Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
February 4, 2013
3:30 PM

Presiding: Michael Carter


Recording: Martha Burns

The meeting convened at 3:36 PM.

1. Minutes of December 3, 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting, Attachment 1
A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 2012 Faculty Senate Meeting. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. UMass Lowell Division I Sports Update, (Executive Vice Chancellor Moloney)
Michael Carter informed the audience that Chancellor Meehan arrived to speak on moving all campus varsity sports up to Division 1, the same competitive level as our aspirant peers. We would join the America East conference. Men’s hockey, our only existing Div. 1 sport, would remain in Hockey East. The Chancellor pointed out that part of the 2020 strategic plan included speaking to
attracting students both within and outside of the United States. Athletics became a discussion point and it led to Vice Provost Pierson heading up a committee on Athletics and Recreation. America East has a recent opening due to the departure of BU and is interested in institutions with high achieving academic standards. Both the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the undergraduate Student Government Association encouraged us to forge ahead with the possibility of moving up to Division I sports. President of the University of Massachusetts system Robert Caret engaged in a process at Towson University in getting their athletics moved up to Division I. Every one of our peer institutions nationally is in Division I. America East visited the campus and was quite impressed with us. A highlight feature of our campus for this move is the facilities we possess in both the Tsongas Center and Lelacheur Park. Visiting America East campus presidents did inquire as to the near term future of the leadership because the process of moving up to Division I takes time. It is really a four to five year effort. America East wants us to start in Fall 2013. The Chancellor indicated in response to questions that football is not on the table as a possibility. It is too expensive. He also noted that scholarships for women’s sports would increase proportionately more than for mens’ sports, in order to comply with Div. 1’s Title 9 gender equality regulations.

3. Progress Report on Haverhill and Kuwait Programs, (Provost Abdelal)
Provost Abdelal and Executive Vice Chancellor Moloney provided updates on the Haverhill Satellite campus. The plan is to focus on selected high demand day and online programs that would appeal to transfer students graduating from Northern Essex CC and other 2 year programs. Continuing Studies and Corporate Education will coordinate all operations at Haverhill. Executive Vice Chancellor Moloney indicated that incentives will be disbursed to participating colleges/department as lump sums that are used for professional development and for faculty incentive stipends to assist faculty in designing the courses for the Haverhill campus programs. The executive Vice Chancellor also indicated that incentive funding would be available to departments for development of a wider array of summer semester courses, for part-time staff to coordinate logistics, and for faculty oversight of the programs.

Dean Carter provided an overview of Raytheon’s involvement in the Kuwait program indicating that Raytheon will cover all direct costs. The basic premise for this project is to offer UMass Lowell degrees in Kuwait that are supported through direct funding from Raytheon. This project is expected to contribute new significant revenues as well as further advance the international standing of UMass Lowell. Kuwait is a huge opportunity.

Announcement

Michael Carter took a moment to announce that Kerry Donohoe has been appointed Registrar at UMass Lowell.

4. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, (Professor Buzawa)
Due to time considerations, Professor Buzawa’s report on recent developments at the Board of Trustees was delayed until the March 4 Senate meeting.

5. Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), (Professor Mittler)
- Proposal for an Option in the BA Program in English, Attachment 2
  This new option is geared primarily toward students who wish to pursue their B.A. degree in English entirely online. A motion was made to accept the proposal for an Option in the BA Program in English. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Honors Program Motion 2, Attachment 3
The intent of this proposal is to increase the number of credits from 21 to 24 credits. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Study Abroad and Exchange Program Residency, Attachment 4
  Students who transfer into UMass Lowell with an Associate’s degree will be allowed to participate in the Study Abroad and Exchange Program up to a full-time semester of study, maximum of 18 credits. A motion was made to accept the policy. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Point of Information: RN-BS Residency Requirement, Attachment 5
  The Undergraduate Policy Committee proposes that the UMass Lowell residency requirement for the RN-BS degree completion option offered through the Division of Online and Continuing Education be reduced from 45 to 30 credits. This information is being provided as a point of information. The Faculty Senate does not need to vote on it.

6. Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.