



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 V. Graves
Telephone: 978-934-2887
E-mail: Michael_Graves@uml.edu

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

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

March 2, 2020

3:30 PM

Presiding: Michael Graves

Recording: Martha Burns

The meeting convened at 3:35 PM.

- Provost Hartman Update

Provost Hartman addressed the Faculty Senate. His update is included following these Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes.

- 2_3_20 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to accept the Minutes. The motion passed with 55 in favor and 2 abstaining.

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

- Proposal for an Engineering Data Analytics Certificate

Bryan Buchholz provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 50 in favor, 4 opposed and 6 abstaining.

- Graduate Satisfactory Standing

Bryan Buchholz provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the policy language. The motion passed with 55 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstaining.

Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), (Professor Mitler)

- Preliminary Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Data Science

Art Mittler provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 41 in favor and 3 abstaining.

- Proposal for a BLA Concentration in American Studies

Art Mittler provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 55 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstaining.

- Proposal to rename the Minor in Clinical Laboratory Sciences to the minor in Applied Biomedical Sciences and to change the requirements

Art Mittler provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 53 in favor, 3 opposed and 3 abstaining.

- Proposal for four concentrations in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science
 - a. American Politics
 - b. International Relations and Comparative Politics
 - c. Law and Politics
 - d. Political Communication and Public Opinion

Art Mittler provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 57 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstaining.

- Proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Architectural Studies

Art Mittler provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 57 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstaining.

- Proposal for an Architectural Studies Concentration in the Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BLA)

Art Mittler provided an overview.

A motion was made to accept the Proposal. The motion passed with 57 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstaining.

For Information Only

Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (GPAC), Professor Buchholz

- Proposal to revise the Biotechnology (BMEBT) PhD requirements

Bryan Buchholz provided an overview.

No motion was necessary.

Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC), Professor Mittler

- Proposal to revise curriculum in the Clinical Science Option and the Medical Laboratory Science Option in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Biomedical Sciences

Art Mittler provided an overview.

No motion was necessary.

Core Curriculum Committee (Professor Petersen)

- Kevin Petersen provided an update on the Core Curriculum Committee. He solicited feedback from Faculty Senators.

No motion was necessary.

Library Resource Committee (Professor Mack)

- Hunter Mack provided an update on the Library Resource Committee.

No motion was necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Senate Address

Joseph C. Hartman, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

March 2, 2020

It is my pleasure to address you today and if you will bear with me, I would like to read from a prepared statement so this transcript can be placed in the minutes for those that cannot be in attendance.

First of all, let me apologize for not addressing the Faculty Senate earlier due to travel, and snow. This is actually a good time to address you, as I have had time to get my arms around this new position and have some updates to share. I would be happy to answer questions at the end, assuming I have not put you to sleep.

Let me again say, I am honored to serve as your Provost. I have talked with every department chair, many center directors, numerous faculty and staff and students, and learned about points for pride, aspirations and concerns. I am not going to stand up here and say that everything is rosy and that we have all of the resources available to meet all of your needs, let alone desires. However, I am here to tell you that the future is bright.

Let me first provide you an idea of where we are. Yes, we had a tremendous freshman recruiting class that started in the Fall of 2019 – 12.6% larger than the previous year with the same academic credentials of the previous year, which were the best ever, and the most diverse ever, with 40% of our enrollments being students of color. While this was a tremendous achievement led by our Dean of Enrollment Kerri Johnston, I am keenly aware that this incoming class has put a tremendous amount of pressure on our freshmen courses, especially the laboratory courses, as we saw the greatest growth in the Sciences and Engineering.

While one would expect that a huge freshman class would eliminate any budgetary concerns, the conclusion is more complicated:

- First, our transfer numbers were down 10%;
- Second, while *new* graduate students, both on-campus and online, were up 7.7%, continuing students were down 5.1%;
- Third, new online undergraduates were up 3.1%, but continuing online students were down 3.7%;
- Fourth, our first-year retention rate was its lowest in three years, under 83%; and
- Fifth, we experienced our highest graduation rates ever, with the 6-year rate hitting a tremendous 66%.

Combing all of these facts together defined a growth in total student headcount of only 0.6% to 18,350, with undergraduates growing 1.7% to 11,663. When you plan the year out assuming a 2% growth in enrollments, you can see why we are cautious about the budget – because we rely on tuition dollars to support the growth of faculty and facilities.

But let's also be clear – we are growing at a time when a number of institutions are threatening closure – that number being 946 in a recent article in *The Chronicle*. A more recent article in *The Chronicle* states that 6 in 10 institutions of nearly 300 surveyed did not meet their fall enrollment targets. Our growth is a testament to you, our faculty, our staff, our programs, and our investments in this campus. In all, the great news is that you recruited a huge freshman class and you have retained it – we hit an amazing 95% retention rate from fall to spring behind your work and the leadership of our Dean of Academic Services, Kerry Donohoe. But we must stay diligent. Every interaction with a student, no matter how big or small, is an opportunity to retain that student and every interaction with a prospective student, no matter how big or small, is an opportunity to recruit that student.

We must remain diligent because of changes from the Department of Education now allow institutions to continue to recruit students even after they have made a deposit or even enrolled. Throw in immigration policies and a potential pandemic virus, along with increased competition from online behemoths like SNHU, and we have cause for concern with graduate and online enrollments.

These latest concerns are keeping Vice Provost Steve Tello and Associate Dean Nancy Ludwig up at night, but we are making headway in graduate and online with flexible offerings, top-ranked programs, and the use of technology for securing leads and new students. Additionally, Sal Mazzone has joined us from Northeastern University to head up our international efforts.

I am also pleased to announce that Julie Nash will be taking on the new title of Vice Provost of Academic Affairs. In this role, she will continue to oversee and shepherd our academic programs, policies, and accreditation. However, she will also more formally lead our faculty initiatives, including hiring, onboarding and development, with an eye towards integrating our WAVES and SEA Change Initiatives of diversity, equity and inclusion. Her work will also include the development of a new Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology.

As there are only 24 hours in a day, we have posted a new Associate Dean position to work with Julie on these efforts, and all of our ongoing undergraduate initiatives.

These changes and investments are buoyed by significant investments currently underway on our campus and in Academic Affairs. Specifically, we are currently hiring 37 tenure track and an additional 17 teaching track faculty. Furthermore, through creative budgeting and significant contributions from the Deans, I am pleased to announce that we are, or will be adding, at least 12 new staff positions in Academic Affairs, including a number of administrators in the Colleges to reduce pressure from increased enrollments.

We are also looking for creative ways in which to generate and share revenue with Colleges and Departments. For example, we are hiring two new faculty to support an expansion of the popular EdD program in the College of Education and will return 20% of the net revenues to the College. We encourage you all to be entrepreneurial in

looking at new or revised programs. It would be great to see more interdisciplinary programs come from these efforts, whether they are in sustainability, health, data science, public policy or design.

In addition to these investments in human capital, a total of \$7.5 million has been allocated to capital projects for this year. This includes \$2.9 million in renovations as identified by the Deans; \$500,000 in classroom laboratory renovations; \$300,000 in classroom refreshes; and over \$500,000 for classroom equipment. Many of these investments will address critical needs in Ball, Durgan, Olney, Olsen, Pinanski and Weed Halls. And you probably already know that Coburn Hall opened for classes in January and GPS, or Graduate, Online and Professional Studies Division, will consolidate into 830 Merrimack later this spring, freeing up more space on north campus.

So, there is a lot going on! Hopefully you found those updates useful. In closing, I'd like to remind you all why we are all here.

We are here because our students need UMass Lowell:

- At least 1/3 of our students are first generation;
- Nearly 3/4 of our students worry about having enough money to pay for school;
- Roughly half of our applicants request aid and come from family incomes averaging just over \$60,000 per year;
- We meet 88% of our student's financial needs, but our average student debt continues to climb, recently eclipsing \$32,000.

Our students need UMass Lowell because a degree can improve their socio-economic status.

And we also know that our educational experience enriches their lives. In these past six months or so, I have attended lectures, seminars, talks, concerts, conferences, games, matches, debates, plays, performances, shows, improv, and forums, and I continue to be amazed by the talent of our students, the work of our faculty, and the support of our staff. These events are possible because you, as faculty, continue to push the boundary of the University beyond the classroom walls. These events bring us together, they provide community, and they provide learning beyond our degrees.

Thank you for making this University such an amazing place.

I'm happy to take questions.