Executive Summary

The flags we choose to fly at the head of campus are important symbols of our identity and our values as a campus community. They are often the first things seen by new visitors and they are constant reminders to regular visitors.

The current Flag Policy (FOC-003) provides for flags that appropriately identify the campus as an American public university in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition, the POW/MIA and Rainbow Flags convey our values—in support of former and current prisoners of war and armed forces service members who remain missing in action and as a commitment to diversity. However, as we progress as a community our values similarly progress and so too must the symbols of those values.

Pursuant to the Policy for Creating and Establishing UMass Dartmouth Policies and Procedures (GOV-C07-001A) and as described below, the attached proposed amendments to the Flag Policy seek to update the Policy to more appropriately reflect our increasing diversity.

Background. This initiative began many years ago, but without success. However, more recently, a group of undergraduate and graduate students, including, President of the Class of 2021 Pearl McCarthy, current SGA President Jasmine Jenkins, former Student Trustee Dakeyla Johnson, former SGA Recording Secretary and Vice President of the Class of 2021 Isabelle Joseph, former SGA President Elizabeth Anusauskas, former GSS President Enoch Allotey, Student Trustee Narcisse M Kunda, and Tatiana DosSantos met with SGA Advisor and Chief Diversity Officer David Gomes, GSS Advisor and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance David Gingerella and Deputy Chancellor Mark Preble to develop the attached proposed recommendations.

Summary of Amendments. First, to avoid the display of objectively offensive or incendiary symbols, the declaration of the flag poles at the head of campus as outside the public forum space as defined in the policy on Public Forum Use of University Facilities (FOC-002) should continue. However, other updates are needed and are summarized below:

- While the “Rainbow Flag” may have been appropriate in the 1990s, the Progressive Pride Flag is more appropriate to our time. Accordingly, the proposed amendment would replace the “Rainbow Flag” with the Progressive Pride Flag. See, figure 1.

![Progressive Pride Flag]
• The limit on the display of flags of symbolism to five calendar days per academic year is too short. Particularly given that there have been no requests to fly any flag of symbolism since the last version of the Flag Policy was implemented. The proposed amendment would change the duration to twenty-one calendar days per semester.

• The placement of the temporary flag of symbolism, beneath the University and Rainbow flag and the limit of only one flag of symbolism at a time does not convey the true value that the university places on diversity. Instead, the proposed amendment does not restrict the placement of flags of symbolism and allows for more than one flag at a time—subject only to the availability of space.

Note: To accommodate multiple simultaneous requests, it is recommended that an additional flag pole is installed at the head of campus.

• Permanently displaying the Pan African and Black Lives Matter Flags would reflect the increase of African and African American students on campus and be a clear symbol that the University both values those students and recognizes the continued violence often inflicted on Black communities. Accordingly, the proposed amendment includes the Pan African and Black Lives Matter Flags as “grandfathered” flags to be flown at all times. See, figures 2 and 3.

![Figure 2: Pan African Flag](image1)

![Figure 3: Black Lives Matter Flag](image2)

• As many of the organizations who would request to fly a flag of symbolism are run by student members, the proposed amendment provides that cost of the flag could be charged to the student activity fee.

• Finally, to ensure that shared governance groups have a voice in any decision to grant or deny a request to fly a particular flag of symbolism, the proposed amendment would potentially increase the number of students on an advisory committee, by providing that the committee would be comprised of at least one representative of the Student Government Association, the Graduate Student Senate, and the Faculty Senate.