UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Presiding Officer W. Brian O’Connor called the 717th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order on April 19, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in Herter Hall, Room 227.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Principal Administrative Officers

Provost James Staros announced that Julie Hayes has accepted an appointment as regular Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Robert Feldman has accepted an appointment as regular Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Both individuals are currently serving as interim deans in those colleges, so the transitions should happen immediately and are expected to proceed smoothly.

Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, commented on new policies and procedures that have been shared with the faculty via email. The new policies concern on-site activities and conflict-of-interest concerns. The changes are entirely for the purpose of compliance with federal regulations.

Carol Barr, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Continuing Education, updated the Senate on the Integrative Experience. The campus is preparing to have the bulk of Integrative Experience instruction begin in the fall. The General Education Council has approved over 70 course proposals. A “Celebrate IE” workshop and reception will take place on May 8 in order for the campus to unite around this wonderful new General Education and major requirement. The Provost has approved the request submitted by the deans for one-time funding to support the transitional costs of the IE.

2. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Ernest May, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, thanked the Senators for their continued hard work and stated that the next Faculty Senate meeting, on May 3, will be the last for the year.

4. The Faculty Delegates to the Board of Trustees

Secretary May stated that the Trustees were meeting to select a Chancellor for UMass Dartmouth.

5. The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Randall Phillis, President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, noted that the faculty contract was ratified by a vote of 550-6. There continues to be ongoing issues around funding, however. Governor Patrick included a collective bargaining reserve in his budget that will cover the costs of collective bargaining agreements, including the final raise of the current contract that will be allotted on June 30. The House Ways and Means Committee included the same collective bargaining reserve in their budget, but they flat funded the University, which is equivalent to a cut equal to inflation. Moreover, they did not increase student scholarship or financial aid in the state budget. In order to try to move forward and improve state funding at the University, the MSP and several campus unions, as well as PHENOM, recently mobilized 500-600 students, faculty, staff and administrators from every single campus in the Commonwealth to go to the State House and lobby for improved funding of public higher education. It was a profoundly effective day. There were three messages: we need money for the base operating budget, we need increased student financial aid, and we need money for collective bargaining—5% increases in each. We received the collective bargaining funds, but have yet to get the others. To follow this up, the MSP went to students on campus and asked them to hand write letters to their legislators advocating support for public higher education. From the Amherst campus alone, over 800 letters were hand delivered to legislators at the State House. The letters were poignant and powerful, and President Phillis stated that letting students speak with their own voices makes an incredible difference. One letter he particularly remembers stated that the student owes $28,000 in student loan debt and the student’s mother, who just turned 60, owes $20,000 in student loan debt of her own. The state can no longer transfer its obligation to pay off this burdensome debt to students and families.

There will very shortly be a workplace bullying survey going out to everyone on campus. The MSP has been working on it in coalition for a couple of years. The MSP would like to find out how prevalent bullying is, what’s going on, and how it’s happening. That will be out in the next day or two, and President Phillis encouraged everyone to fill it out and encourage their colleagues to do so as well. It is known that there are bullying issues on campus, but the quantitative data is lacking.
7. The President of the Student Government Association

_Akshay Kapoor, President of the Student Government Association_, introduced himself to the Senate, noting that as a Public Health and Sociology major with Biology and Philosophy minors, he recognized some of the faculty members present. He hopes that the SGA and the Faculty Senate will be able to cooperate in the coming year—that students will participate with the Faculty Senate and the faculty will participate with the SGA.

B. **QUESTION PERIOD** (10-Minute Limit)

_Senator Frank Hugus_ addressed the differential fee motion passed at the 711th Faculty Senate meeting, which Senator W. Curtis Conner addressed at the last meeting. The comments put forth by the administration at that meeting did not indicate that there had been any developments regarding it. He wondered what progress has been made in attempting to implement the policy. Senator Hugus understands that the Faculty Senate has only an advisory role in financial considerations, but he believes that it behooves both the administration and the faculty to take any advice the Senate has seriously.

_Senator Richard Bogart_ noted that the Academic Priorities Council took up another motion of Senator Conner’s, addressing leave without pay, and will present an amended version stating that a portion of salaries that would go to faculty members on leave without pay be used to alleviate any issues arising from the missing faculty members. The Program and Budget Council also adopted the APC’s wording.

_Secretary May_ stated that he believed the issue with the differential fee motion concerned whether or not it would apply retroactively to fees that are already established, such as in the College of Engineering. The second issue, concerning leave without pay, will be addressed at the May 3 Faculty Senate meeting.

_Provost Staros_ addressed the differential fee in the College of Engineering specifically. That fee goes entirely to the College of Engineering. His understanding of Senator Conner’s concern had to do with whether or not it went to the specific departments. The Engineering fee is a college fee that goes entirely to the College of Engineering. That language was specifically included in the policy approved by the Board of Trustees regarding the Engineering fee. None of the money goes to the Provost’s budget and none of it is taxed anywhere. It goes entirely to the College of Engineering.

_Senator Hugus_ addressed some concerns that had been brought to the Senate by the Graduate Student Senate President Hongmei Sun. These concerns involved changes to University Housing that would transform graduate student housing to undergraduate housing and raise costs. Senator Hugus wondered if anyone had an update on the issue.

_Secretary May_ relayed what he had heard at the most recent Graduate Council meeting. A new member of the Council, who is the newly-appointed individual in Student Affairs charged to deal with graduate student issues, reported that two things are surely happening: Lincoln Apartments will become undergraduate housing and a portion of Southwest will be re-designated as undergraduate housing. Another source reported that a number of doubles will be converted to economy triples over the summer. All this is to account for the planned increase in undergraduate enrollment, which helps the University pay its bills. The University has an agreement with the town of Amherst to accommodate 60% of undergraduate housing on campus and assume that the remaining 40% will be accommodated in the town.

_Senator M. Christine King_ noted that what Secretary May stated was recently covered in the _Daily Hampshire Gazette_. She has only recently been made aware of the decreased housing options that will be available for graduate students. As Chair of the International Studies Council, Senator King believes this is an important issue to consider. Will there be adequate housing for international graduate students, let alone internal graduate students? There has been a report stating that the University does not need all its graduate housing, but Senator King wonders if there will be enough housing to recruit international graduate students.

_Secretary May_ shares Senator King’s concerns and stated that this will be a major project for the incoming Dean of the Graduate School. Having been in on the master planning process for several years, Secretary May is aware of a number of sites that would be good for graduate housing, including the Gateway Project and the area between Lincoln Apartments and Whitmore that is planned to be redeveloped. Everything on the master plan must be funded, however. The graduate population needs to expand, in part because teaching assistant support has not increased while the undergraduate student population has. This is an area of great concern that the Graduate Dean will have to deal with. However, the Graduate School does not have a large budget, so its ability to handle this may be limited. It will have to be a priority for the new Chancellor.
Senator W. Curtis Conner asked if an interim Dean for the College of Engineering had been chosen.

Provost Staros stated that the deal is in the works. The position has been offered, but there are still negotiations taking place.

C. **ELECTION**

Special Report of the Nominating Committee for Secretary of the Faculty Senate, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-035. *(Report previously distributed.)*

Nominee: Ernest May, Music and Dance

*Additional nominations may be made on the floor.*

*The final vote will be taken at this meeting.*

Secretary Ernest May was re-elected by acclamation.

D. **ANNUAL REPORT**


The report was received.

Senator Hugus wondered if there were any noticeable changes in the figures from previous years.

Ombudsperson Catharine Porter stated that there were not any drastic fluctuations in the report. For the most part, the figures have remained stable.

Senator Bogartz asked what the term “disposition unknown” indicated.

Ombudsperson Porter stated that that indicated individuals who did not get back in touch with the Ombuds Office. The Office makes an attempt to contact every individual who has been in contact with the Office, but some do not respond. Because everything in the Office is confidential, it can make no public announcement requesting return information.

**MSP President Phillis** had a question about coordination between the various groups that work with concerned campus members. These groups include the Ombuds Office, Faculty-Staff Assistance, Mental Health Services, the unions, and various other entities. President Phillis appreciates that the concerns of individuals remain confidential. He wonders if there is a mechanism, or if there could be an improved mechanism, for the sharing of information among these groups in order to keep track of people and take care of them in the best way possible.

Ombudsperson Porter noted that the Ombuds Office is strictly confidential. It can reach out and ask a union if it has met with someone or can meet with administrators that may have been in touch with that person, but it cannot indicate whether or not an individual has been to the Office without express consent. The Ombuds Office is in touch with almost everyone on campus and there are ways to address problems without acknowledging individuals.

E. **NEW COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARCH-DES 100</td>
<td>“Introduction to Architecture Design and Graphics I”</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCH-DES 101</td>
<td>“Introduction to Architecture Design and Graphics II”</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM-ENG 220</td>
<td>“Chemical Engineering Principles of Biological Systems”</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEBREW 344</td>
<td>“Hebrew through the Media I”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEBREW 345</td>
<td>“Hebrew through the Media II”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOURNAL 425</td>
<td>“The Politics of Sports”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOURNAL 428</td>
<td>“Sports in Film, Journalism and Literature”</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the courses ARCH-DES 100 and 101, CHEM-ENG 220, HEBREW 344 and 345, JOURNAL 425, 428, 322 and 341, MGMT 341 and 488 and OIM 412, as recommended by the Academic Matters Council.

Senator Marta Calas noted that four Journalism courses related to sports were up for approval. Given that the University has a Sports Management Program, she wondered if Journalism was putting forth an academic program related to sports and if there was any relationship between Journalism and Sports Management.

Cynthia Suopis, Chair of the Academic Matters Council’s Course Subcommittee, stated that the courses were part of a concentration in Sports Journalism. The academic content of the courses is concerned with covering sports as a journalist.

Presiding Officer O’Connor noted that, when he was Chair of Biology, he received a 30-day letter when a new course mentioned biology in any way. He would assume that Sports Management would be aware of these courses.

Vice Provost Barr noted that she was previously a faculty member in Sports Management. She would not think that Sports Management would have a problem with the developments in Journalism because Sports Management focuses on the business side of sports. This is a wonderful opportunity for Journalism students to pursue an emphasis in sports.

Senator Calas does not believe in silos, and believes that Sports Management students would be interested in studying sports from a journalistic perspective. Management is the most general course of study imaginable, because you can manage anything. Multi-disciplinarity should be promoted.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

F. NEW BUSINESS


MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Policy on Continuation Requirements in the Major for Designated Programs, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-041.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

2. Special Report of the International Studies Council concerning an Exchange Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA and the School of Business, Renmin University, Beijing, P.R. China, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-042 with Motion No. 53-12.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Exchange Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA and the School of Business, Renmin University, Beijing, P.R. China, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 12-042.

Senator Hugus noted that it is financially difficult for graduate students to study abroad. He wondered if there were any financial aid options available for this course of study.

Senator King stated that the International Studies Council did not take the issue of how students would support themselves into consideration. As the Council looks at further exchanges, it might want to consider a statement about the financial sustainability of embarking on the program.

Senator Calas noted that most exchange agreements include the expectation of reciprocal exchange. The MBA program is very small at UMass, and she wondered if there was a student limit and allotted spaces for students from this exchange.
Senator King stated that this agreement limits the exchange to two qualified students from Renmin University enrolling as non-degree students at UMass Amherst. Likewise, Renmin University will allow for two non-degree UMass Amherst students to study there. In the future, the number will be determined before November 1 of the preceding academic year.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The 717th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate stood adjourned at 4:12 p.m. on April 19, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest D. May
Secretary of the Faculty Senate