Admissions Committee Senate Report
December 4, 2008

Admissions-Related Personnel Changes

Don Honeman: Enrollment Management (since 2007)
Scott Webster: Director, Graduate Admissions (Since September 08)
Steve Briggs: Graduate Admissions
Carnell Jones: Interim Director, Undergraduate Admissions

Don, Scott and Carnell are ex-officio members of the Admissions Committee. Eileen Carreiro in turn represents the Committee on the Enrollment Management team. It is collaboration that broadens the avenue for the Senate and the Administration in the mutual interest of our students.

Admissions Update

For the 2008/2009 academic year, the admissions target was 1500. Out of some 8800 applications that were received, 4500 were admitted, and only 1462 enrolled in September.

A survey has been sent to students who were accepted but did not attend UMass Dartmouth to find out why they did not enroll here. The results will be reported when the surveys are returned.

For the 2009/2010 academic year, the initial admissions target of 1600 students was recently revised to 1570 (freshmen); and 489 (transfers). So far, applications received this year have exceeded last year’s applications by 200.
For the Spring ’09 semester, applications were down by 30. So far, 18 freshman and 42 transfers have been admitted.

In all, of the total undergraduate student body of 8800, 4600 live on campus. Residency hall occupancy rate is currently at 98 percent.

The University’s current goal is to grow graduate admissions. It is hoping to double the graduate population over the next five years to 2000 students, or 20% of the campus total. Another goal is to enroll up to 250 doctoral students, in order to be able to graduate 20 to 25 students per year. For the most part, this will be done by expanding programs already in place. However, there are new programs in Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics Education in the pipeline. Currently, less than 5 Ph.D.s are awarded annually. There are approximately 20 doctoral students in each of the two largest doctoral programs at the University – Biomedical Engineering & Biotechnology; and Marine Sciences and Technology.

In line with its policy to grow graduate admissions, the University has three full time staff in the Office of Graduate Admissions. The office has two main areas of focus – recruitment and retention. The Office is also paying attention to improving the quality of campus life for graduate students.

**Committee Concerns**

While the Admissions Committee finds the University’s push to grow graduate programs lofty, it raised concerns over the tuition and fee structure for graduate assistants. While tuition is waived for graduate assistants, the student fees are substantial and would appear to put the university at a competitive disadvantage regarding recruitment and retention.

The Committee also observes that faculty and program support in the area of graduate studies appears to be inconsistent across the campus.