

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
FACULTY SENATE
April 6, 2009

Presiding: Ann Marie Hurley

Members Present: Bob Kunzendorf, Jay Simmons, Bob Parkin, Christopher Nezrecki, Caryn Bell, Melissa Pennell, Susan O'Sullivan, Robert Giles, Charlotte Ryan, Andrew Hostetler, Thomas Wilson, Rafael Moure-Eraso, Cindy Chen, Haim Levkowitz, Margaret Knight, Dan Schmidt, Bill Kaizen, Clayton French, Paul Coppens, Monty Carter, Brian Bettencourt, John Wooding, Alex Case, Al Doerr, James Sherwood, Russell Karl, James Egan, Art Mittler, Stu Freedman, Francis Bonner, Eve Buzawa, Gena Creher, Geoff Phillips-McEnany, Beth Morgan, Ruth Remington, Nicole Champagne, Chris Strobel, Marie Frank, Karen Roehr, Mitra Das, Marina Ruths, Sherre Strickland, Cynthia Ferrara, Bridgette Budhlall

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

Official Business—minutes from March 2009 meeting were **accepted**.

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees (Michael Carter)

Nothing to report as there were no trustees meetings.

Committee Reports:
UPC (Art Mittler)

Motion #1 Additional requirement for students in BSE/ME program. . At least a **C-** in all 12 major courses listed in the supporting document. A grade of D or D+ in one of the listed courses would satisfy subsequent pre-requisite requirements, but the student would be required to **re-take the course before graduation**. Once a student has used up their allocation of grade delete/replacement, re-taking the course would not change their overall cumulative GPA. These new graduation requirements would become effective for students entering the University in, or after, September 2009.

Motion passed.

Motion #2 Division of Fine Art, Humanities & Soc. Sci. proposes all first time full time students be required to take a new seminar during their first semester. This is not for transfer students.

A discussion ensued: Several faculty discussed how their freshman seminars have been successful, although they don't require 10 papers from students; yet, there is an opportunity here for students to connect with the faculty and resources. Perhaps methodologies could be individualized to the instructor. Some faculty raised the questions as to why the writing requirement is such a big issue. Purpose of writing assignment was to give students practice in writing ability. Emphasis on writing was to get them to be more active and involved. We talk a lot about reading across the

curriculum, however, we shy away from it. There is even an opportunity here for team teaching. *Motion passed.*

Motion #3 Change in dual degree program. Students who wish to pursue a dual degree program must establish simultaneous matriculation in both programs and designate their candidacy for two degrees. The curricula for dual degree programs are approved by participating college faculties and must be completed as prescribed. It is therefore imperative that a student who wishes to pursue an approved dual degree program obtain a copy of the specified curriculum that enumerates the specific semester-by-semester course requirements. Students interested in this program must receive authorization from all relevant chairs and deans. *Motion passed.*

Motion #4 The Executive Committee of the American Studies Program would like to request a change in the requirements for the minor in American Studies. The Executive Committee would like to change the requirement of two 300 level American History courses to simply two 300 level courses from the list maintained by the program coordinator. It was noted that the student would work with coordinators to pick 2 courses from approved list. *Motion passed*

Motion #5: Establish a new minor in Arabic Studies by Dept. of Cultural Studies. The Arabic Studies Minor introduces students to critical approaches to the study of Islam, Muslim societies and cultures of the Middle East. The goal of this interdisciplinary minor in the humanities and social sciences is to broaden and deepen students' understanding of Arabic societies and cultures in order to meet the demands of business, government and academia for skilled specialists in the language, culture, history and politics of the Middle East. *Motion passed.*

GPAC

Motion #1 Chemical Engineering: Proposed changes to the Master's program. Non-thesis Chemical Engineering M.S. Degree Program; Credit Change
The reduction of the seminar from one to zero credits is a consequence of the requirement that full-time graduate students being supported as either an RA or TA or some combination of RA and TA must take at least nine credits. Anything associated tuition and fees above nine credits is not covered by the tuition waiver. Thus, by having the one-credit seminar, a full-time student would be financially penalized.
There may be a situation where a student may need to be registered for at least one credit is needed, e.g. for a continued research situation, then the seminar could be made have a variable credit of either one or zero. *Motion passed.*

Motion #2

Four New Professional Science Master's Degree Options within Existing Master of Science Degree in Biological Sciences:

Applied Biotechnology, BioSafety, Environmental BioTechnology, and Project Management, for Life Sciences *Motion passed.*

Motion # 3

College of Management: Request to Approve a Name Change and Curriculum Update for the MS in Innovation & Technological Entrepreneurship *Motion passed.*

Motion #4

Music Department proposes to offer an option in Community Music within the Master of Music in Music Education Degree Program. This is a non-licensure program for student who are not seeking teaching certification. *Motion passed*

Motion # 5

Plastics Engineering Non-thesis M.S. Degree; Program Credit Change, Goal is to get non-thesis Plastics Engineering M.S. Degree in line with other MS degrees within the College of Engineering, but without making the thesis option relatively unattractive. Thus 33 credits for non-thesis and 30 credits for the thesis option. *Motion passed.*

Motion #6

Change requirements for various MBA options; allow more than 1 option and therefore take additional 3 credits for that option. *Motion tabled to have more time to study this.*

REQUESTED RESOLUTION

The Faculty Senate supports multidisciplinary efforts to explore strategies to integrate issues pertaining to victimization in appropriate courses across the University.

This resolution is being requested by Linda Williams, Eve Buzawa, Alison Cares, and David Hirschel (Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology)

In the fall of 2008, a team of faculty in the Dept. of Criminal Justice and Criminology, with support from the University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and University of Massachusetts Medical School, applied to federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) for funding for their RFP National-Scope Demonstration Project, Post Secondary Education: Integrating Crime Victims' Issues into University and College Curricula. Only one grant will be awarded nationwide, and OVC has recently followed up asking questions and points for clarification on our application. If awarded, this project provides us the opportunity to create learning modules and a comprehensive victims' studies curriculum in partnership with interested faculty across disciplines. These materials will then be piloted and evaluated at six competitively

selected sites. Although the actual products are not yet determined and will be guided and created by multi-disciplinary working committees, we hope to develop modules at both the undergraduate and graduate level for both victim advocates and allied professionals who encounter victims (for example, criminal justice professionals, teachers, counselors, medical professionals, human resources, journalists). This project would then allow for the produced materials to be showcased nationally as a part of a national replication guide, presumably endorsed by and available through the Office for Victims of Crime. ***Resolution passed.***