



University of Massachusetts Lowell
Office of the Faculty Senate
Alumni Hall, Room 101, One University Avenue
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854
Telephone: 978-934-3413
E-mail: Faculty_Senate@uml.edu

Faculty Senate President: Michael J. Carter
Telephone: 978-934-2794
E-mail: Michael_Carter@uml.edu

Faculty Senate Administrator: Martha H. Burns
Telephone: 978-934-4909
E-mail: Martha_Burns@uml.edu

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

April 6, 2015

3:30 PM

Presiding: Michael Carter

Attendees: Lisa Abdallah, Laura Barefield, Dina Bozicas, Eve Buzawa, Jennifer Cadero-Gillette, Michael Carter, Nicole Champagne, Guanling Chen, Shehong Chen, Johanna Choo, Timothy Cook, Judith Davidson (for Phitsamay Uy), Paul DeStefano, Heidi Fantasia, Susan Faraji, Rebecca Foco, Steven Freund, Alice Frye, Jessica Garb, Michael Geiger, Robert Giles, Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti, Nancy Goodyear, Jennifer Gorczyca, Michael Graves, Christopher Hansen, Ivy Ho, Javier Horta, Ying Huang, Stephen Johnston, Alexander Kheifets, Saira Latif, Jason Lawrence, Erika Lewis, Karen Lin, Benyuan Liu, David Lustick, Margaret Manion, Maria Matz, John McKelliget, Dalila Megherbi, Garrett Michaelsen, Joshua Millard, Michael Millner, Stephen Mishol, Keith Mitchell, Arthur Mittler, Joann MoriartyBaron, Donna Mullin, Charles Ormsby, Robert Parkin, April Pattavina, Marina Ruths, Charlotte Ryan, David Ryan, Michelle Scribner-MacLean, Richard Serna, Mitchell Shuldman, Jonathan Silverman, Jana Sladkova, Meg Sobkowicz-Kline, Laurie Soroken, Walter Toomey, Mark Tries, James Veatch, Jenna Vinson (for Sue Kim), Vinod Vokkarane, Yana Weinstein, Naomi Wernick, Thomas Wilson, YiNing Wu, Seongkyu Yoon, Juheng Zhang

Recording: Martha Burns

The meeting commenced at 3:34 PM.

- Minutes of April 6, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made by Jonathan Silverman to approve the April 6, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Robert Parkin and passed unanimously.

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), (Professor Mawn)

- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Geoscience

Nelson Eby provided an overview. Robert Parkin made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Lisa Abdallah and passed unanimously.

- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Atmospheric Science
Nelson provided an overview summarizing specific courses. David Lustick indicated that raising awareness on climate change is becoming more and more part of our mission. Robert Parkin indicated that he is teaching one of the courses and climate change is an integral part of the course. Jonathan Silverman made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Lisa Abdallah and passed with one opposed.
- Final Proposal for a Master of Public Administration, (MPA)
Associate Dean Harris provided an overview of the proposal. Eve Buzawa made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Lisa Abdallah and passed unanimously.

Undergraduate Policy and Affairs Committee (UPC), (Professor Mittler)

- Proposal to add a Graphic Design Minor
Jehanne Marie Gavarini provided an overview of the proposal. John McKelliget made a motion to accept the proposal. It was seconded by Jonathan Silverman and passed unanimously.
- Proposal to add a Public Health Minor
Nicole Champagne provided an overview of the proposal. Robert Parkin made a motion to accept the proposal. It was seconded by Lisa Abdallah and passed unanimously.

For Information Only:

- UPC: Proposal to change requirements in the American Studies Major
- UPC: Proposal to change major requirements in the Political Science Major
- UPC: Proposal to change credit requirements outside the Major for BA Degrees in FAHSS

Other Business

- Faculty Senate By-Laws, March 2015 Draft
Note: Discussion will take place at today's meeting. Final By-Laws will then be voted on at the May 4, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting.
Michael Carter reviewed highlighted changes. One minor edit was made. At the May 4, 2015 Faculty Senate meeting a final vote will be taken with no discussion permitted
- Budget Update, (Professor Carter)

There have been some additional meetings of the Budget and Planning Committee since last month's senate meeting. There is still some uncertainty about where our budget deficit will end up for the current fiscal year. Increased revenues from our auxiliary enterprises including student life, together with enrollment growth and increases in revenues from continuing education will enable us to offset some of the negative impact of additional costs for snow removal and 9C budget cuts from the Governor's office impacting us this winter and spring. Moreover, there is uncertainty about the outcome of the argument between the University and the governor's office over responsibility for funding year 1 raises in the current contract. Second semester enrollment growth also though higher than last year's was a bit short of ambitious projections. The bottom line is that operating deficits of

\$2 to \$5 million are now projected for fiscal 2015. (Even the higher figure would be less than 2% of UML's overall budget. Importantly, there are no plans for layoffs. Next year there are more uncertainties. State funding is one uncertainty. Another issue is the level of student fee increases we are allowed. We would like to push for a 5% increase in this area. Expenses for DIV1 sports are likely to be higher than originally projected due to NCAA rules changes. There is a wide cone of uncertainty. The capital budget is largely set for the construction and maintenance projects planned for the next 2 years. Funding sources have been largely identified. However, enough of the capital projects will depend on campus borrowing so that we will soon reach the 8% (debt service/ operating revenues) ratio imposed by the board of trustees. Funding to renovate Coburn Hall is not currently in place.

Vice Provost Abdelal spoke indicating that there is still room for optimism. For the last six years we have exceeded initial budget projections for the year. Enrollment has been consistently rising. Non-resident and international student enrollment is as well. The revenue stream from students is significant. Budget is tighter for Massachusetts this year. Although we did not get collective bargaining contract funding from either the former or new Governor, the Administration is still working on securing raises. Moreover, the official budget figures insert over \$24 million in to the Cost column as "Depreciation allowances." Although some of these funds must be spent on maintenance projects, the funds are fungible and could be used to support other activities. Provost Abdelal thus felt that if we weren't required to report such a large total as Depreciation Costs, we would show a profit each year. We have been on a great trajectory. There are uncertainties but optimism too.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM.