Minutes of March 3, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made to accept the March 3, 2014 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), (Ann Marie Hurley)

The following items were presented for information only and did not require motions.

For Information Only:

- Proposal to delete Residency Requirement for doctoral programs within the College of Engineering
Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), (Arthur Mittler)

- Revised General Education Model and Process

Vice Provost Mandell provided an overview. Discussions began approximately two and a half years ago about revising the general education program which had been in place for about 20 years. Many lower level courses are taught by new faculty and/or adjuncts who do not know what essential learning outcomes are. The goal is to supplement breadth of knowledge objectives in lower division courses by mapping seven designated learning objectives and outcomes to upper division courses within majors. Individual departments will figure out which courses address specific outcomes. Discussion arose around whether the model is too complex, will hinder student graduation rates and the feasibility of assessing the essential learning outcomes now and in the future. Vice Provost Mandell indicated that the desire is to have the model take effect in the Fall of 2015. A motion was made to adopt the Model. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Revised Athletic Academic Policy Update

Stephen McCarthy presented the policy. Discussion arose around athletes getting special privileges, the policy favoring the Athletic Department, loss of autonomy on the part of Professors who relish control of their classrooms and non-athletes becoming angry at the appearance of favoritism. Charlotte Ryan called the question for a vote. Votes were tallied with 36 in favor and 24 against.

- Preliminary Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Stephen McCarthy provided an overview of the Proposal. A motion was made to accept the proposal. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

- Proposal for a Minor in Environment and Society

Charlotte Ryan provided an overview. The agenda item is entitled “Proposal for a Minor in Environment and Society.” This is not a new minor. Instead it is a revision to the curriculum. The change will add a stronger science emphasis. Although it passed unanimously a vote was not required.

Other Business

- Tobacco Free Campus Advisory Resolution, (Michael Carter)

Michael Carter presented an endorsement by the Faculty Senate of the Tobacco Free Campus Advisory Resolution. The Faculty Senate advisory resolution is intended to support the undergraduate student association initiative to designate UMass Lowell as a tobacco free campus. It is not binding on the Administration. Discussion arose with members offering differing views. A motion was made to endorse the resolution. 35 voted in favor and 19 opposed.

- Nominations of Officers are due to Martha Burns by April 22, 2014

The first meeting for newly elected/re-elected Senators is May 5, 2014. April’s Senate meeting is the final one for outgoing Senators.
May 5, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting information:
Alumni Hall, North Campus at 3:00 -- Election of officers begins at 3:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.