

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Faculty Senate

Minutes of February 3, 2003

Presiding: Ann Marie Hurley, President
Recording: Jacqueline S. Dowling, Faculty Senate Member

Meeting commenced at 3:35pm, Alumni Hall

I. Minutes of December 2, 2002 approved as written.

II. Standing Committees

- A. Academic Governance Committee - No resolutions.
- B. Undergraduate Policy and Affairs Committee

1. Resolution #1 Preliminary application for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutritional Sciences revisited (see attached). Motion unanimously passed. Discussion as follows:

Robert Nicolosi, Department of Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) presented background of nutrition at UML and requested acceptance of BS such that more than a minor or certificate would be offered. Need to have a degree to move the nutrition program forward so students can sit for licensure exam. Re: biomedical science option. All reference to biomedical sciences was dropped. CLS will focus on nutritional science. No intention to offer an option in biomedical sciences.

Currently, three faculty members who teach 6-7 undergraduate and graduate courses in the program will continue to do so. Anticipate three more courses.

Impact outside the University: UMA has a Food and Nutrition program.

Involvement of other departments: Continue coordinated cross-campus efforts. E.g. The continuation of nutrition in the biology major as biology professor is retiring. Question remains as to what happens with this course.

2. Change in Grading System (see attached). Remain a 4.0 system. Friendly amendment to divide the motion between the proposed quality letter grading scale and the proposed quality points value scale. Amendment unanimously approved.
 - a. Qualitative letter grade (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F). Motion passed with two opposed.
 - b. Assign quality points (4.0, 3.7, 3.3, 3.0, 2.7, 2.3, 2, 1.7, 1.3, 1.0, 0). Motion passed with one opposed and three abstentions.

Discussion as follows:

Reasons for change include consistency among collaborative degree programs (e.g. PhD in Nursing) and shared PeopleSoft system with UMB and UMD.

Extension to graduate program – Resolution will be made 2/19/03.

Time line needed to move toward this system is April. Administration would like to see faculty make this decision. If faculty members across the five campuses do not reach a consensus, then they may be left with an administrative decision.

Alphabetical vs. numerical translation. (e.g. A- Is it 3.75 or 3.7?) Grades should transfer by letter grade. Range is not uniformly separated (e.g. 3.7 - 3.3) across campuses (e.g. UMB uses 3.75 for A- and 3.25 for B+). Should range be an even number (e.g. 3.66 for A- and 3.33 for B+) or should we align with most common range? Also D- is given at other campuses but not in this proposal and will not transfer in to UML. Also new descriptions needed for qualitative letter grades (e.g. A = outstanding, A- = superior, B+ =?).

What about UMA? They are not on same database system.

C. Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee - No resolutions.

D. Research and Development Committee – no resolutions

E. Academic Resources Committee - no resolutions

1. Seeking participants to work with committee on issue of intellectual property. Two web sites regarding intellectual property are:
www.aaup.org/Issues/DistanceEd/intro.htm
www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/present.htm#dist
2. Recommend copyrighting syllabus whether online or not.
3. According to R. Parkin, the faculty union will be looking at the issue of intellectual property. Administration recognizes that the faculty owns its intellectual property. RE: online courses – Administration is willing to sit down and discuss. Only policy is in an amendment of the union contract. UMA and UMD have much more specific policies on this issue.
4. Closing of North Campus library or South Campus library is no longer an issue. S. Campus renovation continues with study area and group study spaces as well as more offices on the 5th floor. Current and bound journals now are housed together. Weeding of books is a planned process. 3000 books have left the collection; 2000 have come in. 5th floor houses discarded books for faculty review and use.

F. Budget and Priorities Committee - no resolutions

III. Adjournment at 4:45 pm.

IV. Next meeting: Monday, March 3, 2003 3:30 pm Alumni Hall