

MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor Noushin Ashrafi, Moderator, FACULTY COUNCIL

FROM: William Hagar, Chair; Susan Haussler, Varda Konstam, Anna Madison, Rajini Srikanth, Kennedy Oppong & Winston Langley: COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, FACULTY COUNCIL

DATE : June 8, 2006

RE: Final Report of Academic Affairs Committee 2006

The Academic Affairs Committee met several times during the academic year and had two motions passed by faculty council. The official meetings were preceded by numerous email exchanges about topics and wordings of motions, but actual votes were made as a full committee. The proposal request to Faculty Council included rationale for the actions along with other suggested motions. The complete proposal files are attached. The motions that were approved by both Academic Affairs Committee and by Faculty Council are as follows:

(1) December 5, 2005: *The total number of credits that students may transfer toward a University of Massachusetts Boston undergraduate degree is 90. The total two-year college credit allowed within the 90-credit limit is 70. Once students are admitted and enrolled at UMass Boston, they may not transfer in additional credits from other colleges or universities. This restriction applies to summer and winter session courses as well as academic year courses.*

*Exceptions may be made to this restriction with a prior approval request to the Office of Undergraduate Education. The decision to approve the transfer of credit from other institutions taken while a student is matriculated at UMass Boston will be made by the Academic Department in conjunction with Undergraduate Education.*

(2) April 2006: *To change the semester maximum for undergraduate students from a maximum of 16 credits to 17 credits.*

*The changing of standard credits for students in good standing does not seem to be a problem. The request is to avoid the necessity of students having to petition for a credit overload when their total semester credits are 17 credits instead of 16 or less. Some of the new required courses for freshman are four credits, and this pushes the five course credit limit to 17 credits. Students will not be able to take more than five courses with special permission in any case. People soft does not allow for automatic extension of credit limit for good students, and thus this change in total credits is necessary.*

Academic Affairs Committee presented the students for graduation at commencement 2006.