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Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

October 3, 2011

2:30 PM

Presiding: Michael Carter

Attendees: Stephanie Block (for Ashleigh Hillier), Bryan Buchholz, Eve Buzawa, Michael Carter, Nicole Champagne, Shehong Chen, Liana Cheney, Timothy Crain, Mitra Das, Alan Doerr, Lisa Edwards, James Egan, Joseph Fisher, Stuart Freedman, Clayton French, Steven Freund, Susan Gallagher, Ken Geiser, Nancy Goodyear, Michael Graves, Charmaine Hickey (for David Lustick), Stephen Johnston, Robert Karasek, Russell Karl, Alexander Kheifets, Daniel Klain, Margaret Knight, Ainat Koren, Pradeep Kurup, Haim Levkowitz, Mufeed Sarah Kuhn, Xuejun Lu (for Martin Margala), Margaret Manion, Sanjeev Manohar, Martin Margala, Dalila Megherbi, Michael Millner, Arthur Mittler, Martin Moser, Nese Orbey, Robert Parkin, Geoffrey Phillips McEnany, Jialun Qin, Emmanuelle Reynaud, Marina Ruths, David Ryan, Thomas Shea, James Sherwood, Jonathan Silverman, Shellie Simons, Jana Sladkova, Paul Song, Chronis Stamatiadis, Sherre Strickland (for Janie Casello-Bouges), Stefanie Tate, Phitsamay Uy, James Veatch, Jie Wang, Thomas Wilson

Absent: Doreen Arcus, Todd Avery, Bridgette Budhlall, Alexander Case, Abigail Chandler, Cindy Chen, Cynthia Ferrara, James Forest, Marie Frank, Jehanne Marie Gavarini, Robert Giles, Carol Hay, Ann Marie Hurley, Sarah Kuhn, Erika Lewis, Yan Luo, Donna Mullin, Ramaswamy Nagarajan, Miki Patterson, Charlotte Ryan, Jay Simmons, Thomas Wilson, Yi Yang, Bruce Young

Recording: Martha Burns

The meeting convened at 2:37 PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Faculty Senate President Michael Carter welcomed new Senators and guests. He announced that badges will be provided at each Senate meeting for ease of familiarity. Faculty Senators were asked to return badges at the close of the meeting. If not returned Senators should bring to next Faculty Senate meeting.

2. Minutes of May 2, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting, (Attachment 1)

Liana Cheney made a motion to accept the Minutes of the May 2, 2011. It was seconded by James Egan and passed unanimously.

3. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees (BOT), (Professor Buzawa)

Eve Buzawa provided report from the BOT Meeting held on September 28, 2011.

1. This year, there are eleven new Trustees (six appointed trustees and five student trustees). Karem is Chair.
2. Two new Chancellor searches this year
 - Trustee Johnson chairing the search for the Amherst chancellor
 - Dartmouth committee not yet established

President Caret's Report

President Caret is placing a priority on gaining greater legislative support and promoting the campuses. He praised the partnerships with the privates.

President Caret is hoping to get state to shoulder 50% of capital costs for academic buildings (in recent years the state's share has been about 15%). He thinks it may be easier to make progress on this front rather than trying to convince the legislature to cover a higher % of operating costs.

He defined goals differently than the DHE in their Vision Project:

1. Student success
2. Educated Citizenry
3. Research Enterprise
4. Students as good citizens/stewards
5. Social well being

Consideration being given to working at developing a Report Card with Performance Indicators for these which will be completed each year and shared with the public

A & F

1. Capital plan approved
 - Low interest rate has helped our debt (\$5 million saved because Gray and McKenzie refinanced our debts)
 - Credit rating upgraded to double A- for the university
 - Fiscal situation remains stable
 - Need more in capital budget from state
2. Law school target met with enrollment
3. College of Management named after Robert J. Manning
 - He has donated several million dollars and has committed his time as well as money
 - Need an additional \$10 million to proceed

Advancement

1. Exceeded our goal of \$1,300,000.
2. Increase in commitments of \$110 million.

3. 15.7% investment return.

Research

1. President Caret is developing relationships with key industries
2. He is advocating for \$100 million for R & D funds in legislation to serve as matching funds for raw R & D
3. Expenditures for R & D were \$543 million for FY2010
4. DOD security clearance for trustees from last year (not new ones)

ICC

Attorney General found that the BOT violated the Open Meeting Law throughout the presidential search process. It was noted that the violations were wide ranging and serious. The Board general acted on the advice of Counsel. Now training is required for all members, submission of all meeting notices and minutes, as well as executive session minutes and committee minutes. This level of oversight by the AG is not expected to apply to campus level searches below the Chancellor level.

UMass Boston's Faculty Senate will be voting this year on revising their entire curriculum to 4 credit courses. Believes it will improve retention and workload (faculty will teach 2/2). (Amherst has converted 1/3 of its courses to four credits – all its Gen Eds).

4. Progress Report, (Provost Abdelal)

Provost Abdelal provided a summary of significant accomplishments. Due to the successful implementation of a strategy more student applications and distribution of selectivity for this Fall's class was shifted to a higher range than last Fall. This is promising for the coming years. We are on an upward spiral where because applications are increasing our selection of candidates is more favorable. We were able to secure doctoral degrees in criminology and global studies. This is significant because these are the first doctoral programs in the humanities and social sciences. Management is moving forward with a number of new programs. We will be looked at favorably from a national perspective based on our graduate population. There has been a 15 to 20 percent increase in research funding. Our ranking with US World and News Reports increased. The interest in the national standing serves to attract students.

A parking garage will be built on North Campus. The redistribution of parking, especially on North Campus, has helped. The 600 space garage will be finished by next Fall and a second garage will be built on South Campus.

Provost Abdelal thanked the audience for all their hard work in helping to realize the strategic goals articulated in the strategic plan.

On a final note the Provost noted that Navitas has assisted in recruiting international students contributing to the goal of enriching diversity on campus. This fall we have some 60 international students recruited by Navitas. The 60 students come from 20 countries. We are working with a University in China and some pathways are being forged with some Indian universities. The international vision is starting to be realized. Once a stream is started it becomes continuous.

5. NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) Survey Outcomes, (Vice Provost Mandell)

Vice Provost Mandell provided a report of the NSSE Outcomes. The survey compares responses from the freshman and senior classes. We receive a higher response rate from women. Living on campus improves retention. Of particular interest is that in the area of active and collaborative learning UMass Lowell scored significantly higher. Vice Provost Mandell attributes this success to the learning communities where students work together. A second success is in the area of an enriching educational experience. Three years ago we were significantly behind our peers but now we are at the same level. Student/faculty interaction is significantly lower. Faculty did not talk with students about career plans. Eve Buzawa noted that there is a lack of space for this type of interaction. Jehanne Marie Gavarini noted that she invites representatives from UMass Lowell's Career Services to speak at her class. Our freshmen students work off campus more than do our peers. Sara Kuhn commended Vice Provost Mandell on the report she provided.

6. Other Business, (Michael Carter)

Michael Carter informed the audience that we are currently looking at developing a new department of Communication and Journalism which will offer both undergraduate and master's level programs. It is in the very early stages of development with the department of English being heavily involved. This new department will generate revenue because there are not a lot of upfront costs.

He informed Faculty Senators that subcommittees are a way to get more involved with the Senate and suggested that they initiate a conversation with the Chairperson of each subcommittee if they so desire.

He noted that NEASC will be visited next year and that a self study report will have to be prepared this year. Committees are being assembled now.

Bob Parkin stated that graduate coordinators have been asked to sign a certification that students from sensitive countries do not have access to privileged information. There is no way that graduate coordinators possess the knowledge to make a legal statement and if they do, they become legally responsible. Graduate coordinators should not sign any legal documents. Vice Provost Pierson indicated signing is inappropriate and that the Research Office will handle this matter.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.