

JOINT SPECIAL REPORT
of the
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
&
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
concerning
THE PROVOST'S ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Presented at the
522nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 28, 1996

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE MOTION PASSED

Whereas, the Academic Program Review is one part of the larger plan of the Chancellor's Strategic Thinking Document which aims to restructure Academic Affairs,

Whereas, the far reaching cuts proposed by the Academic Program Review target a substantial portion of the approximately \$20 million that will be reallocated campus-wide as part of the Chancellor's Strategic Thinking Plan,

Whereas, the Provost's Academic Program Review aims to significantly reduce nineteen of the sixty-four departments reviewed, negatively affected more than 30% of all academic programs offered,

Whereas, eight departments will be terminated or targeted for cessation of admissions and will result in the elimination of seven graduate degree programs and four undergraduate degree programs which will substantially undermine undergraduate and graduate education and research in the affected programs,

Whereas, three departments are scheduled for resource reduction which will seriously affect the quality of undergraduates and graduate education and research in these programs,

Whereas, six departments will be merged with the other units significantly affecting the identity and autonomy of the graduate education and research in these departments,

Whereas, campus-wide responses to the Academic Program Review by affected departments have raised significant concerns regarding the evaluation process and the effects on program size and leadership,

Be it Resolved that the Graduate Student Senate of the University of Massachusetts opposes the Provost's Academic Program Review and demands serious reconsideration of the proposals recommended by the Review.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SENATE MOTIONS PASSED

Whereas, the Provost has released a document entitled, "Report of the Academic Program Review" that details possible to reduce, consolidate, or eliminate as much as 18% of all departments on campus, and

Whereas, the Provost states in her letter accompanying the APR report that the actions proposed will not be implemented "until there has been an appropriate opportunity for campus discussion of the issues and proposed actions," and gives the Faculty Senate until March 1st to reply, and

Whereas, there is no clear request or intention for request of a response from appropriate Student Governance Bodies, as would seem to be required by the Trustee Document T73-098 section 1.B.2. which states on the subject of academic matters that "Students share this concern and they will be assured the opportunity of participating in developing academic policies and in evaluating degrees, programs, and courses," and

Whereas, the APR report was in fact released on the last day of classes of the fall semester of 1995, thus obstructing the opportunity for an appropriate response from the Student Government Association, and

Whereas, the cuts and restructuring proposed by the APR has severe and negative repercussions to the availability of academic programs on campus, as well as threatening the autonomy and identity of programs under the threat of consolidation or elimination, and

Whereas, the Academic Priorities Council has released a Special Report regarding the implementation of the APR report, which focuses on the impact to departments and faculty, but nevertheless is consistent with student interests.

Be it Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Senate join the Graduate Student Senate in opposing the Provost's Academic Program Review and demanding serious reconsideration of the proposal as stated in the APR, and

Be it further Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Senate endorse and support Senate Document #96-026 of the Faculty Senate (the Special Report of the Academic Priorities Council pertaining to the Report of the Academic Program Review) as a beginning guide to reconsidering the proposals as stated in the APR, and

MOVED: 36-96 That the Faculty Senate urge the Administration to insist that departments making changes in their graduate programs continue to allow the students currently enrolled to complete their degrees with no diminution of resources, financial or otherwise currently committed to them.