

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Faculty Senate

Minutes of October 4, 2004

The meeting commenced at 3:30 p.m., Alumni Hall.

- I. Minutes of May 3, 2004 accepted as written.
- II. Report of Senate Representative to the Board of Trustees—Michael Carter

Three new members have been appointed by Governor Romney to the Board of Trustees. The search for the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs position is ongoing the position has been vacant for 1-1/2 years and President Wilson is hoping to involve this position more thoroughly in the tenure process.

The Universities are beginning to hire full time faculty once again. The University of MA Amherst has now returned to its 2000 faculty level.

Trustees have expressed excitement about the nano technology projects being pursued on both the Lowell and Amherst Campuses.

- III. Executive Director of Public Affairs Lou DiNatale was introduced. He discussed the need for advertising and making the University of Massachusetts more visible to people in Massachusetts. He asked for contributions for a Master Calendar for campus events. He also asked for any films, archives that may be used for the advertising campaign.

- IV. Committee Reports

- A. Academic Governance Committee: Senate Membership—Alan Doerr presented a resolution to change the calculation on which Senate Membership is based. Rather than a ratio of 1:10, departments with a personnel committee shall be represented by one or more Senators at a ratio of 1:5 based on the number of full time members as of the first day of the spring semester. Part of this resolution included a statement whereby a designee may be able to attend and vote on a Senator's behalf. The issue of allowable number of missed meetings was discussed, with the comment by the Parliamentarian that the department has the right to replace a Senator who has failed to attend the majority of meetings during the academic year. The resolution was not voted upon and will be reviewed at the November 1, 2004 meeting.

- B. Academic Resources Committee: An issue of concern was noted regarding the high number of students enrolled in General Education

Courses, rather than 25-30 students some courses have 50 students enrolled. The Committee also would like to be aware of what courses are taught by staff. Also there is a concern about new programs after the Senate has made the decision. The University has been invited to participate in an exchange program with 2-3 German Universities. Students would pay UMass tuition and attend a German University. There is also a plan for German students to come here. However, the university has chosen not to participate in this option.

- C. Undergraduate Policy Committee: The Committee presented a Policy for Incomplete Courses (Sep. 2004) to change the policy from 30 days to the end of the semester. The PeopleSoft system cannot accommodate a code of I/grade at this time. The resolution was passed 14-5.
- D. Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee: No resolutions.
- E. Research and Development Committee: Asked for new members.

V. New Business

- A. Implications of the Patriot Act (PA) – Phil Moss
 - 1. Concern regarding federal funding and its impact on faculty.
 - 2. Universities such as University of Pennsylvania, University of California, Berkley, and SUNY Albany have all passed Safe Zone resolutions.
- B. Question regarding bookstore policy of cutting book orders submitted by faculty, as a result not enough books for students until several weeks into the semester.