

Minutes – March 22, 2011

**Present:**

Bacdayan, P.	Baum, M.	Boerth, D.	Fan, Q.	Gibbs, P.	Guo, M.	Hegedus, S.
Langlely, K.	Leffers, J	Li, Y.	O’Rielly, G.	Riley, J.	Roscoe, D.	Singh B.
Tandon, A.	Wang, C.	White, S.	Zuo, Y.			

**Absent**

Altabet, M.	Anderson, M.	Cheng, L.	Curran, C.	Darst, R.	Fields, K.	
Holloway, M.	Kim, Y.	Magrass, Y	McCurry, M.	Mendes, V.	Parayitam, S.	Plaw, A.
Puri, T.	Sibdari, S.	Sousa, F.	Sun, L			

**Excused:**

Brodeur L.	Griffith, J.	Karakaya, F.	Knauer, L.	Leclair, S.	Mollo, A.	Scarano, F.
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**Guests:**

Bai, X.	Bentz, H.	Burton, T.	Carrera, M.	Chen, Y.	Davis, G.	Farrington, J.
Fisher, R.	Fortier-Barnes, C.		Fowler, A.	Gottlieb, S.	Hogan, W.	Kim, Y.
Lee, K.	Leon, S.	Lynip, K.	McGill-Hadley, J.		Peck, R.	Pennell, K.
Raessi, M.	Shea, T.	Souza, S.	Tootkaboni, M.		Vokkarne, V.	Winiarz, E.

A call to order was made at 3:36 pm in the Blue and Gold Room.

1. Motion and second to adopt the minutes of the February Faculty Senate meeting. There was no discussion. The motion was carried

2. **President’s report** **G. O’Rielly**

G. O’Rielly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read the names of the faculty who recently received promotion to the rank of Full Professor:

- Memory Holoway (Art History)
- Saeja Kim (Mathematics)
- Jeanne Leffers (Community Nursing)
- Kenneth Manning (Political Science)
- Leonard Travers (History)
- Marguerite Zarrillo (Physics)

G. O’Rielly asked for a motion to congratulate these faculty. A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was passed unanimously with long and loud applause.

3. **Provost’s Update** **A. Garro**

An agreement has been reached with the Faculty Federation regarding the adoption of a university-wide common student rating form to be used as a part of faculty evaluations. A joint announcement regarding this agreement will be made in partnership with the Faculty Federation.

A. Garro has been meeting with all academic councils as well as with Chairpersons, groups of Full Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Part-Time Lecturers. From these groups, he hears that our students, in general, are ill prepared and lack basic skills in writing, critical reasoning and computational reasoning. He calls for an effort to integrate writing across the curriculum, and pledges support for faculty development in order to implement such a writing program.

J. Riley reported that the English Department is pro-actively pursuing efforts to increase writing across the curriculum, including bringing in world-renowned experts on the topic such as A. Harrington.

#### **4. Old Business and Committee Reports**

##### **Library Committee report**

###### **G. O'Rielly for M. Sneider**

- The target date for the completion of the library renovation remains Fall 2012 despite the delays to the construction start.
- A survey of faculty regarding journal usage will be made in the next few weeks. Faculty will be asked to identify which journals are needed to support their scholarship and teaching. Existing journal subscriptions will be ranked using several criteria including, but not limited to; the perceived importance, the cost per article accessed, the delivery format, and the impact in the field.

##### **Proposal for a Ph.D. in Engineering and Applied Science (EAS)**

- The report from the University Curriculum Committee's review of the EAS Ph.D program was entered into the Senate record. The UCC report requested clarification on some points and minor changes be made to the proposal before it is forwarded to the Board of Trustees. Associate Provost A. Fowler has agreed to make the requested modifications. The UCC report recommended the proposal be accepted by the Faculty Senate.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt the recommendation the UCC regarding the EAS Ph.D program. There was discussion regarding the number of departments and colleges who are participating in the proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.
- A. Garro noted that the proposed program was transformative for the University. A. Fowler thanked the members of the UCC as well as the more than 40 faculty from three colleges and eight departments who participated in the process for their efforts in moving the proposal through the review process in an effective and timely manner.

##### **Proposal for a new *Request for Incomplete* form**

(tabled at the February 2011 Senate meeting)

- This item was untabled. G. O'Rielly provided some background to this proposal; the existing policy regarding a grade of incomplete states that the request for such a grade must be made by

the student. Some instructors are abusing the incomplete grade by assigning it to all students in a course. This practice negatively impacts student with respect to their academic standing, student loans and other matters. A new form to be used by students to request an incomplete will require approval by the course instructor and college Dean. G.O'Rielly and M. Carrera noted that this is not a new policy but will ensure that practice is consistent with current policy regarding incompletes.

- D. Roscoe asked for clarification regarding the availability of a grade of "IP (in progress)" for undergraduate students in courses where grades are dependent upon tasks/assignments/outcomes assessed after the grading period is over. It was noted that this grade option could be made available for those classes where it is appropriate upon request to the Registrar's Office by the course instructor and department.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal for the new Request for Incomplete form. Spirited discussion ensued regarding the need for such a form, and scenarios where the form and process could do more harm than good to students were offered. The motion was carried with three (3) votes against and one (1) abstention.

**Proposal for a new *Guidelines and Application for the status of Emeritus Professor***  
(tabled at the February 2011 Senate meeting)

- This item was untabled. G. O'Rielly provided an overview of this proposal from the Provost's Office. These new guidelines are designed to be consistent with current policy regarding Emeritus Professor status, and are intended to assist departments and colleges in making stronger their nominations for retired faculty to be considered for the rank of Emeritus Professor.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt the guideline and application form. G.O'Rielly tabled this motion.
- There was a discussion regarding the need to formally designate a process for awarding the rank of Emeritus Librarian A motion was made and seconded to designate this status. After a brief discussion this motion was carried. G.O'Rielly asked that the librarian's develop guidelines for Emeritus Librarian based on, and consistent with, the guidelines for Emeritus Professor status for consideration at the April Senate meeting.
- The motion to adopt the guideline and application form for Emeritus Professor status was untabled, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**5. New Business**

G. O'Rielly provided an update on a disagreement between the Chemistry department and the College of Engineering regarding the existence of minimum grade course prerequisites for non-majors. Per Article 5.E.4 of the Faculty Federation Agreement, *the University Curriculum Committee shall be the Hearing Committee when there is a disagreement between departments of two Colleges, one of which requires a course for its majors in another department and the other which provides this course.*

- All parties have been invited to submit written arguments to the UCC on this matter. The UCC

has been asked to review on this disagreement and present their recommendation on a resolution of the disagreement at the April Senate meeting. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Provost and Chancellor for action.

G. O'Rielly introduced the topic of potentially changing the number of transfer credits accepted from community colleges (currently this is a maximum of 60 credit-hours). Other Massachusetts colleges will accept more than 60 credit-hours, so we need to review our existing language in the catalog so that we are not at a recruiting disadvantage. This topic will be revisited at a future senate meeting.

## **5. Other Business**

S. Hegedus asked for the Faculty Senate to allow for adequate representation on the senate (and not proportional representation) for SEPPCE, SMAST and the Law School. G.O'Rielly noted that this topic must be a part of this discussion with the Chancellor regarding shared governance on the campus. This topic will be revisited at a future senate meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was carried at 4:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

D. White, for Susan J. Leclair, Secretary