Presiding Officer Hugus: I would like to say at this point, before we go to the regular agenda, that, for those of you who do not know, Professor, Senator, and colleague Howard Peelle died in December. Howard was a Faculty Senator from 2004 on and a member of a number of Councils including the International Studies Council, Status of Women Council, and the Commonwealth Honors College Council. He was a vital presence in the Senate and he will be missed. I ask that you stand for a moment of silence in honor of Senator Peelle.

A moment of silence was observed.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Principal Administrative Officers

Michael Malone, Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Spring semester. It doesn’t seem like Spring. We just got preliminary numbers for our research spending for Fiscal Year 2017. Despite all the uncertainty and difficulties with federal budgets, we will be up again thanks to all the hard work of all of the faculty and department chairs. So, congratulations and thank you.

Andrew Mangels, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance: Many of you saw the memo that Chancellor Subbaswamy sent out recently announcing the changes regarding the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Office and Disability Services: Human Resources will be taking on employee-related disability matters and Student Affairs will be taking on student-related disability matters there. I announced before that we have a new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Bill Brady, who comes to us from the University of Oregon where that function was actually located in Human Resources so he is very versed with that and he is looking forward to providing support to the campus for the disability and hiring processes, as well.

The Secretary of the Faculty Senate

MJ Peterson, Secretary of the Faculty Senate: I’d like to give everyone a sense of what is going on in the various pieces of the Senate. The workhorse councils are as busy as you would expect. The Academic Matters Council is dealing with a fairly large number of course proposals. There is a lot of innovation going on around the faculty, especially in the areas of Nursing, Music, and Engineering; some of that is inspired by rethinking of the program and some of it is inspired by slight shifts in accreditation standards that they want to make sure they incorporate. There are a number of new programs including one accelerated Master’s program, some revisions to degree programs, and new concentrations in individual majors, which speak to big thematic issues that are of concern to the public these days. The General Education Council is maintaining its normal agenda even as it is dealing with the transition to the new DG and DU diversity designations, and you’ll be hearing more about that from the Council Chair, Professor Claire Hamilton, in a couple of minutes. Meanwhile, it has to deal with proposals and quinquennial reviews, and thanks to them for running on all cylinders. The Graduate Council is also dealing with several proposals about course rearrangements and program rearrangements.

All of that is fairly detailed but there are a number of policy things that are going on that will probably come to the Senate at some point this Spring. One of these has to do with the academic calendar and here there is one idea that wins universal consensus and another idea that needs a lot of discussion. The consensus is that the date for withdrawing from a course without a record is a little too early in the semester; our withdrawal deadline is early compared to our peers in public institutions in other states. The date has crept a little bit too far forward and it’s difficult for students to have a good sense of how they’re doing in
The class by that early date. The thing that is more contentious, and this has been bubbling up for years, is
the question of how many class sessions we have in a semester. People often talk about this topic in regard
to the number of weeks in the semester, but what we’re really talking about is the number of class sessions
in the semester. Moving to the one-week Thanksgiving break seems to have really taken things to a stress
point where people noticed and thought, “Wow, we’re off that entire week and we don’t have enough time.”
We’re going to need to talk about that and think about that, so the Rules Committee is proposing that, at
some point in the semester, we have a Committee of the Whole discussion on this issue. So, you can go
back to your constituents and start asking them what they think about this and get some of their opinions.

You all know, as well, that Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) is being reorganized and will
become something called the Online Education Group (OEG); this was announced by email over the break,
which means that if you weren’t checking email over the break, you don’t know about it. This portends
some moves to become more effective in the new world of higher education where there are not only face-
to-face classes and online classes but there are various certificate programs and other credentials that could
be offered. I’m hoping that we will be able to hear more about what these plans are from the Administration
and discuss them a bit also later in the Spring term.

If you watched Chancellor Subbaswamy’s welcome to the semester video this afternoon – and I can’t tell if
the outdoor scenes were filmed in December or yesterday because the amount of snow on the campus was
about the same – he did announce that he has appointed a task force to deal with the questions of sexual
harassment and sexual harassment policy. The Status of Women Council has also been discussing this and
is engaging more in it and this is obviously a concern. I am glad that we are addressing it. Thank you for
your attention.

The Chair of the Rules Committee

David Gross, Chair of the Rules Committee: I have my usual report of what we, the Rules Committee, have
been doing since our last Senate meeting and also I’ve got a little announcement at the end. We met twice to
go over various things. At one meeting, we reflected on what we did last semester and thought about plans
for this coming semester; another important thing that we did was have lunch as that is something that we
always do in December. We had the University Registrar, Patrick Sullivan, join us to talk about the
withdrawal deadline as well as things that the Secretary just mentioned such as the potential change in the
way we do Thanksgiving break, which will come to you for general discussion in another meeting or two.
Additionally, at the request of the Environmental Biotechnology Center, with support from the Provost, we
voted to approve the closure of that Center under the fast-track procedure, which is described in a Senate
report that we all approved in 2014. We talked a little bit about the rotation of the membership of the
Campus Planning and Resources Committee (CPARC) and we had a bit of time to talk about the
membership of the new Ad Hoc Committee on Language Proficiency (AHCLP) which is described in the
Secretary’s Notes and I think that she will probably have something else to say about that soon.

We met with the Administration one time, on January 12. At that meeting, Provost John McCarthy wanted
to make a couple of announcements. One was about the online education effort and he gave us a preview.
He also told us about some hiring of faculty under this new pathways hiring plan and I believe he said that
there were seven new faculty hired under this plan over the course of the past semester. We asked the new
Deputy Chancellor and Chief Planning Officer, Steve Goodwin, who is here, to let us know what he’s going
to be doing and he told us about a number of different things that he will be involved in. Vice Provost Carol
Barr gave us a report on the final data from Fall 2017 on student retention; those data showed that we have
had continuous improvement in the four, six, and eight-year graduation rates for our students. Our current
six-year rate is 77.4% and the campus has a goal of 85%, so we have a little ways to go but we are on the
right track. We had Associate Provost Martha Stassen come and give us an update on the move to online
SRTI course reviews which are now fully implemented across campus as of this semester. The Fall 2017
response rate was 67%, a bit lower than the historical response rate for the paper forms which was 81%, but
she said that the total number of sections employing SRTI has gone up presumably because it is easier to
administer an online survey to students. Some of you may know that UMass President Marty Meehan will
be visiting our campus next week on Wednesday. He will meet with various individuals and groups
including your Rules Committee, so, if you have an item that you think should be discussed, please get hold of one of us and let us know. Tomorrow morning we will try to set our agenda, so let us know if you have an idea. Thank you.

The Representative of the Massachusetts Society of Professors

Eve Weinbaum, President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors: Thank you. I have two announcements. The first is about healthcare. You got an email from Kelly Pleasant earlier this week announcing that the Group Insurance Commission (GIC), which governs our healthcare, made a decision to cut half of its carriers, so if you were on Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts, or Fallon, you would have to switch insurance plans. That affected over half of the members of the GIC. We heard from our members immediately that people seemed to love especially Tufts but also the other two. The Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), our statewide parent union, really mobilized around this and started working with the legislature and with Attorney General Maura Healey and contacted the Governor’s Office; some of you may have called or emailed the Governor’s Office. The good news is that, as of this afternoon, the GIC is reconsidering and it sounds like they are likely to reinstate those carriers; they’re going to have a revote next week. Attorney General Healey said that there had been a furious outcry and they are responding. So, there’s proof that collective action works and we’re hopeful that next week they’ll do the right thing. It’s not over because we know that the next decision the GIC will make is about plan design which means copays and deductibles and prices and that is scheduled to be done later this Spring, so we plan to remain vigilant. As you probably know, the MSP doesn’t negotiate healthcare; it’s statutory and decided at the state level but we’ve been working with the other unions very closely and paying attention to what’s going on there, so stay tuned and you’ll probably hear more about GIC.

The other issue you’re going to hear about is the Supreme Court case Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). That is a case that basically establishes something called “right to work,” a union busting move brought by a few right-wing organizations that are trying to destroy unions across the country, and the MSP is working with the other unions on campus to raise awareness, to make sure our members know what’s coming. Oral arguments will happen at the Supreme Court on February 26, so there will probably be a lot of visibility and media attention at that point. We think that collective bargaining is a good process; it’s been very good for higher education in this state as well as for lots of other groups, so we’ll be out defending it.

Finally, MSP would like to do another round of department visits this semester, so if no one from MSP came and talked to your department, please get in touch with us; you can email us at msp@umass.edu and we can let you know what’s going on politically, internally, with bargaining, and we also want to hear from you if there are issues that you would like us to be working on. Thank you.

B. QUESTION PERIOD – no questions or comments were raised

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR CLAIRE HAMILTON, CHAIR OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
"TRANSITION TO THE NEW DG AND DU DESIGNATIONS."

Professor Claire Hamilton, Chair of the General Education Council: Welcome. Today, I’d like to give a brief overview, remind you of the timeline that we’re working on, and talk a little bit about the progress that’s been made to date on the new approved diversity requirement. Looking at our timeline, the legislation for the new diversity requirement was passed in May 2017 and we are already undertaking changes because this legislation will go into effect beginning in Fall 2018. The changes center on new learning outcomes for all of our diversity courses and a requirement that all entering first-year and transfer students take a diversity course in their first year; the legislation also includes a process for ensuring that the new learning outcomes are integrated into our courses by putting them through an expedited review.
So, what do we have happening so far? I look at it as two ways that we are making changes to get ready for this legislation. One is implementation in SPIRE; that takes a while. To get things ready for Fall, one of the things that is happening this Spring is the relabeling of all of our current U and G courses that hold Social World designations. It would be nice, and I’m sure that Registrar Patrick Sullivan would think it was nice, if all he had to do was go in and push a button and automatically all U and G courses became DU or DG, but it doesn’t work like that; there are lots of things that have to be changed. So, this Spring, we will begin relabeling the courses; that relabeling will become visible in mid-March when SPIRE launches and is visible for Fall registration. That’s an implementation thing that is happening.

Substantively, to ensure that the curricular changes are being made, we are also asking that all current U and G courses go through an expedited review process; that review process has started already, we’ve received some course proposals, and we will begin acting on those proposals right now. Notifications will go out soon and that review process will continue through January 15, 2019.

The other major change that will happen this Spring is that, as we relabel, we will only relabel courses that hold a U or G and a Social World designation. Stand-alone U and G courses were possible under the previous legislation but will not be offered beginning Fall 2018; those courses will not be relabeled and would have to go through an addition of a Social World designation so we are working with those courses.

This is exciting: the new online forms for new DU and DG courses and for the addition of DU and DG designations to existing courses will launch tonight on the Course and Curriculum Management System (CCMS). The people at Information Technology have been wonderful; Stephen Battisti, Christopher Hoffman, and Kenneth Lee have been working like you wouldn’t believe and those forms will launch. They’ll start running it off of the production server at approximately 5:01 tonight. So, if you’re ready to get a course proposal in, you can do it tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. and it will be smooth as pie, I am sure; it’s great. That’s our timeline.

Let’s look at our progress, which I’m thinking of in terms of communications and faculty workshops and support that is being provided. For communication, all department heads have been sent information about the process for expedited reviews and have been provided with lists for all of their diversity courses taught within the last three years. All faculty diversity instructors who have taught a diversity course in the last three years have been sent information on the expedited review process, the relabeling process, and updates on the resources that are available for faculty redeveloping their courses, including workshops and informational drop-in sessions. The General Education website, www.umass.edu/gened, is being updated continually at this point because we’re adding more information as we go. The Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development (TEFD) and GEC offered a workshop in the Fall and have three scheduled in the Spring, both basic introductory workshops and more advanced diversity workshops to take it a step further. These drop-in sessions have been held across campus and these are opportunities for one-on-one interactions with members of the Diversity Subcommittee. We’ve also held departmental sessions; we had one with Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) and we’ll have one with Anthropology on Friday.

So, when you do something curricular, you get excited about the technology aspect. I’m excited that now, if you search for Gen. Ed. in the search function on the UMass website, the first thing that you will come to is the Gen. Ed. website. If anyone has any questions about this process that is the place to go. It’s slowly being updated – not everything is there – but when you look at the first page you’ll see the diversity requirement with a link and you’ll see upcoming events. If you have questions, those links will be helpful; that’s the homepage. There is a page on the General Education requirements: what you do, how you do it, when you do it, and, if all else fails, send us an email. Then, there is a list of the workshops and we are updating this; these informational sessions have
been held all around campus and have been scheduled according to need. We held about six of those sessions in the fall and will begin offering them again around the midpoint of this semester. We do them almost like a pop-up restaurant – we’ll say that we’re meeting over in Isenberg for two hours on a certain date – and that information is on the website. The workshops are already scheduled and ready to launch. That is an overview. No questions? Thank you.

D. NEW COURSES

CONSENT AGENDA

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The motion was adopted.

E. NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA

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1. Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning the Practicum Credit for Student Participation on Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-019.


MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve 1) the Practicum Credit for Student Participation on Faculty Senate Councils and Committees; 2) the Creation of a Certificate in Music History Pedagogy; 3) the Creation of a Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy; 4) the Revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Music (PhD) Degree Program; 5) the Revision of the Concentration in Music Education within the Master of Music (MM) Degree Program; 6) the Creation of a Certificate in Aging, Public Health and Policy, 7) the Revision of Degree Program to Change the Designation from BFA in Architecture to BS in Architecture; and 8) the Graduate Certificate Re-Approval Recommendations, as presented in Sen. Doc. Nos. 18-019, 18-020, 18-021, 18-022, 18-023, 18-024, 18-025, and 18-026, respectively.

The motion was adopted.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Amendment to the Special Report of the Nominating Committee concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-018A.
MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, 16-18 as Amended, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-018A.

The motion was adopted.

The 774th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:10 p.m. on January 25, 2018.