

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Faculty Senate
March 9, 2009

Presiding: Ann Marie Hurley

Meeting commenced at **3:40 p.m.**

Chancellor Meehan's remarks:

“Cuts in Higher Ed have made this a very difficult time. This is the highest percentage of cuts in the history of this state. We need to pursue a path to excellence.”

Achieving Excellence through Strategic Investments

Freshman retention improved in 2008 and every indication that it will continue to improve in 2009. There is a crucial need for beds/dorms—the state does not and never has supplied the money for housing.

The Master Plan is going well; strategic plan 20/20 is also doing well.

State 9C cuts of \$4.9 million in FY 09

Major Budget Assumptions; changes from FY 09 to FY10

State appropriation. cut by another 12% or \$11 million

Loss in trust funds interest earnings of 60%

Enrollment increase of 5%

Increase in financial aid

Student fee increases approved at \$1500 = \$10 million net financial aid

We have set up a committee on Financial Planning and Budget Review chaired by Steve O’Riordan, Financial Services, and Dean Kathryn Carter, College of Management

The question was raised about how this campus would cope with the upcoming \$8 million cuts. Chancellor Meehan answered that he believes the stimulus package will help bridge the gap, along with \$5.5 in Strategic Investments—we will get some of these cuts back. Much discussion ensued on the University’s possible acquisition of downtown hotel for dorm use and the impact on the city and the University’s now tabled discussions regarding the Tsongas arena.

Official Business

4:25 p.m. Minutes from February 2009 *accepted*.

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees (Michael Carter)

Trustees have approved the fee increase and students across campuses protested. Rebating fees –Trustees and students feel that the stimulus package monies will give rebates to students, even though Chancellor Meehan does not think so. He states that we

need to fill in the deficits first. Whatever money comes will be here for two years 2010, and 2011 and then it will be gone.

Trustees are going to appoint a Task Force to work with Chancellors on restructuring. This will take place on all campuses.

There has been a push to develop more Master's level programs although it is very difficult to get Trustees to pass graduate level programs. It is more likely to pass through the Trustees if proposed programs are distinguished from other proposals on the other campuses.

Committee Reports:

UPC (Art Mittler)

Motion 1: Clarification in the Academic Integrity Policy

Discussion: Changes came about as a result of Dr. Mandell working through this policy as it stands. All petitions must go through the Provost's office where they will be housed. The Dean of Students does not carry a record of academic misconduct. Other misconduct will be housed in the Dean of Students office. ***Motion passed***

Motion 2: Undergraduate Minor in Education

This is to be a sophomore level program, not a licensure into the graduate level.

Motion passed.

Motion 3 Clarification of the Gen Ed exception policy

In handling transfer courses ***Motion passed.***

GPAC

Motion 1: Graduate Certificate Program in Biological and Laboratory Safety

Motion passed

Motion 2: Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction Option: Autism Studies

(non licensure program ending in a capstone course)

Discussion ensued regarding an amendment: separate admissions policy for licensed teachers

Motion with amendment passed.

Motion 3 Changes to the BS/MS program, allowing students to defer enrollment into masters program for up to 1 year.

Motion passed.

Motion 4: Change in policy for International students to carry 1 credit during final year to cover immigration issues.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at **5:30 p.m.**