

**INTERCAMPUS FACULTY COUNCIL Minutes**  
**Lowell November 8, 2006**

**Present:** Amherst A. Kinney, B. O'Connor, E. May, Boston L. Tirrell, N. Ashrafi, Dartmouth P. Gibbs, D. Georgianna Lowell M. Carter, A. Hurley, Worcester A. Morse

**Guests:** M. Page, R. Parkin, S. Gencarella, M. Billings, C. Ferguson, M. Sugumaran, M. Maneen

Meeting called to order at 11:30 am

Minutes of previous meeting will be reviewed and approved electronically.

IFC members are agreed that an IFC supper event will be held the evening prior to each UMass Board of Trustees meeting. Later in the meeting Ernie May stated that he will develop IFC events around the Board of Trustees meetings.

The agenda order was re-arranged to accommodate Chairman Tocco

**New business**

Robert Parkin, UMass Lowell Faculty bargaining unit president, requested a follow-up report on the IFC endorsement of the UMass Lowell Graduate Dean resolution. Ernie May, IFC chair explained that the issue 'is being worked on' in the UMass President's office. Ernie will formally transmit the endorsed resolution to the UMass President's office. There may be a communication from the President's office about more consistent treatment of such issues by each campus' faculty governance body. The AAUP statement on shared governance could be proposed as a foundation document by the UMass President. After a pause for elections (next section) the group returned to the topic. Ernie suggested that the New York state higher education resolution process be considered for adoption. A mediation system would be useful. Currently the ultimate expression of disagreement is a "no confidence" vote. Dan Georgianna suggested that the Wellman Document be reviewed. Others observed that administrators dispute the standing of the document because a trustee document can be overturned by subsequent trustee documents. There was agreement that a uniform resolution mechanism for every campus should be considered. Discussion left off at this point because Chairman Tocco, Stephen Lenhardt -Vice President for Management & Fiscal Affairs and University Treasurer and Dr. Marcellette Williams- Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and International Relations joined the meeting.

**Elections**

Annual elections for the offices of the IFC Chair and secretary were held.

Ernie May, chair, conducted the election of the secretary. Paige Gibbs was nominated.

There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and Paige Gibbs was so voted.

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**Discussion with Chairman Tocco**

Following introductions of all assembled Chairman Tocco listed some topics he" thinks about"

- Massachusetts is a high cost state in which to do business
- Massachusetts has a high level of intellectual productivity, therefore the state's intellectual capital is high
- State workplace demographics reveal an aging workforce with an increasing proportion of immigrant workers
- 85% of this workforce is publicly educated
- His experience on the Board of Higher Education gave him a grasp of the issues – There is need to invest in both state supported higher education capital and operating funds
- Commonwealth revenue numbers are not cheerful
- "Can we win the game on the capital side?" Capital funding arguments are easier to make. If capital funding is achieved operating money will then flow.

- Tocco's goal is to move into the top tier of U.S. publicly supported university systems- no lower than within the top 15.
  - An RFP is being prepared to hire a consultant who will identify the characteristics of a great university system (e.g. admissions, capital investments)
    - Develop achievable goals
    - roadmap" to meet these goals expected by the end of January
    - Measurable goals and outcomes; metrics will be attached to each goal (e.g. a 40% graduation rate at community colleges)
- "Won't ever advocate for mediocrity"
- "Reach out to constituencies that matter" (e.g. student trustees)

Chairman Tocco opened the meeting to questions:

- Timely bargaining unit negotiations: commitment to work on this-pessimistic on success
- Supports Higher Education Summit meeting at UMass Amherst. The House of Representatives will be the biggest lobbying effort by all of the constituencies.
- UMass should be acknowledged for the value that it is to the commonwealth. 3 million dollars a year over a 5 year period should spent on a promotion campaign.
- Quality of student life is critical
- Trustee dinners should give the trustees an opportunity to talk to each other without other attendees, but does support pre-dinner social time attended by others.
- Characteristics of top tier university systems: Expects a flagship campus will be such a characteristic. System wide plans will be articulated and agreement made before adoption. Individual campuses have a built-in interest from the local delegations and surrounding area but the system has not had this level of support across the commonwealth.
- The Faculty BOT representatives will now be sent much of the pre-meeting information that is sent to trustees
- Cross campus department collaborations should be encouraged.
- Financial aid is the biggest issue for non traditional students. People are urged to look at the Board of Higher Education Financial aid Task Force Report:  
[http://www.mass.edu/p\\_p/includes/meetings/2007/BHE.10.19/Financial%20Aid%20Task%20Force%20Report%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.mass.edu/p_p/includes/meetings/2007/BHE.10.19/Financial%20Aid%20Task%20Force%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)
- Chairman Tocco wants to make the UMass system the lead for the entire state education system

#### **New business resumed**

Resolution of appreciation for John Cooke, former BOT Representative from Worcester, was passed unanimously.

#### **Reports from campuses**

**Amherst:** Higher Education Summit in December- will develop common set of goals for the entire state funded system

**Dartmouth:** The new Provost will be engaging the campus in strategic planning

Due to pressures of time the meeting was adjourned at this point.

Respectfully submitted, Paige Gibbs- secretary