

**INTERCAMPUS FACULTY COUNCIL Minutes**  
**Worcester December 14, 2011**

Present: *Amherst* –Rick Adrion, Joe Bartolomeo, Ernie May, *Boston* – Lynne Tirrell *Dartmouth* –Paige Gibbs, *Lowell* –Eve Buzawa, Michael Carter, *Worcester*- Leslie Shaw, Robert Weinstein *Guests* Brian Douglas, David Gray

**Campus reports**

***Lowell***

- There was a discussion regarding the ownership of online course content developed, and the use of it by other instructors who cover the course.
- Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (BHE) has approved two PhDs: Management and Criminal Studies. A Global Studies PhD will be submitted at the next BHE meeting on January 26.

***Cross campus issues***

This announcement elicited a general discussion about mission differentiation.

- Both the BHE and the UMass President are discouraging overlap in programs.
- UMass BOT and faculty are concerned about programs shared with state universities. Collaboration with state universities for doctorates was considered. What standards will be applied to maintain academic quality?
- It was proposed that a statement be prepared about appropriate support, including admissions, for granting doctorates.
- The Amherst campus has a separate faculty appointment for Graduate faculty. Lowell is preparing for a similar category of appointment.
- How to promote the UMass brand (and discourage academic “silos”).
- UMass Provosts are developing a graduate group model to encourage individual faculty members, rather than departments, to collaborate across campuses.
- UMass President Caret has had experience with such collaborations when he was at San Jose State with UC San Diego.
- There are two examples at the UMass Amherst campus: An Astronomy program (faculty from five departments) and a Five College PhD in History. For the History degree, UMass Amherst is the degree granting authority. Each instructor in the program must hold an appointment as a graduate faculty member at UMass Amherst.
- On each campus, there are implications for shared governance.
- Community colleges are supporting UMass BOT’s need to develop standards as a means to ensure that their students can meet requirements when transferring to an UMass campus.
- Proposal to invite Provosts to attend next IFC meeting to discuss a graduate group model.
- Rick Adrion suggested that discussion could continue between IFC meetings via an online communications system, perhaps using Google sites.

***Worcester***

- The UMass Worcester Governance Document is undergoing its 5-year review by Faculty Council and Executive Council. The recommendations for revision from the two councils will be forwarded to a writing committee to be organized by the Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs. The writing committee will draft a revised document and submit it to the Executive and Faculty Councils for their approval, following which the revised Governance Document will be submitted for Chancellor’s approval.
- The Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) will assess the School of Medicine curriculum for reaccreditation in early March. A mock site visit will be conducted in January.
- NEASC will conduct a campus site visit later in 2012. Subcommittees have been formed to assess campus compliance with the NEASC standards.
- This is the second year of the LInC curriculum. Several courses have been revised. The third and fourth year curriculums are being prepared. Student scores on Step 1 of the annual U.S. Medical License Exam will be an index of the curriculum success. The results must exceed the median. The exam is evolving and compliance is becoming more difficult. Much more undergraduate scientific background is being demanded.
- The number of graduate students to recruit is in danger of being cut back because cuts in NIH funding prevent availability of sufficient number of lab slots. A UMW evaluation is underway to increase indirect costs.

***Dartmouth***

- The interim Provost, John Farrington, is beginning to take the reins as the Provost leaves for a sabbatical returning from it to teach in the STEM program.
- The Chancellor’s search continues.
- Enrollment remains down. Recruiting is being carefully examined. Retention is still being addressed.

- At a Faculty Senate meeting, there were several strong presentations opposing the Provost's plan to reduce the number of weeks in each semester. The reduced semester would be more closely aligned to the UMass Amherst academic calendar.

#### ***Amherst***

- The Chancellor search continues. A look at the best candidates is anticipated soon.
- Searches have begun for Deans of: the Graduate School, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the College of Engineering.
- Campus construction includes: A new classroom building near the pond for Commonwealth Honors College, a build out of the Science Building and building repairs around campus.
- Exceptional merit pay awarded by the Provost. Three units now have reports which are being considered. The entire amount available is \$2 million annually for five years from self-generating money (out-of-state student fees).
- Financial reductions have been made throughout out the campus: student health center hours; RAs reduced in dorms;
- Integrative Experience: It is unclear what funds are being used for this purpose. Seventy courses for this program must be ready for fall 2012.
- Faculty are skeptical of pronouncement that "the train has left the station" re increased emphasis on football.

#### ***Boston***

Response to: "is there anything happening on the Boston campus?"

- The move to a 4/4 course load for students is before the faculty council.
- UMass Boston has moved to online Annual Faculty Reports (AFR), which can be updated all year long, but in September a paper copy of the final AFR for the preceding year must be turned in. At this time, generating that final report is troublesome, because of a glitch in the system, so the whole program is being reviewed. The Faculty Staff Union (FSU) is also looking into the data that the AFR asks for, since a lot of it is outside the bargaining unit agreement of what is needed to report. At this time the FSU urges members to skip those questions.

#### **The campus reports concluded as David Gray and Brian Douglas joined the meeting**

- Everyone expressed gratitude to David Gray for his administrative and fiscal service to UMass as he leaves to become CFO at Pennsylvania State University.
- Gray made some comments and replied to questions from IFC members.
- UMass came through "the Great Recession" reasonable well. Levels will remain stagnant for several years.
- Until debt is severely reduced, challenges will continue.
- Although the state only supplies 19% of the entire UMass budget (including auxiliary services), the state DOES support 45% of the classrooms expenditures. This variation gives President Caret a useful model for encouraging state support to be increased to 50%.
- Some university teaching research does not require expensive lab space, but is research none the less
- Brian Douglas assured the meeting that legislators appreciate that UMass, because of its emphasis on research does cost more for education than other schools.
- It was agreed that it is important to explain the UMass' participation beyond classroom teaching.
- Stimulus money was primarily held on each campus in reserve for future years to support construction.
- President Caret is discussing with each Chancellor that campus' financial goals. The object of this is to bring each campus' operating margin to the 2-4% range. If this is not possible in the current year, within 5 years, a 2% operating margin is to be attained.
- A better equilibrium from 85% is necessary for building support by campuses. There is a pent-up demand for buildings. The President first met with the Massachusetts capital committee to campaign for increased state support for buildings,
- PHENOM - David McDermott of the President's office attends the PHENOM meetings.
- David Gray's assessment is that it will take years to pull out of the economic downturn. President Caret's goal for his administration is to be remembered as having stopped the fiscal decline and pulled up state support to 50/50 level. An agreement with the Governor to "chip away" at the decline in state support would be a good sign. There has been little transparency in the distribution of funds from the bonds issued for higher education. Currently the building authority passes the burden through to student debt.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Paige Gibbs- secretary