

**INTERCAMPUS FACULTY COUNCIL Minutes**  
**Lowell September 19, 2007**

Present: *Amherst* - M. Billings, E. May, B. O'Connor, *Boston* - N. Ashkafi, J. Keisler, L. Tirrell  
*Dartmouth* – M. Baum, P.Gibbs *Lowell* –E. Buzawa, M. Carter, A.Hurley

Meeting convened at 11:50am

The meeting began with an informal discussion about “radical centralization” and the consulting firm hired to identify characteristics of top rated public higher education institutions. Capital planning for all of the campuses is positive.

**IFC Doc 07-01 Special Report of the Intercampus Faculty Council**, from the meeting of June 18, 2007 was reviewed.

001 An independent commission has been appointed by the Governor to investigate the actions of the Trustees and President. E. May expressed concern about an appointment charge to centralize fund raising.

002 The members of the meeting agreed that they are pleased with the Governor’s latest appointments to the Board of Trustees

003 In July the UMass Amherst faculty leadership met with the President. At this meeting the faculty leadership gave the President a profile of desired qualities for the interim chancellor. The President followed the Wellman document carefully in responding.

- Attempts were made to consult with the faculty about the candidates
- The interim chancellor is not a candidate for the permanent position
- The interim chancellor is a distinguished academic (albeit with experience in merging colleges)

### **General Education**

The General Education initiative has been rewritten. The Davis Grant application is going forward without faculty input. The application draft was sent to the Provosts a week ago.

May reported that VP Williams thought that the application proposal had been shared with faculty through the provosts.

- The application explains that metrics similar to MCAS will be used for assessment
- Possibility of online courses created to meet cross-campus requirements (a workplace issue)
- A system-wide initiative is too inflexible to serve students’ needs.
- Curricular responsibility resides at each campus. If the responsibility becomes system-wide the IFC would become the approving body as a state-wide faculty senate

May will distribute to the IFC the revised General Education plan when it is available. Faculty on all campuses must be involved in considering this plan.

### **President’s Office**

- Large amounts of money are being channeled from each campus to support the President’s office.
- President’s office and the chancellors’ offices are working outside established governance and administration structures.
- Promotion of Faculty: expectations seem to be the same across campuses without the same level of support on each campus.
- Centralization can be useful; e.g. marketing international study
- Individual campuses, not the system, are measured by all assessment agencies

### **Readiness Project**

It was noted that only one representative from a UMass campus was appointed to the UMass and Public Higher Education subcommittee of ten members. This subcommittee could promote a single university system. The Mass Amherst Faculty Senate will study this situation and act as a shadow cabinet.

### **Meeting with President Wilson**

President Wilson will meet with the IFC in November at a place and on a date to be announced.

## **Reports from campuses**

### ***Dartmouth***

- The faculty has ratified a one-year contract.
- There is much anger on the campus about the parking situation. Parking was addressed in the negotiations.
- Administration has been clear that shared governance will be a negotiation issue in the coming contract.
- Faculty are expected to do more with no resources.
- Historic freshman class enrollment for the second year in a row

### ***Amherst***

- The interim Chancellor is continuing Chancellor Lombardi's plans.
- Huge new student enrollment
- Much building and landscaping
- 250 (250 new faculty hires in 5 years) is on track
- There is a need to determine trends and build in space for flexibility

### ***Boston***

- General endorsement by the campus of Motley's Chancellorship. He is a facilitator
- Motley intends to go forward with the strategic plan
- "Boston 2010" to have an enrollment of 15,000 students by this date
- Faculty Council is becoming more active in advising on space issues

### ***Lowell***

- Much money has lately been donated for scholarships. This is evidence of the Chancellor's fund raising skills
- There is more display of the University to the local community
- Chancellor Meehan is energizing the campus. He is not afraid to make a decision and stick with it
- The team of advisors working with the Chancellor are trusted by the faculty
- A large financial deficit must be corrected
- There are vacancies in the chief academic office and the chief financial office

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Paige Gibbs-secretary