

University of Massachusetts Boston Faculty Council Resolutions

Monday, June 4, 2007

Introduction and brief report on procedures

On Tuesday, May 29, 2007, the Faculty Council hosted an open meeting with UMass President Jack M. Wilson for questions and discussion regarding the announcement of recommended administrative and other possible changes in the University of Massachusetts System. To further address the concerns of the faculty and the need to discuss proposed resolutions within the highest faculty governance body at UMass Boston, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Council scheduled a special meeting of the Faculty Council for Monday, June 4, 2007, to discuss and vote on resolutions. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Council prepared and distributed two resolutions and supporting rationales to all members of the Faculty Council on Sunday, June 3, 2007. On the floor of the meeting, members of the Faculty Council introduced three resolutions that were subsequently integrated into Resolutions 1 and 2 from the Executive Committee. Two paragraphs from preambles to the resolutions were endorsed for public presentation with the final resolutions. Resolution 3 was introduced from the floor during the new business section.

Extracts from preambles endorsed by Faculty Council

Whereas, The University of Massachusetts Boston is positioned to become a leader in shaping the new landscape of public higher education, having built in Boston a fine public university in the full meaning of that term, enabling students who would otherwise have been forgotten by society to achieve their full potential, to live more fully, and to contribute to the wealth and welfare of the Commonwealth; with a strong commitment to public service and an acute sensitivity to the needs of an urban population; and with the highest quality of teaching, research, and service that creates new opportunities for achievement among all the constituencies we serve.¹

The opposition to the lack of consultation expressed in the following resolutions is not to be construed as opposition to Dr. J. Keith Motley, who we believe will be an asset to the UMass Boston campus and community.

Resolution 1

Be it resolved that we the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Boston express our lack of confidence in the process followed by the President's Office and Board of Trustees in developing their vision for "One University" because of their failure to consult and deliberate with faculty, librarians, staff, students, and other university constituencies.

And furthermore, be it resolved that we the faculty insist that the Board of Trustees and the President's Office comply with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law both in spirit and to the letter.

¹ The wording of this paragraph was originally drafted as a "Whereas" statement and accepted as drafted. The Faculty Council did not have time to address the sentence structure. Thus, the grammar is a bit awkward.

And furthermore, be it resolved that we the faculty call upon the administration at all levels to abstain, now and in the future, from actions and practices that are disengaged from the community, that alienate members of the faculty, that potentially squander our expertise and commitment, and that undermine our efforts at long term planning and execution. We call upon the administration at all levels to practice a management approach that engages the University community in transparent decision-making and employs the full range of experience, expertise, and commitment available in the community.

Action

The motion was presented, seconded, and approved by a majority of the voting members present.

Resolution 2

Be it resolved that we the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Boston call upon Governor Deval Patrick, the Board of Trustees, and President Jack Wilson to affirm a vision of a great public urban university in Boston and to take immediate and unambiguous steps toward helping faculty realize this mission, by addressing our numerous challenges in infrastructure, personnel, and other resources, and to work with faculty as we continue in our efforts to build a great public university in Boston.

And furthermore, therefore, be it resolved that we the faculty oppose any aspect of a “One University” plan that would diminish or undermine the academic integrity, democratic processes, and urban mission of UMass Boston.

Action

The motion was presented, seconded, and approved by a majority of the voting members present.

New Business

Resolution 1

Be it resolved that we the faculty of the University of Massachusetts Boston fully support the appointment of Dr. J. Keith Motley as Chancellor for the University of Massachusetts Boston. His merits were affirmed by a full and complete national search, and we believe that, through his leadership, our campus can continue to move forward in realizing its goals of diversity and academic excellence.

Action

The motion was presented, seconded, and approved by a majority of the voting members present.

Signatory Approval

Faculty Council Chair:

Noushin Ashrafi

Noushin Ashrafi, Chair, Faculty Council