

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2021
3-5pm
Zoom Videoconferencing

- Approval of October 13th minutes
 - Motion made (Chad McGuire) and seconded (Grant O’Rielly)
 - No objections - Minutes approved
- President’s Report (Doug Roscoe)
 - Power outage on campus last night
 - FYI in case students ask for extensions
 - Spring Senate Meeting Schedule
 - Continue with having 2 forums
 - Meeting modality
 - February and March: online via Zoom
 - April and May: TBD
 - Depends on COVID-19 conditions
 - Updates
 - Fall to spring enrollment
 - On track to match last spring
 - Freshmen is up, sophomore & juniors stayed the same, seniors is down
 - Applications
 - Fall enrollment looks up for now
 - Capital projects
 - SENG renovation on track to be substantially completed by August
 - Summary of other projects around campus
 - Current proposal: LARTS renovation
 - Provost search
 - Committee is being formed and charged before start of spring semester
 - Hiring hopefully completed by late April/early May
- Provost’s Report (Acting Provost Michael Goodman)
 - Emphasize Doug’s remarks about power outage last night
 - Request for empathy and flexibility for impacted students
 - Personal remarks regarding the Chancellor’s email and the transition from Acting Provost (see attached)
- Committee reports
 - Graduate Program Committee

- Postponed to February
 - General Education Committee (Doug Roscoe & Matt Sneider)
 - Presentation on cluster approval process
 - Provide themes for the General Education program
 - New program: University Studies Improvement Program (USIP)
 - Moving beyond just assessment
 - Seeking proposals from faculty teaching in University Studies on how to improve it
 - Presentation re changes to Cluster 1C
 - Motion to approve changes to learning outcomes
 - Motion made (Alex Fowler) and seconded (Chris Eisenhart)
 - No objections - Motion carries
 - Motion to approve changes to course criteria
 - Motion made (Alex Fowler) and seconded (Nancy O'Connor)
 - No objections - Motion carries
 - By-Laws Committee (Grant O'Rielly)
 - Proposed Revision 1: Updating composition and definition of eligible members
 - Reference CBA instead on constantly updating the list
 - Only exclusion are visiting professors and librarians
 - Proposed Revision 2: Breakdown of how new members will be incorporated into the Senate body
 - Parliamentarian is in Cohort One
 - At issue is whether Parliamentarian a voting or non-voting member
 - Alex Fowler raised question about whether Part-Time Lecturers could be elected at-large
 - Clarification needed on who can run and who can vote
 - Proposed Revision 3: Removal of Honors Committee and replace with Curriculum Committee
 - Honors Program does not exist and it is moot with the existence of the Honors College
 - Honors College will need a Curriculum Committee just like the other colleges
 - Proposed Revision 4: Removal of the Student Activities Committee
 - Statement from the Student Activities Committee Chair (Joseph Chang) re committee's current work read by Kari Mofford

Remarks to the Faculty Senate – December 2021

**Michael Goodman, Ph.D.
Acting Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Professor of Public Policy**

I'm sure that by now most of you have seen the Chancellor's email which, among other things, makes it clear that I will not be a candidate for the role of permanent Provost. I would like to provide some more context and address what I expect are some questions some of you may have at this point.

After my predecessor resigned suddenly and President Meehan unexpectedly called and asked me to help lead the campus through a transition to a new Chancellor and a raging pandemic. I didn't spend a lot of time thinking about it. Indeed, there wasn't any time to think about it. I simply did what I thought I had to do.

The past 18 months have been a whirlwind and a profound personal learning experience for me. I have learned a great deal about the role of the provost, the challenges facing our campus, and what I think it will take to properly manage and resource this institution which I care so deeply about and have served as a faculty member, Department Chair, Center Director, Senate President, and now Provost.

Now that the search for a permanent Provost has been formally announced, I can inform you that shortly after his arrival, and after much consideration and reflection, I informed the Chancellor that I was not interested in being a candidate for permanent Provost.

My decision was both personal and informed by my understanding of the larger strategic needs of our campus. It is also why you have not seen large changes in campus policies, even in areas where I have long called for them. That is not a reflection of a change of heart in at least most cases. It is a recognition that those decisions are best left to a permanent occupant of the role, selected in a manner that provides them with the authority and legitimacy to make lasting changes in policy and practice that in many cases are much needed.

I am acutely aware that I was not selected through a normal search process and so I have defined my role as Acting Provost as the steward of the academic mission of the institution, something that is larger than any single individual. As some of you have heard me say on occasion, I am the provost, but the provost is not me. Since my appointment, whenever a tough call needs to be made, I have asked myself a simple question. What should the provost do? Not, what do I want to do? Not even what do I prefer to do? For the record, these questions don't always have the same answers. I have done my level best to act in ways that honor the office and the needs of the institution as best I can understand them.

Nevertheless, I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish by working together despite extraordinary conditions and some daunting internal and external challenges that are obvious to anyone paying attention. That, of course, would not have been possible without the truly tireless efforts of my colleagues in the Provost's Office, the support of our Deans, and all of your hard work.

Important progress has also been made in labor relations thanks to the openness of our Union leaders to discussions and debates about important matters that have resulted in collaborations in areas where there used to be battles. While there is more work to do, I am grateful for the progress we have been

able to make to date. It turns out a little trust and open-mindedness goes a long way. That is a lesson I think we can build upon with a little effort and sufficient will.

Thanks to Chancellor Fuller's leadership, the emergence of Enrollment Management and Research as independent cabinet level divisions is another positive step forward and will provide those entrusted with the leadership in these areas with the authority as well as the responsibility for these mission critical functions. I firmly believe that the next Provost will inherit a better Division of Academic Affairs. That is truly gratifying.

Over the past several months, the Chancellor and I have spent a lot of time thinking about the needs of the University, especially at what the Chancellor in his message rightly referred to as a key inflection point in the history of our campus.

What drew me to UMass Dartmouth mid-career over a dozen years ago was what was at the time a sincere commitment to the entire mission of the public university including our obligations to the communities and region we serve most directly. Much to my dismay, I have watched as that commitment has wavered and a well-deserved reputation for community engagement and economic development leadership has diminished.

We are now confronted by once in a generation opportunities related to the blue economy, offshore wind, early college, and related areas where there is authentic and meaningful alignment between what we do best here at UMass Dartmouth and the needs of our neighbors, region, and Commonwealth.

Throughout our discussions the Chancellor and I have kept returning to the question of what the highest and best use of me is and, the Chancellor and I have concluded that at this point in our history, I have a unique background that positions me to play a leading role in helping leverage opportunities in these areas. While all the details have yet to be worked out—there is a lot going on—I am excited by the opportunity to make a positive impact in these areas and I have every expectation that whatever comes next for me, I will be able to do that.

It has been the honor of my professional life to serve as the Chief Academic Officer of a national research university. I never aspired to or imagined such a thing was possible for me. I remain committed to serving as Provost until such time as another Provost is available to relieve me. Whenever that day comes, I am committed to providing my successor with the support they need to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Before I take your questions, I would like to thank you for your support and hard work both this semester and last year. I am eternally grateful for the vast majority of you who are professionally committed to our mission and are working your hearts out for this place that we care so deeply about. I see you and I appreciate all that you do.

Best wishes for a successful conclusion to the semester and for a safe, healthy, and restful holiday season!