

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**November 2, 2009**  
**Alumni Hall, North Campus 3:30pm**

Attendee's:

Meeting began shortly after 3:30pm

Senate President, Ann Marie Hurley called the senate to order and announced that even though the agenda appeared short that there were two presentations scheduled so it was important to get started. She then welcomed Dr. Jacqueline Moloney, Executive Vice Chancellor who presented the Senate with an update on the 2020 strategic plan.

**I. Update of UML 2020 Strategic Plan**

Dr. Moloney began with an announcement that our Riverhawks hockey team had beaten Boston University over the weekend. There was a collective acknowledgement of this great accomplishment. Dr. Moloney then moved quickly to business and reviewed briefly some of our recent acquisitions and accomplishments, highlighting the opening of the ICC and our continuously increasing enrollments. She thanked everyone for their hard work and commitment to the campus.

Dr. Moloney then transitioned specifically to the UML 2020 Strategic Plan. She reported that in the spring 2009 the planning was initiated and this included over 200 faculty and staff members. There were 11 committees created that were organized around University Goals. The committees are continuing the efforts and building on the previous work of the transformation teams and data from the blue book. Full details are available on the UMass Lowell website at <http://www.uml.edu/2020/default.html>. This was moved from the intranet (which some reported was difficult to locate) to the main UMass Lowell website under "UML 2020." This site has reports from all committees as well as previous reports from other work groups.

Dr. Moloney also announced that two new committees have been formed, fostering an inclusive campus community and Information Technology. Dr. Moloney explained that initially all committees were charged with integrating diversity and efforts to create an inclusive campus, however there were a number of faculty and staff who felt it needed to also be a committee that could give the focus and attention that is in line with our campus mission. Also, the Information Technology Committee was on hold until the new CIO was onboard. Both committees are working diligently to establish goals and measureable benchmarks.

Dr. Moloney also announced that as part of the strategic planning the University has established an External Advisory Board.

During the fall 2009 semester there will be a series of open meetings on campus. This will be presented in a poster format allowing for interaction with the committee members. It is the aim

to have maximum participation and input. Faculty, staff and students can submit feedback via the website or by attending an open campus meeting. These are listed on the website but are also listed below for convenience.

**Monday, Nov. 9:** Open meetings to present drafts to campus community:

10:30 a.m. to noon in O’Leary 222, South Campus

1p.m to 2:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall, North Campus

After the overview, Dr. Moloney invited questions. The first question on the floor was, “how will the 2020 plan be used to allocate resources?” At this time, Provost Abdelal was also present and Dr. Moloney asked if he wanted to respond or if she should. Dr. Moloney mentioned that there was already a budget committee in place and invited Joanne Yestremski, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance to take the floor as well. Joanne provided more details about the budget committee and explained that this was under the direction and leadership of Provost Abdelal. Dr. Abdelal then added that departments and colleges are asked to think strategically as well and that through in partnership with the budget committee, funding would be mapped to growth opportunities. Dr. Abdelal also reinforced that “all college plans do not need to look the same.”

The second question from the floor was, “why does the strategic plan only mention buildings on south campus?” The answer was that this is in partnership with DCAM and currently the work has been on the new academic building on south, but that there is lots of building improvement happening on North campus.

The third question that was raised was “what is the charge of the committee that is focused on fostering an inclusive campus community?” The answer was that this is a newly formed committee and Jamie Nolan, our new director of Multicultural Affairs and Professor Oliver Ibe from Electrical and Computer Engineering will be leading up this group and once they have organized as a group we will have more information on their strategic plans.

On **December 9<sup>th</sup>** there will be a conversation dinner focused on “Fostering an Inclusive Campus Community.” An announcement will be made in UML today and it will be sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and The Faculty Development Center.

The fourth question was, “why a plan for ten years?” The answer was that this is a high level plan that aims to have the campus well situated regardless of who is in the top leadership positions. The 10 year plan will include benchmarks and milestones.

## **II. ISIS Upgrade to Version 9.0**

Senate President Hurley then introduced Rich Connelly and Doreen Bray who gave an overview of the ISIS upgrade from version 8.0 to 9.0 (see attached PowerPoint presentation with full

details of the presentation). Doreen identified the primary reasons for upgrading is that version 8.0 is no longer supported and as a university we wanted to “gain leverage with new functionality.” Pat Duff then presented to the senate some of the features and the “new look and feel” of 9.0 (see attached PowerPoint).

The tentative “go live” date is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. ISIS will be unavailable from the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 24<sup>th</sup>).

What does this mean for faculty? This means that faculty will be entering grades in the new 9.0 version. There will be resource guides as well as orientation sessions on campus to provide addition support for faculty and staff.

Some of the added functionality or enhancements that were mentioned were as follows:

- “Not as many clicks”
- Changing overall look and feel. It will be more intuitive.
- Faculty will be able to download their roster into an excel spreadsheet.
- Faculty will be able to email individual students or groups of students from their roster.
- It will read spring 2010 and not 1930
- There are many added enhancements to the advising report.

Questions that were raised involved the search capacity. It was requested to be able to search by added criteria such as a student’s major. It was mentioned that sometimes faculty do not have a students ID number and if there are a number of students with the same name it is extremely difficult. It was suggested that being able to search by major (or having students majors listed) would be a great help.

### **III. Senate Agenda Items**

#### **a. Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**

After the presentation, Senate President Hurley asked for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. It was noted that there was a typo with the time “3am” instead of “3pm”. Senate president said this would be changed. It was then called to a vote. **The minutes from October 5<sup>th</sup> were approved.**

#### **b. Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees**

- a. Professor Michael Carter, faculty representative to the Board of Trustees reported that there have not been any public meetings. He did report that there have been discussions about UMass Dartmouth taking on the Southern New England Law School. Professor Carter said that UMD suggests that with 2 million dollars they will be able to obtain accreditation (which Southern New England Law has not had for 20 years) and double enrollments. There have been no decisions made.

#### **c. Academic Resources: No Resolutions**

#### **d. Graduate Policy and Affairs:**

- a. Human Computer Interaction Certificate- The graduate policy committee presented the certificate to the full senate; it was called to a vote and then **approved.**
- e. **Research and Development**
  - a. There will be an open meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm in the Faculty Senate Conference Room.
- f. **Undergraduate Policy Committee**
  - a. Resolution-Course Grade Appeal Policy-the course grade appeal policy was reintroduced to the senate. Professor Mitler explained that while it had been sent back to committee, he did not receive any recommendations on how it should be changed. There were a few changes made. There was some discussion on what would constitute “academic judgment” and what would be a legitimate appeal from a student. Students may choose to file an appeal and if the faculty member does not feel that an error was made, the appeal will go to the chair. The chair can then determine it was “academic judgment” and not approve the appeal.

A friendly amendment was made that the department chairs would be responsible for keeping a record of the appeal on file in the department until the student is no longer a student. The resolution was called to a vote, and The Grade Appeal Policy was **approved with the friendly amendment.**
- g. **Other Business/New Business**
  - a. Professor Mitler requested that the campus leadership provide information on three current topics/issues.
    1. Removal of Advising Holds
    2. the final exam schedule
    3. academic calendars

Provost Abdelal took the floor and answered the questions. He began with the Academic Calendars and indicated that the faculty senate is responsible for the academic calendar.

Then Provost Abdelal addressed the final exam schedule. He reported that over the last two years we have had a 23% increase in enrollment and that we cannot stay with the old process due to capacity issues with space. Provost Abdelal also shared that this decision was made in partnership with the academic deans. Provost Abdelal also indicated that he believed this was not an academic issue that needed senate approval and that it was an administrative decision. There was a lively discussion that followed with departments such as physics and math expressing a need to have common exam times for large sections and there was great frustration with having multiple exam times. Pat Duff also added that with the old way of scheduling which combined like sections would have resulted in over 500 student conflicts which would have been difficult to then have individual arrangements for all these conflicts.

A number of faculty reported that they did not receive communication from their academic deans about the final exam schedule. Provost Abdelal responded by saying that in a large organization we need to have information shared and that he depends on the deans sharing with the chairs and the chairs sharing with the faculty.

Provost Abdelal explained that the matrix model of exam times that we were modeling was in line with many colleges and universities. This was also reinforced by a faculty member in accounting who explained that the model that we are moving to is similar to the models used at her two previous institutions (University of Michigan and UNH). However, she suggested that times be built in for large enrollment courses that have multiple sections. She shared that at her previous schools these exams were held in the evening.

It was also discussed that larger enrollment courses should be scheduled earlier. Provost Abdelal suggested that there be a committee formed to look at different ways that the schedule could accommodate all these needs moving forward.

Charlotte Mandell, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education shared that they had made a change for several of the large enrollment math courses. These were moved to one of the later days. This was also a lively discussion because faculty felt that being moved to a snow day was also not optimal. Dr. Mandell reminded faculty that the last day was not in fact a snow day in comparison to previous years because with this new final exam schedule we actually had 5 days rather than 6. Dr. Mandell also shared that there was a difference with working to accommodate faculty who had large classes such as mathematics and faculty who were requesting that there two section of lower enrollments be placed in the same slot because it was more convenient.

Provost Abdelal suggested that Professor Mitler work with Charlotte and the Registrar's Office.

The final issue was regarding advising hold flags. This too was a lively discussion. Provost Abdelal explained that he wanted a more student friendly model and that we used holds that prevented students from registering too often. A number of faculty shared concerns with this. Some of the concerns included that students would not get the appropriate advising and then would be in difficulty when it came time to graduate. Several faculty shared stories of students who were missing a course or who had not had appropriate advising.

Provost Abdelal told the senate that he wanted each department to develop an advising model that is friendlier and that he has directed the registrar's office not to put any hold on students account without his approval.

At 5:30pm there was a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.