Presiding Officer W. Brian O’Connor called the 715th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on March 15, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall Room 227.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

_Provost James Staros_ stated that he had hoped to be able to announce the new deans of HFA, SBS, and the Graduate School. The hold up is in the President’s Office. The Board of Trustees mandated that the administration must approve salaries above a certain level before any offers for the positions could be made. Vice President David Gray left the President’s Office and then the acting Vice President also left. All business matters have been greatly disrupted.

_Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement_, announced the hirings of a Director for the Research Business Manager Network, Ian Raphael, and a permanent Director for the Office of Commercial Ventures and Intellectual Property, Fred Reinhardt. A more formal announcement will be made shortly.

_Presiding Officer O’Connor_ announced that James Sheehan, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, was in Washington, D.C., accepting an award from President Obama honoring the UMass Permaculture Garden.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

_Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate_, announced that the Faculty Senate Office is expecting to transition to electronic distribution of all Faculty Senate documents. Senators may continue to receive hard copies by special request. This development is not the same as the system that is being developed to automate all course, program and policy submissions.

Secretary May offered special thanks to the five faculty members who served on the Chancellor Search Committee: W. Richards Adrion, Joseph Bartolomeo, Marilyn Billings, Sergio Breña, and Mzamo Mangaliso. The four finalists visited campus earlier in the week and each were interviewed by the Rules Committee, which will submit its comments to President Caret.

The Athletic Council is excited by the success of the UMass Men’s Basketball team, which is competing in the National Invitational Tournament.

The General Education Council has approved about 70 Integrative Experience proposals. There are two levels of approval: full approval and pilot approval. This is similar to the two levels of course approval: full and experimental. It was necessary to complete this task by the March 1 deadline required by the Registrar’s Office in order to get all this new information in the system in time for the upcoming pre-registration. The last meeting of the Gen Ed Council lasted from noon until nearly five o’clock. Thanks are certainly due to the departments and faculty who worked so hard to implement this curricular innovation and particularly to the leaders of the effort, Maurianne Adams on the faculty side and Martha Stassen and Carol Barr in the administration. This is a prime example of faculty and administration collaboration. The spring 2013 IE proposals will be reviewed and approved in the next few weeks. When that review is completed, there will be approximately 120 IE’s implemented for academic year 2012-2013.

The Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football held an organizational meeting last Monday.

The Program and Budget Council has heard presentations by Budget Director Andy Mangels that, based on the Governor’s budget and a hypothetical fee increase of 3%, project a shortfall for FY 2013 of about $14 million. Of course, the Governor’s budget may not hold and the fee increase could be less or possibly more. This is the first year in which there will be no federal stimulus funds directed to the campus.

The Undergraduate Education Council has heard continuing concerns about getting students into all the courses they need in order to graduate on time as well as on the disturbing national trend of universities balancing their books by diluting undergraduate education. The general theme of that trend involves students paying more and getting more technology, recreation, athletics, and updated residences while receiving an arguably weaker core education.

The Outreach Council is excited by the White House award being given to the UMass Amherst Permaculture Project.
3. The Chair of the Rules Committee

Joseph Bartolomeo, Chair of the Rules Committee, thanked the President’s Office for giving the Rules Committee the opportunity to have fairly extensive conversations with the four finalists for Chancellor. He wanted to remind faculty members who encountered any of the candidates in the many forums to send their impressions to the President’s Office by March 16.

6. The President of the Graduate Student Senate

Hongmei Sun, President of the Graduate Student Senate, thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak. GSS has some concerns over recent changes in Student Affairs on campus. The changes to the student insurance plan and cuts to University Health Services have received much attention. Another change concerning graduate student tenants is the University’s decision to transform the Lincoln Apartments into undergraduate housing. Many international graduate students currently live there. Their options going forward are to either apply to live at North Village Family Housing, which is not a very feasible option because there are never many vacant apartments; to reapply to the Lincoln Apartments with a drastic raise in housing costs, because rent will be raised to undergraduate levels; or to move out of University Housing completely. The GSS understands the University’s decision to transition Lincoln to undergraduate housing because there is a growing population of undergraduates. However, this move will create numerous problems. Since 2008, graduate student wages have increased by 8.5%, while the cost of family housing for graduate students has increased by 29.2%. Housing costs have risen in Amherst as more students have been forced to move there. Graduate student workers are also being greatly affected by the changes to health care. Many graduate student employees have to pay up to $5,250 out of pocket for health care. All these are seen as a direct attack on international graduate students, who are an important part of the student body. International student visas allow such students to work a maximum of 20 hours per week, so they have no choice but to use the University’s insurance plan. Both UHS and housing services have attempted to cut services and shift costs to students in order to generate profits. This is a myopic attitude that reflects an egregious lack of support of the graduate student population. Graduate research at the University will be adversely affected by these developments. Graduate students will be priced out. They will choose not to come to UMass or leave the University when they can no longer afford it. These developments go against UMass’ mission of becoming a premier international research institute. GSS will seek further conversations with the administration to urge more sustainable solutions. President Sun hoped the Faculty Senate would support the efforts of the Graduate Student Senate.

B. QUESTION PERIOD (10-Minute Limit)

Senator Richard Bogartz commended the administration, the Campus Police, and any other officials involved in handling the disruption after the Super Bowl. He thinks the University did a great job of handling the situation. He also suggested that the Rules Committee should invite the UMass Men’s Basketball team to a meeting of the Faculty Senate to be applauded for their success.

Senator Wm. Curt Conner added that both the Men’s and Women’s Lacrosse teams at UMass are also having successful seasons. Both teams are undefeated; the men are ranked 3rd in the country, and the women 18th.

Senator Amilcar Shabazz offered further commendation to the Chancellor Search Committee.

C. REPORT

Report of the Nominating Committee for Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
The final vote will be taken at the 716th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Senator W. Richards Adrian, noted that the Committee, comprised of himself, Senator Marilyn Billings, and Vice Chancellor Michael Malone, has met and discussed a number of issues. The Committee is basically looking to do its due diligence on candidates, and will present a nomination at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Senator Bogartz nominated Secretary Ernest May.
D. NEW COURSES

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 302</td>
<td>“Studies in Textuality and New Media”</td>
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<td>HONORS 251</td>
<td>“International Issues Seminar”</td>
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<td>HONORS 252</td>
<td>“Cross-Cultural Preparation Seminar”</td>
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<td>HONORS 451</td>
<td>“Cross-Cultural Re-Entry Seminar”</td>
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<td>LINGUIST 389</td>
<td>“Introduction to African American English”</td>
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<td>MANAGMNT 366</td>
<td>“Foundations for Sustainable Enterprise”</td>
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<td>SPANISH 312</td>
<td>“Oral and Written Expression”</td>
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<td>STOCKSCH 131</td>
<td>“Fundamental Stable Management I”</td>
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<td>STOCKSCH 161</td>
<td>“Equine Care Techniques”</td>
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<td>STOCKSCH 201</td>
<td>“Equipment Operations”</td>
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<td>STOCKSCH 302</td>
<td>“Equine Facility Management II”</td>
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<td>“Classroom Assessment”</td>
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<td>EDUC 739</td>
<td>“Introduction to Inquiry”</td>
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<td>EDUC 740</td>
<td>“Monitoring &amp; Evaluation in International and Domestic Contexts”</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 725</td>
<td>“Leadership in Health Systems”</td>
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MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses ENGLISH 302, HONORS 251, 252 and 451, LINGUIST 389, MGMT 366, SPANISH 312, STOCKSCH 131, 161, 201 and 302, EDUC 501, 739 and 740 and NURSING 725, as recommended by the Academic Matters and Graduate Councils.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

E. NEW BUSINESS


5. Special Report of the Graduate Council concerning a Name Change of the Research and Evaluation Methods Program (REMP) to Psychometric Methods, Educational Statistics and Research Methods, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-031 with Motion No. 41-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve Items #1-5 as listed on this agenda under New Business.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Changes to the Repeated Courses Policy, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-032.
Presiding Officer O’Connor had a question regarding the second page of the report. The report states: “No course for which a grade of C or higher was earned may be repeated.” As a Pre-Med advisor, Presiding Officer O’Connor knows that every Pre-Med student who does not get an A in Organic Chemistry wants to take it again, and he tells them that they can’t unless they received a grade lower than C-. However, it is his understanding that they actually can register for the course on SPIRE. He wondered if this new policy would change the way SPIRE handles repeats such as this.

Registrar John Lenzi stated that that sentence had been taken directly from current policy. Currently, SPIRE gives students a warning stating that they are enrolling in a repeat, but it does let them enroll. On the back end, when the Registrar’s Office does grading, it looks for illegal repeats. The Registrar’s Office is looking to make a modification for the next academic year to SPIRE that will prevent such illegal repeats.

The motion was seconded and adopted.


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-033. 44-12

Registrar John Lenzi noted that there is only one change to this calendar: Continuing and Professional Education is returning to a two-session summer term. Two or three years ago, CPE decided to add a short, third session at the beginning of the summer and there were almost no enrollments. It was a miserable failure and CPE is going back to a two session summer term.

Senator James Rinderle addressed not the specific calendar, but the policy informing the calendar and how it is disseminated. Previously, there were 14 weeks every spring semester and often 14 weeks in the fall semester. When the University moved the beginning date of the spring semester, the semester was only one day short of being 14 weeks. This year, and all semesters going forward, there are only 13 weeks. He does not remember this being discussed. There was much discussion about beginning the semester earlier, but not about the length of the semester. His question is two-fold: could these issues be discussed generally? And, when the calendar is disseminated, could the Committee forming it create a short discussion or summary concerning how the proposed calendars are different than those of the past and why those changes are occurring?

Presiding Officer O’Connor noted that Senator Rinderle’s comments are well understood. Many of his colleagues in the sciences have brought up the fact that a lab session is lost when weeks are lost. He remembers the time when there were 16 weeks in the semester.

Secretary May stated that one reason the fall and spring semesters have been adjusted to the same number of weeks is that asymmetrical semesters present problems for courses that are taught in successive semesters. Similar courses are taught in the four colleges in 12-week semesters.

Registrar Lenzi noted that Senator Rinderle’s suggestion of a document putting forth the specific changes in proposed calendars is valuable, and the AMC’s Calendar Subcommittee will do that with future calendars. The change in weeks goes back to when the big adjustment was made to the fall calendar. The spring semester was adjusted at the same time. He stated that he would get more specific information and report back.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

F. OLD BUSINESS


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2012-2013 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-027C. 20-10

Registrar Lenzi noted that the change to this calendar, and to the 2013-2014 Academic Calendar, is the same as to that previously voted on.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate adopt the 2013-2014 Academic Calendar, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 11-032B, 32-11

The motion was seconded and adopted.

Professor John Jenkins, Chair of the Academic Matters Council, noted his thanks to the Subcommittee Chairs of the AMC: Patrick Kelly, Cindy Suopis, Pamela Marsh-Williams, and John Lenzi, whose work made the business of this Faculty Senate meeting possible.

G. MOTION FROM SENATOR WM. CURTIS CONNER

MOVED: That when a faculty member is granted a leave without pay (LWOP), the total salary must be returned to the Department in order to make possible the fulfillment of the absent faculty member’s teaching, advising and service responsibilities during the period of the leave, without overloading other faculty members in the department or program.

Rationale: When a faculty member is approved to go on leave without pay, it is usually to take advantage of a significant professional opportunity which brings distinction to the department, school or college, and university. However, departments in which faculty members are approved for leaves without pay (LWOP) still have to fulfill the absent faculty member’s teaching, advising and service obligations. Adoption and implementation of the proposed motion will ensure that departments will have sufficient resources to fulfill their teaching, advising, and service mission, without unfairly overloading other faculty who remain active in the department or program.

Example: Engineering faculty members are often approached by government agencies to accept temporary assignments, for example, as rotating program directors at NSF or DOE. These appointments are normally for 2-3 years. Research-extensive universities recognize their obligation to fulfill these temporary needs at the federal agencies, and it is also to their advantage to nurture such connections; thus, such leaves without pay are commonly granted. Nevertheless, the departments from which such faculty are drawn still have to fulfill 100% of their teaching and advising responsibilities, frequently in highly structured curricula which require students to take sequences of required courses and labs in order to graduate on time. Without assurance of automatic replacement of faculty members who go on leave, remaining faculty members are frequently required to work on a serious overload which limits their professional development, especially in the area of research, and which is also not good for students. Adoption and implementation of the proposed motion will assure that faculty members will be able to take advantage of prestigious professional opportunities without throwing departmental curricula into disarray or unfairly burdening the remaining faculty with unfair and/or impossible teaching and advising loads.

Senator Conner stated that several faculty members in Chemical Engineering have gone on leave without pay to work as advisors at NSF for three or four years, or have moved into administrative positions. Without having faculty or funds to replace them, departments are forced to teach the same number of courses and advise the same number of students with fewer faculty members. It would be advantageous for departments to have funds to fulfill those needs. When someone is granted a leave without pay, they are not being paid by the University, and the University should use the funds they would otherwise be paying to that faculty member to assist that faculty member’s department. The department’s needs do not change when a faculty member goes on leave.

Senator Joseph Bartolomeo moved that the motion be referred to the Rules Committee to be sent for review by relevant committees and councils, as that process has not yet occurred.

Senator Richard Bogartz wondered if the Faculty Senate has any authority to enforce the main motion, if passed. The motion mandates that the salary “must be returned to the department,” and Senator Bogartz wonders if a recommendation might be more appropriate.

Secretary May stated that Senator Bogartz’ point is well taken. The Faculty Senate’s primary responsibility is in academic affairs. For budgetary matters, the Faculty Senate can advise.
Senator Conner wondered what committee the Rules Committee would refer the motion to if it was just decided that no committee has any authority over it. The Rules Committee saw the motion beforehand and put it on the agenda for the full Faculty Senate meeting, so he does not know why it would go back there except to be put off for more time. The wording of the motion has been changed, and he suggested replacing “must” with “should.” A second faculty member from Chemical Engineering is about to go on leave without pay, and the department is not getting any of that salary back. That is happening now. It’s not happening after the Committee makes a decision. The department would at least like to be able to make an argument with a dean or other administrator that the action set forth in this motion would be best for the department.

Senator Bartolomeo stated that several members of the Rules Committee were otherwise occupied with the Chancellor Search on the day this motion was discussed. If present, he would have urged that the Rules Committee refer this to the councils and committees, as is customarily done with motions of this kind. The review process need not be lengthy.

Senator Conner stated that the Senate recently passed an amendment stating that money being taken in from special programs be sent back to the sponsoring department. That motion did not go through the Rules Committee.

The motion to refer this motion to the Rules Committee was seconded and adopted by a vote of 15 in favor to 5 opposed.

The 715th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:15 p.m. on March 15, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate