

INTERCAMPUS FACULTY COUNCIL

Minutes Worcester June 10, 2009

Present: *Amherst* –W.R. Adrion, E. May, B. O'Connor; *Boston* –L. Tirrell; *Dartmouth* – A. Plaw, P. Gibbs; *Lowell* –E. Buzawa; *Worcester* – A. Morse, J. Singer *Guests:* B. Douglas, D. Gray

Meeting was called to order at 11:25am

Minutes from previous meeting were approved as corrected

Elections

President (election presided by P. Gibbs) E. May nominated, no other nominations, May was re-elected

Secretary P. Gibbs nominated, no other nominations, re-elected by acclamation

UMass Fiscal update

- D. Gray Senior Vice President for Administration, Finance, and Technology
- Current fiscal situation worst in his career
- Long range – no stabilization
- Severe cut in FY2011 funding
- Shallow upturn – not returning to FY 2008 levels until FY2014
- FY 2010 fee revenue will be higher than state support (an estimate of state support of 18%)
- A rescission of state allocation is expected in fall 2009
- Increasing demand for services
- Increased efficiencies necessary
- Classrooms on all campuses are smaller than optimal
- Even when programs are cut the obligation remains to graduate the students enrolled in the programs
- A President's Office task force chaired by Stephen Lenhardt will be considering "back of the house" efficiencies, e.g., procurement, accounts payable, centralization
- A Trustee task force (members: Tocco, Manning, Karam and Johnson) will be visiting the campuses to discern instances where there is duplication of central administrative tasks
- Gray noted that he is sensitive to the need to identify only areas which can be scaled across departments and campuses
- Cost effectiveness will be emphasized over efficiency
- Currently a statewide UMass IT audit is being conducted to benchmark against peer institutions
- E. May inquired about expected efficiency level in FY 11. Gray expects it to increase 10-15%
- Possible fee rebate is being held until rescission announcement is made.
- Concern was expressed by IFC members about a "dual class" faculty of non tenure lecturers and tenured researchers
- There are two capacity issues: seating, teaching effectiveness (discussion ensued about learning outcomes)
- Gray asked IFC to reach out to colleagues for additional ideas
- Brian Douglas will send IFC members a list of BOT task force members and schedule of campus visits
- Gray noted that public higher education is inexorably becoming privatized.
- He also noted Administrators will close programs. Chancellors are empowered in control of their campuses.
- Faculty can only combat this by making their own reductions

Suggestions:

- Smaller freshman classes to encourage retention,
- consideration of increasing fees while putting a lot of money into the support of the most "fragile" student body

Questions:

- Is obtaining more grants actually costing even more money?

Reports from the campuses

Worcester Redoing curriculum, with more small group teaching. The student body is increasing to 125. The Howard Hughes Foundation demands competencies rather than specific courses.

Dartmouth Increased credit load. Reduction in credit for thesis advising, support staff has been reduced, Daycare center has been closed, contract was voted down by 2-1 ratio

Lowell Possibility of an increase in colleges which would reduce credit load. Student enrollment has increased

Boston Site selection for new buildings, Winston Langley is the interim Provost, Continuing studies is in charge of online courses. A new college is being considered

Amherst There is a new Provost, the academic reorganization was approved by the Faculty Senate but other aspects are not popular. Two new research buildings and 1 classroom building are being opened

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Paige Gibbs- secretary