

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting – November 19, 2008

Present:

Excused:

Absent:

Guests:

1. President Baum called the meeting to order.

J. Griffith moved and P. Currier seconded a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. The minutes were adopted as distributed.

2. M. Baum presented the report of the Steering Committee:

- The Intercampus faculty Council met with President Wilson to discuss the \$25 million dollar reversion and the potential of a \$50 million cut in next year's budget. Topics included what the public face of the university should be to these devastating cuts since no one wishes to scare away potential students. A representative from UMass Amherst warned that if there is no screaming, then no one will care.

- The Steering Committee met with the Provost to ask what priorities and targets from the Strategic Plan will be delayed or eliminated due to the financial down turn. The Provost will begin a series of discussion in December to address this. The plan to reach Carnegie I status will be delayed.

- The Senate President gave a list of volunteers to serve on the NEASC Committees to the Provost. There were more volunteers than needed so the Provost chose faculty based on the desire to see as wide a range of experience, disciplines, and departments as possible. There is a faculty member co-chairing each committee and over 90% of the Faculty Senate's volunteers were asked to serve.

- The President also proposed a faculty WIKI or threaded bulletin board as a means of increasing faculty communication. Perhaps people would be more willing to participate on one or two topic threads rather than read through all of the emails that are posted. Issues concerning listserv administrators and communication were brought up.

- The Provost reminded the Senat of much of the Chancellor's *Town Hall meeting* material. He asked that if people do feel the need to speak out in public, they should try to stay away from "the sky is falling" approach.

3. R. Golen presented the report of the SFAAC (material in prior electronic attachments).

- The committee is reviewing the proposed Mass Transfer agreement. Apparently the Board of higher Education believes that this process should be homogeneous across campuses and that all general education requirements can be satisfied at any Massachusetts public institution. This will prove somewhat difficult for us as our general education requirements are different from the rest of the UMass system. The committee

recommends continued oversight as this progresses. P. Currier moved and A Mollo seconded a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. Motion passed.

4. S. Jenkins presented the report of the UCC (Material in prior electronic attachments)

- The Committee asks that election to the committee be held in the spring to allow for earlier action on proposals.

- The committee also recommends that the UCC have a single set meeting time throughout the academic year.

- The UCC recommended approval of the Proposal to implement a Doctorate Degree in Mathematics Education. S. hegedus responded to questions from the UCC at their meeting and again from the Faculty Senate. He explained the unusual nature of the program as it is neither a mathematic degree nor an education degree but an amalgam as envisioned by the late Professor James Kaput. Outside funding will assist Ta and Ra positions. There should be some inconsistency in the QPA for candidates as some will have master's degree and others will not. The kaput Center's materials will be available for students to augment library holdings. J. Griffith moved and K. Langley seconded a motion to approve the proposal for a Doctorate in mathematics Education. Motion passed.

S. Leclair moved and K. Langley seconded a motion to adjourn.