOR
MICHAEL SUGERMAN, ANTHROPOLOGY, PROGRAM AND BUDGET COUNCIL
RICHARD BOGARTZ, PSYCHOLOGY, ACADEMIC PRIORITIES COUNCIL CHAIR
CHRISTINA KENNEDY, STUDENT TRUSTEE, AND YEVIN ROH, SGA PRESIDENT

(QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION TO FOLLOW)
(See attached)

B. RULES COMMITTEE MOTION REGARDING RENOVATIONS TO MCGUIRK STADIUM

PREAMBLE

A stated rationale for moving to FBS Football is to reduce the amount of the annual subsidy that the campus pays for the support of intercollegiate sports. For this fiscal year, the estimated size of this subsidy is almost $19 million. Fifty-eight percent of it is paid from the General Operating Fund. Our students, through the Student Athletic Fee, pay the other 42 percent. The move to FBS football will not eliminate the subsidy, the Chancellor has said, but it will lead within the decade to a reduction in the $19 million subsidy.

However, as the campus learned in September, five months after the announcement of the move to FBS, the Athletic Department intends to incur a new expense of $30 million to pay for renovations to McGuirk Stadium. The administration does not regard this expense as an expense of the move to FBS. Nevertheless, it is an expense, a new expense, for intercollegiate sports. The Athletic Department has also said that it will incur a debt service expense for part of the cost of building the Champions Center, a new practice facility for our basketball team. It is possible that the need to meet the debt service payments on these projects will make it impossible for the campus to reduce the amount of its subsidy to sports. Indeed, debt service payments might add enough to the yearly cost of sports to require an increase in the amount of the subsidy. To meet the increase, either the GOF or the Athletic Fee, or both, will have to increase the amount of money that they currently contribute to the subsidy for sports.

Such an increase would occur at a time when State support is declining, students are already asked to pay an ever-larger share of the cost of their education, and faculty are already asked to earn an ever-larger share of their salaries through research grants. Thus, every additional dollar that the GOF and the students must pay into the subsidy for intercollegiate sports will have a direct impact on the entire campus community.

Athletic Director McCutcheon has told the Faculty Senate that there will be a fundraising effort to seek to cover part of the cost of the work on McGuirk. To the degree that this effort is successful, it will reduce the yearly cost of the debt service for the project. Fundraising will also cover a part of the cost of the Champions Center. This will eventually reduce the yearly cost of the debt service for the Center. But it is not clear at this time that fundraising will be successful enough to reduce the yearly cost of the debt service for these projects to a point where the size of the subsidy to sports is certain by 2020 to become less than $19M rather than more than $19M.
Thus, this resolution calls on the administration to ensure that the bulk of the private money for these projects is in hand before any binding commitments are made for their implementation.

For if the campus makes a commitment to cover higher costs regardless of the success of its fundraising, then the rationale for private donors to give will be weak, the fundraising effort will thus be more likely to fall short, and the amount of the subsidy that the GOF and students pay for sports could rise significantly.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate recognizes that one of the stated goals of the move to FBS Football is to reduce the dependence of the Athletic Department on the General Operating Fund ($10,970,688 for FY2012) and the Student Athletic Fee ($7,926,583 for FY2012), currently estimated to total $18,897,271 for FY2012; and

WHEREAS neither the “pro forma” for FBS football nor the “Department of Athletics: Financial Overview FY11-FY12” presented to the Faculty Senate on September 15, 2011 includes provision for annual debt service on proposed renovations to McGuirk Stadium; and

WHEREAS the contract for the use of Gillette Stadium in Foxborough through 2016 restricts the number of home games to be played in Amherst to 0 for 2012 and 2013 and a maximum of 1-2 for 2014, 2015, and 2016; and

WHEREAS a proposal for a $30,000,000 renovation and expansion of McGuirk Stadium now appears on the University Capital Plan approved by the Trustees at the meeting of September 28, 2011; and

WHEREAS the annual debt service on $30,000,000 of capital expenses is estimated to be on the order of a $2,000,000 annual expense; and

WHEREAS the University of Massachusetts Amherst is quickly approaching the 8% limit of its debt-service to operations ratio; and

WHEREAS the campus continues to face a critical funding shortfall for facilities to support research, teaching, and student life; and

WHEREAS the increase in faculty and teaching assistants has not kept up with the increase in undergraduate enrollment, on a proportional basis; and

WHEREAS the Director of Athletics has committed to fundraise for the cost of the renovations to and expansion of McGuirk Stadium;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Massachusetts shall make no binding commitment to renovations to or expansion of McGuirk Stadium until fundraising has achieved 80% of the estimated cost of such renovations or expansion (currently $30,000,000), via irrevocable commitments or cash in hand.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Motion regarding Renovations to McGuirk Stadium, as presented on the agenda of the 712th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Chancellor Robert Holub noted that he came to talk about football, but he began by stating that there have been no cuts to the Residential Life program. He has made no cuts to its budget, and neither has Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life Jean Kim. No money is being taken from that budget and put anywhere else.

When Chancellor Holub met with Athletic Director John McCutcheon last spring, he did the same thing he does with all direct reports: he said that the University was looking to reduce the expenses in that area and to increase the profile of the campus. In this regard, the University treats athletics like any other department on campus. Northeastern, Hofstra, and Rhode Island had already or were planning to leave the Colonial Athletic Association. Villanova has likewise expressed interest in leaving the CAA. The majority of teams in the Northeast were leaving, and UMass had to analyze the travel costs associated with football. Chancellor Holub asked Mr. McCutcheon if there were any ways to either decrease the costs of football or increase revenues, reducing the subsidy from the campus. At the same time, the Mid-American Conference was looking to add an additional team, going from 13 to 14. Furthermore, over the summer, conversations with Robert and Jonathan Kraft revealed that they were willing to negotiate with the University on advantageous terms over the use of Gillette Stadium, which will give the University considerable exposure in the eastern part of the state, a goal that has been a part of multiple University endeavors. Mr. McCutcheon worked out the financial outlook, and then began considering what it would mean to move to FBS Football. The
transition is consistent with the University’s role as the flagship institution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Too often, UMass Amherst has been seen as a western Massachusetts institution. Over the past years, the University has done many things to increase its exposure in the eastern part of the state. Only one of these involves football. Others include the opening of a Boston office, a forum with the Boston Globe, the announcement of the Community College Connection in Roxbury, and an upcoming fishery visit to Gloucester. The University is consciously pursuing these events in order to garner more recognition as the state’s flagship institution. Football is one part of this mission, but other sports are involved, as well. The basketball team played a game in the Boston Garden last year; the hockey team will be playing at Fenway Park on January 2, 2012. These are all initiatives to increase the University’s profile in the Boston area, where most of the University’s students come from and where there is a greater concentration of alumni than anywhere else in the state. This is consistent with the University’s goals as the flagship institution, as well as with its aspirations to join the upper echelon of national public research universities. As the panel even mentioned, all public flagship institutions in the AAU play football at the FBS level. That is simply a fact, and Chancellor Holub made it clear that he was not implying any causation between the two. The University is striving for the profile of an upper-echelon university in many ways, including the construction of the New Laboratory Science Building, New Academic Classroom Building, and the Commonwealth Honors College Residential Complex. Football is one of these endeavors. UMass Amherst seeks greatness in everything it does, and moving to FBS Football is consistent with the upward trajectory that Chancellor Holub feels the University is currently on. It is part of the University’s move toward national prominence.

The move makes financial sense, as Chancellor Holub has said many times. There will be increased expenses—there is no doubt about that. But there will also be increased revenues. The University’s objective was never to make a profit from football, because there are not athletic departments that make a profit; the most successful break even. The University is attempting to reduce the subsidy to inter-collegiate athletics that it currently has. There is good reason to think that will occur. The average subsidy given to athletic departments by the campuses of universities in the Mid-American Conference is less than in the Colonial Athletic Association. If UMass becomes the average MAC school, it will decrease its subsidy and therefore achieve one of the goals of the transition.

The move to FBS Football will significantly enhance women’s athletics, as Title IX mandate requires equal additional funds be provided to it. Additional prominence and money will be provided.

Gillette Stadium offers the University a number of opportunities. It is closer to the fan base in the Boston area. It is a well-known stadium that places UMass in a national spotlight. The transition, in general, will place the University in a national spotlight. Not for everyone, obviously, because not everyone is a football fan, but for those who are watching football on national television, UMass will be in a position in which it has never been before. The many amenities that Gillette Stadium offer give the University a chance to hold such events as donor receptions in a way currently impossible. Moreover, it will be easier to host Boston-area individuals and those that fly into Boston. These are individuals that are not currently attending games at McGuirk. The Marching Band will have a major venue. That is important to the University because the Marching Band is one of the campus’ great institutions. School spirit should increase as a result, as many alumni have told Chancellor Holub.

Currently, the expenses for football constitute less than 1% of the total revenue budget for the campus. After UMass moves to the MAC, it will still be less than 1%. The net expenses of football—expenses minus revenue—it is an even smaller fraction of 1% of total revenues for the campus. It is a small amount of money when analyzed in the context of the total amount of money being spent on the campus. The University currently has $750 million worth of capital projects slated to go forward in the short and medium term. This only includes the funded projects; the University’s wish list goes well over $1 billion. The University has the methods and borrowing power to fund the $750 million worth of projects. The $30 million that will be put into McGuirk is only 4% of the total capital expenditure budget. McGuirk has never been touched since it was finished in 1964, and its press box remains non-ADA compliant. The debt service on McGuirk will be less than $1.8 million if the University has to borrow the entire $30 million.

Chancellor Holub continued with a comment on the decision making process, noting that the administration considers faculty input to be incredibly important on all budgetary issues. The first thing Chancellor Holub did when the University came into times of budgetary distress, about a month after he arrived at the University, was appoint a committee consisting of faculty members, students and staff to advise him on budgetary matters. The majority of the individuals on that committee were faculty members. In the summer of 2010, the University began discussing a move to FBS Football, approaching the MAC and meeting with the Kraft family. That meeting was arranged by then President Jack Wilson, who also attended the meeting. President Wilson was fully aware of all developments. Late in the summer, Athletic Director John McCutcheon developed a full financial model that was shared with a group studying football that Chancellor Holub had put together. There were many questions brought forth in that group, and a great number of them were the same as questions asked during the Committee of the Whole. The financial model was shared with the Budget Committee of the Athletic Council in November 2010. Chancellor Holub was told that that Committee was composed of eight faculty members and six students. The model was shared with the full Athletic Council in December 2010. The Budget Committee and the Council as a whole approved the expenditures and move unanimously. The financial pro forma was brought to the Faculty Senate Rules Committee in December 2010. It was also brought to the
leaderhip group of the Board of Trustees. The transition was not kept secret. In fact, Chancellor Holub believes that it might have benefited the University to maintain a little more secrecy concerning the negotiations, but there were reports in the press all the time. The report was discussed with the Rules Committee, and the Rules Committee offered no objections. The Committee asked a number of questions, but Chancellor Holub and many present felt that there was much enthusiasm for the trajectory of the University. Throughout early 2011, President Wilson and the Chair of the Board of Trustees were kept constantly informed concerning the state of negotiations. The negotiations were too sensitive to become a matter of public discussion, but they were vetted in the Office of the President and on the Board of Trustees. The entire move was discussed by the Board of Trustees in February 2011 at a public meeting. The Board of Trustees was in favor of the move. The University signed its initial agreement with the MAC on March 15, 2011. The agreement with the Kraft family was signed on April 19. That agreement was negotiated with a consultant that was recommended by the Office of the President at the behest of the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The consultant judged the agreement between UMass and Gillette Stadium to be substantially more advantageous to the University than analogous agreements for colleges that use professional sports facilities. The University intentionally negotiated the agreement to protect itself financially at the lower end. Agreements that other teams have, where rent is paid off the top, would not work for UMass, and Chancellor Holub commended the Kraft family for being willing to negotiate an alternative agreement to those that other teams have entered into.

In sum, the financial details of the move were shared in their entirety with the Athletic Council, the Rules Committee, the Board of Trustees and the President of the University of Massachusetts throughout the spring. It is hard to think of anyone who didn’t know about the developments because they were in the paper so often. The transition was a very public event.

Chancellor Holub continued by stating that the University of Massachusetts is many things to many people. The word universitas means “the whole,” or “the universe.” There are some people that like certain activities at universities, and other people that like other activities at universities. The University of Massachusetts supports many different types of activities. For example, an architectural guide to the campus is being funded to the tune of $150,000. Chancellor Holub noted some in the room, including Senator Page, were working on that project. The University thinks the guide is a good idea. It is unclear whether or not the money invested in the guide will be recovered through revenues it produces, but the University thinks it is a valuable project regardless, and is therefore worthwhile to invest in. Some people may think that an architectural guide to the campus is a waste of money, but Chancellor Holub believes it to be valuable to the University, especially in its sesquicentennial year. The University invests heavily in the Marching Band. The Marching Band Building was built with only 1/6 of its cost covered by private donors. The rest was funded by the University because the administration believes it is a valuable institution. The University invests in art galleries, in the Commonwealth Honors College, in sustainability efforts, in RSOs, and in numerous other initiatives. These things are all considered important to the University, although they may not all be considered important by every individual in the campus community. The University must look at all its constituencies and attempt to make the best choices it can. Chancellor Holub acknowledges that not everyone likes everything that the University is doing, and he respects those views, but believes that the University’s constituencies are broader than the individuals in the room or even those on campus.

Chancellor Holub stated that various decisions have been made with regard to football, and those decisions were made in the proper way. They were vetted properly. The University has signed contracts with the MAC, with the Kraft family, and with other institutions, in order to compete with them in future years. These arrangements are often made years in advance. UMass has scheduled games for 2016 and 2017 for which contracts have been signed. We are not in the phase to debate this decision; we are in the implementation phase. The University needs a successful implementation of FBS Football in the same way it needs a successful implementation of arranging for scientists to work in the New Laboratory Science Building. These endeavors need to be successful. The Commonwealth Honors College needs to be successful. The Integrative Experience needs to be successful. Everything that the University invests in needs to be successful, and Chancellor Holub asked the campus community to assist him in the implementation. It can only be successful with campus support. The decision was made in the proper fashion. Some agree with the decision, others do not. However, it is now the campus decision, and requires campus support.

Senator and Rules Committee Member Amilcar Shabazz spoke in support of the motion on the floor, and only the motion on the floor. He noted that he would not support any other motions regarding football or athletics that could be thrown around at the meeting. The motion on the floor has been greatly considered by the members of the Rules Committee. Senator Shabazz noted that he has been to McGuirk Stadium, and he wishes it well in getting the renovations that it requires. However, he supports the motion that would ease the University’s role in that process.

Twelve years ago, Senator Shabazz was involved in a very serious accident during which, while on a bicycle, he was knocked through the windshield of a sport utility vehicle. If things had worked out differently, he could be in a wheelchair today, in the back of the room, where someone would have to bring the microphone to him. Had he been immobilized when he arrived at the University of Massachusetts in July of 2007 to chair the W.E.B. Du Bois Afro-American Studies Department in New Africa House, he could have gotten into the lobby of the building via the wheelchair ramp in the back, but after that he would be stuck. Somebody would have had to carry him up three flights of steps to his office, then go back down to lug his wheelchair up to the office. He is very thankful that he was not put in a wheelchair in 1999. Today, New Africa House is ADA compliant. An elevator
runs to the third floor. He thanks Esther Terry and others working on the capital planning board as well as the stimulus, which provided funding for the project. The project was “shovel ready,” and funds from the federal stimulus made the renovations possible. Over a year ago, all the occupants of New Africa House went into diaspora, holding office hours in the Library and the Newman Center because the building had to undergo asbestos abatement. Senator Shabazz invited the community to the building, of which floors one through three look much better. However, his Department has had to cut space. In 2007, Senator Shabazz was told that he was the manager of the entire building. Since the renovations, the W.E.B. Du Bois Afro-American Studies Department has been completely contained to the third floor. The Department previously had control of the basement; the first floor, where the Augusta Savage Gallery (founded by the Afro-Am Department) is located; the second floor, through the CCEBS (Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black Students) program, which has since been disbanded by Vice Chancellor Jean Kim and Student Affairs; and the fourth floor, including affinity-based African-American RSOs. Classrooms were on each floor. Now, there is nothing on the fourth floor or in the basement because work has not been completed. There is no electricity on those floors; they are completely unusable. The Afro-Am Department is completely contained to the third floor. The Everywoman’s Center has moved in to the first and second floor. Senator Shabazz is thankful for the renovations. However, the University is now saying that it is going to borrow $30 million to renovate McGuirk Stadium, and that leaves Senator Shabazz wondering why there seems to be no money to complete New Africa House. There are many needs on this campus. There are many space concerns on this campus. There are issues such as those that brought the large student turnout to the meeting that Senator Shabazz is not even aware of. He was glad to hear the Chancellor say that some of the residential concerns may not be as problematic as thought. If there have not been cuts, but the Peer Mentoring program is gone, we need to figure it out. Maybe the Peer Mentors are just missing. Since the Chancellor has said that the Residential Life budget has not been cut, let’s hope that the Peer Mentor’s will be around next fall, if they provide a good service and the students want them.

This is a time of great change. Many things are happening around the University. A search is underway for a new chancellor. Searches are underway for several deans. Senator Shabazz believes that to claim that only 1% of the budget is subsidizing football is to use a relative figure. Just 1% of the athletic subsidy could do a lot to help make up for the cut of over $250,000 that the Afro-Am Department took to its base budget after the 2008 financial collapse. And Afro-Am is not alone: every department took cuts. The 1% subsidy to football could go a long way in making the Afro-Am Department whole again after how much it has lost in the past few years. Senator Shabazz urged the Senate to think critically about the issues surrounding McGuirk’s renovation and to support the motion on the floor.

*Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate,* responded to some of Chancellor Holub’s comments regarding the decision making process surrounding the move to FBS Football. The Athletic Council and the Rules Committee did see the financial pro forma. However, the pro forma is incomplete. It does not include all the costs. The pro forma indicates that after five or ten years there will be a decrease in the subsidy to the Athletic Department. On that basis, those that saw the pro forma for a small period of time, such as the Rules Committee—that was allowed to view the pro forma for around ten minutes before the copies were asked to be returned—believed the move to be a good idea. The pro forma leaves out the debt service on the cost of the renovation of McGuirk, which are conservatively estimated at $1.8 million annually. It leaves out the cost of buying out the salaries of the fired coaches. It leaves out the increased cost of new coaching salaries. It leaves out the $2,000 increase in costs per scholarship that have just been instated by the NCAA. What the Rules Committee passively approved was something that was very incomplete. The costs that were left out completely change the outcome, and Secretary May does not know how the Athletic Department will manage to claim that they are taking a decreased subsidy after approximately $2.5 to $3 million additional expenses are considered. The revenues would have to be astronomical. In the first year of the Colonial Clash, 33,000 spectators were present at Gillette. This year, there were only 24,000. Secretary May hopes the team can reverse that trajectory.

With these issues in mind, however, Secretary May reminded the Senate that the resolution on the floor does not concern the merits, or lack thereof, of FBS Football. It merely says that UMass football will become an activity for people in eastern Massachusetts, and not for those on campus (considering that a maximum of one or two games a year will be played in Amherst), and that the supporters of football should be the ones paying for it. Secretary May believes that is reasonable.

Finally, Secretary May believes that Chancellor Holub’s characterization of the decision making process surrounding football shows that his idea of deliberative democracy is basically management by *fait accompli.* The decision to move to FBS Football was, for all intents and purposes, made before it was put to public debate. The cuts to University Health Services were conducted in a similar manner. They could have been discussed with the Health Council, but they were not. Secretary May is baffled by the way the administration has not taken the opportunity to explain their decisions or sell their ideas to the University community. Before any final decision is made, it is possible to have a period for open comments. This has not been done.

The motion does not say that football is bad, it simply states that those supporting football should be the ones paying for it. The funding for football should not come out of student fees or out of the general campus fund.

*Senator M. Christine King,* stated that it was only at the previous Faculty Senate meeting that she spoke against a motion that would allow departments, schools and colleges to increase fees to offset educational expenses. She believed that, yet again, the
University was asking students to shoulder another increased financial outlay to attend the school. She urged support of the motion on the floor, stating that the University cannot again ask students to pay additional fees now to support the renovations to McGuirk. Inevitably, if the money does not come in through other revenue streams, students will be forced to support it. Recently, President Barack Obama stated that an increase of $300 per semester can make or break a student’s ability to go to college.

Senator Max Page called the question on the motion.

The motion was seconded and adopted by a vote of 31 in favor to 10 opposed.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Jean Kim, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life, noted that, on November 30, Residential Life, a department within Student Affairs and Campus Life, announced plans to improve support to residential students. Those changes include an increase in the number of Resident Directors who are full-time, live-in staff that work in the resident halls, while reducing the number of part-time graduate student employees in the resident halls. Vice Chancellor Kim believes that shifting the staff to include more full-time professional staff is a good thing. It has also been decided that the number of Resident Assistants needs to be increased. These are undergraduate student employees. There will be additional focus on those working in the first-year halls, as the University aspires to continue improving services to first-year students. The national average of the ratio or RAs to students is around 1:35. UMass hopes to achieve a 1:25 ratio in first-year halls, Peer Mentor programs will become Peer Tutor programs. Vice Chancellor Kim believes this is a better way to provide academic support, particularly to first-year students who may struggle with gateway courses and other difficult courses. Overall, the budget and staffing of Residential Life will not be reduced. It will actually be increased. The change will mostly be shifted workloads. It is true that Peer Mentor positions will be eliminated at the end of the academic year, but they will be replaced by Peer Tutors, which Student Affairs and Campus Life believes is a better way to serve students. There will be an overall increase in the number of RAs, meaning that the number of student positions in the residence halls will not be reduced. There will also be an increase in the number of full-time Resident Directors. Vice Chancellor Kim regrets that misinformation has been shared with students. She is certainly open to dialogue or taking questions that students may have about the changes. She does not believe that the Faculty Senate is the correct venue for such discussions, but she is open to discussion at another time. No learning communities within the residence halls will be eliminated; in fact, the types of learning communities in the residence halls will be increased. She believes it is unfortunate that misinformation has reached students and created anxiety.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, commented on the current projects of a couple of Faculty Senate Councils and Committees. The University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee has been holding discussions about concerns in the area of IT infrastructure. The General Education Council has continued its work on the Integrative Experience. Likely because of the lack of clear financial incentives, only four of the 70 needed IE proposals have been submitted. The IE will need to be in place by next fall. The other 66 proposals will need to be submitted by January 11, 2012. They will all need to be approved in February to be available for pre-registration in March. The Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Oversight has begun to consider what it would mean for UMass Amherst to advance in the U.S. News and World Report rankings from 42 into the top 25, a challenge set to the University by President Caret at an earlier Faculty Senate meeting. U.S. News uses metrics in their rankings that are markedly different than the AAU. The AAU primarily gauges the strength of a university on federal research dollars and faculty awards. In regard to the U.S. News ranking, UMass Amherst does reasonably well in the areas of graduation rate performance and undergraduate academic reputation. It is challenged in the areas of alumni giving, financial resources, student selectivity, and faculty resources, a category that includes compensation, percent with highest degree, percent full-time, student-to-faculty ratio, percent of classes less than 20 and percent of classes less than 50. Secretary May believes it interesting that the student to faculty ratio at UMass Amherst, as reported by U.S. News, recently rose from 18:1 to 19:1. It does not appear that progress will be easy in the areas where the University is challenged.

4. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

Marilyn Billings, Associate Delegate to the Board of Trustees, noted that two Board of Trustee meetings took place on November 30. The Committee on Administration and Finance offered several presentations on topics such as the University Financial Report for FY 2011, University Financial Projections, sustainability, and efficiency improvement efforts including discussions of
IT concerns mentioned by Secretary May. The Audit Committee included much information from the University’s new audit firm, Grant Thornton. Basically, there are small discrepancies at the five campuses, but, in general, the University was very successful.

5. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Randall Phillis, President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, stated that the MSP met with a representative from the President’s Office on November 30 and was offered a deal that offers a contract extension similar to one other statewide unions have received. The MSP has received an offer, primarily through the efforts of faculty and staff at UMass Amherst, who sent letters asking why they were left out. Details need to be worked out, but President Phillis believes this is very good news. Negotiations will begin immediately. Given that the financial parameters of the contract could be solved by this offer, bargaining can now begin and, possibly, be finished very soon. There is the possibility that faculty get two more years of guaranteed on-base salary increases. He encouraged the faculty to engage in negotiations.

7. The President of the Student Government Association

Yevin Roh, President of the Student Government Association, thanked the Senate for listening to the various undergraduate voices that had so far spoke at the meeting and hoped that that respect would continue as the meeting progressed. He noted that he had some “Malcolm X style stuff to say,” but that he would keep it to himself. He encouraged the students and faculty present to go to Goodell 504 after the Faculty Senate meeting.

8. The Student Trustee

Student Trustee Christina Kennedy noted that she did not know that the SGA President and Student Trustee were given time to speak during the announcement period, and thanked the Faculty Senate for the opportunity. She also thanked the Senate for the invitation to speak on the Committee of the Whole.

D. QUESTION PERIOD (10-Minute Limit)

Michael Spahr, Undergraduate Student and Residence Hall Employee, shared his UMass story. Mr. Spahr is from Rhode Island and took part in the New England Regional Scholar Program, which meant he would receive significantly reduced tuition at UMass. Both his parents are unemployed—a story he hears more and more often from students his age. Mr. Spahr is financially independent of his parents, and he even pays his disabled mother’s rent with his paycheck. This fall, he was surprised to see that his fees rose $4,000. When he went to investigate what these increased fees were funding, he could not receive a straight answer at the Financial Aid Office or the Bursar’s Office. This nearly caused him not to return to school for the spring semester. Mr. Spahr wanted to remind the campus community that every time a fee is increased or a student position is cut, it is being paid for with his future.

Zac Broughton, Resident Assistant and SGA Senator, noted that Vice Chancellor Kim brought up a number of points and provided a lot of good information. None of that information was provided to students. Peer Mentors got an email notifying them that they would be losing their jobs. The Assistant Residence Directors were told personally by Tara Loomis, Director of Residence Education, that there were changes being made. Clearly there is a distinction. Graduate students were given the respect to be told what was going on, while undergraduates were sent an email with no answers and no reasons. Last night, when a lot of the students found out what was going on, a number of resident assistants got together and asked what was going on. No one gave them a straight answer, and that is why Mr. Broughton believes a lot of his peers were present at the meeting. It is not just about losing student jobs, but about the disrespect given to the student population by the administration on a continuous basis. The students have a right to know what is going on. UMass is a public institution funded by Mr. Broughton’s parents’ tax dollars, his tax dollars, and by every other citizen’s tax dollars. Last night, hundreds of parents got calls from their children, who said they had lost their jobs, their free housing, and their paychecks. Mr. Broughton asked those present to imagine if that was their son or daughter. Mr. Broughton stated that if we hope to change the problems of misinformation Vice Chancellor Kim mentioned, we need to talk about being open and honest with students from the beginning, and not release information like this a week before finals. He wonders how students are expected to study and focus on papers and exams when they are wondering if they can afford to return to school. Academics should be the main focus of students. Mr. Broughton works with students and parents. He helps students with their schedules. He helps them when they are depressed and when they are happy. He serves this University to make students’ experiences better, and he wonders why the administration continues to make it more difficult for him to do that.

Senator Bogartz knows Vice Chancellor Kim to be “an intelligent, honest, caring, considerate person who really cares about the problems being raised by students.” He knows that she will think about what can be done to change the manner in which information is disseminated to students to avoid issues like this in the future.
Tiffany Tai, Undergraduate Student and Secretary of Outreach for the SGA, noted that she was a Peer Mentor for two years. She believes that there has been misinformation, and that maybe the changes are not as drastic as first believed, but she wanted to remind everyone that there is still a loss to the Peer Mentor position. Replacing Peer Mentors with Peer Tutors and more RAs is not sufficient. Peer Mentors are often students that residents go to when they do not connect well with their RAs or if they fear that they will be prosecuted with policy. Often, Peer Mentors see situations that RAs do not. The two positions work together to support students. Tutors that do not encompass the role of a mentor is insufficient. Increasing graduate student support and support from people with masters degrees is important, but it does not foster peer-to-peer empowerment and community, which is at the heart of UMass prestige. Ms. Tai believes that research and capital projects increase prestige externally, but there is no real prestige if the students do not feel at home on the campus.

MSP President Phillis wanted to reinforce what Ms. Tai said. The Learning Resource Center that is run out of Academic Affairs does peer tutoring. They serve 20,000 visits each year. They serve hundreds of courses in which students need tutoring. They do not do peer mentoring. President Phillis believes that there is a profoundly effective resource for peer tutoring at UMass. There is also a profoundly effective resource for peer mentoring, but it is being attacked. He believes it should be preserved.

Senator Curt Conner thanked the students present for coming, but noted that the SGA President and Student Trustee have an outlet for announcements at every Faculty Senate meeting, and that this was the first meeting of the year either had attended. He hoped that they would keep the dialogue open and constant, and not just come at the end of the semester with a bunch of people.

Matthew Stevens, Undergraduate Student and Peer Mentor, noted that Vice Chancellor Kim mentioned earlier in the meeting that the Peer Mentor position is a part-time job. He stated that this is true in the sense that Peer Mentors are paid in a part-time capacity. However, being a Peer Mentor is a full-time role. Mr. Stevens spends 24 hours a day trying to build a sense of community in his halls. As far as he knows, Peer Tutors would not be live-in resources and would therefore not provide the same sort of support.

E. NEW COURSES

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCT 150</td>
<td>“The Built Environment”</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLASSICS 250</td>
<td>“Scientific and Medical Terminology”</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 205</td>
<td>“Introduction to Post-Colonial Studies”</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 301</td>
<td>“History of the Book”</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 341</td>
<td>“Autobiography Studies”</td>
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<td>ENGLISH 371</td>
<td>“African American Literature”</td>
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<td>FINOPMGT 409</td>
<td>“Fixed Income”</td>
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<td>FINOPMGT 410</td>
<td>“Financial Risk Management”</td>
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<td>STOCKSCH 213</td>
<td>“Equine Lecture Series”</td>
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<tr>
<td>STPEC 101</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses BCT 150, CLASSICS 250, ENGLISH 205, 301, 341 and 371, 18-12 FINOPMGT 409 and 410, STOCKSCH 213 and STPEC 101, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.
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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>ART 631</td>
<td>“Photography IV”</td>
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<td>ART 633</td>
<td>“Art in the Expanded Field”</td>
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<td>ART 691</td>
<td>“Introduction to Visual Culture: Theory and Practice”</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOLOGY 675</td>
<td>“Plant Cell Biology”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 728</td>
<td>“Interdisciplinary Approaches to Intervention with Infants and Toddlers and their Families: Educational and Mental Health Strategies”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses ART 630, 631, 633 and 691, BIOLOGY 675 and EDUC 728, 19-12 as recommended by the Graduate Council.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Report of the Academic Matters Council concerning a Revision of the Finance and Operations Management Major within the BBA Degree by converting the present subplans into distinct majors: A BBA Degree in Finance and a BBA Degree in Operations and Information Management, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-013 with Motion No. 20-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Finance and Operations Management Major within the BBA Degree by converting the present subplans into distinct majors: A BBA Degree in Finance and a BBA Degree in Operations and Information Management, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-013.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Accelerated Master’s Degree in Political Science – Track 1 – Thesis; Track 2 – No Thesis, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-014.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

MSP President Phillis noted that he was compelled by student comments. He asked for a suspension of the rules to allow any students that did not have the chance to comment earlier to do so.

Casey Waugh, Undergraduate Student and Resident Assistant, stated that on her first day at UMass, Mark Fuller, Dean of the Isenberg School of Management, gave a speech about how students need to donate to UMass after they have graduated to show their pride. Ms. Waugh has continually felt the administration take opportunities away from her and feels the administration has a lot of nerve to ask her to give the University more money. She is not enrolled for classes next semester because, based on her increased income that has come with her RA position, loans have been taken away from her. She was never notified that these loans were taken away, and now she faces a $1,200 bursar bill that she is unable to pay. After Ms. Waugh graduates, she will be paying back her loans, but she does not plan to give UMass any more money.

Chelsea Van Thof, Undergraduate Student and Resident Assistant, stated that every interaction she has had with the University—and every interaction her parents have had with the University—has been unpleasant. When asked a question, no one at the University either has an answer or takes responsibility. Everyone defers to someone else. It goes around in circles, sometimes for weeks. Ms. Van Thof suggested to Vice Chancellor Kim that she work on communication within the administration, as that might improve communication to the students and the rest of the University.

Scott Maxson, Undergraduate Student, Resident Assistant, and Co-Chair of the RA Council, stated that the biggest issue for him is involvement. The RAs cannot provide support for students if they do not know what is going on. As Co-Chair of the RA Council, he did not know anything about the changes to Residence Life until the day before the meeting. He was told by Tara Loomis that there were plenty of things she could not share, and that Student Affairs and Campus Life were making decisions without
consulting the people that would actually be affected. Mr. Maxson stated that leadership is service, and communication is necessary to serve the people you lead.

*Ben Axelson, Undergraduate Student and Resident Assistant.*, noted that he appreciated the responses provided by Vice Chancellor Kim because they did clear up some issues. But he wanted to make it clear that students and Residence Life employees are still waiting for a lot of answers.

The 712th Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 5:40 p.m. on December 1, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate