

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 8 2019

1. Approval of Agenda

There are two additions to the agenda.

1. A series of course changes to Sociology
2. A visit from Heike Schotten (Chair of the Executive Committee of Faculty Council) to update the Senate on a meeting with Marty Meehan (President of the University of Massachusetts).

Agenda approved unanimously at 2:33 PM.

2. Approval of the minutes from March 2019

Approved unanimously at 2:34 PM.

3. Dean's Report

The Dean updates the Senate about a meeting with Marty Meehan (President of the University of Massachusetts) and Don Kilburn (CEO of UMassOnline) about the university's online push. He tells us that he didn't learn anything that we don't already know: the university is committed to this project, framing it as a response to the demographic threat, and claiming that all revenue will come back to the university. However, he was surprised to learn that UMass Online plan to hire a dean and provost. According to their presentation, they will target a different group of students to those we tend to attract in our online and in-person classrooms. They are going after adult learners; and, by lowering admission standards and offering courses in nursing, management, and IT, they aim to attract a population of students who might not otherwise take advantage of higher educational options.

The Dean is concerned about UMass Online, and shares four concerns. First, despite the commitment to this project, the proposal is light on details. Second, he's only aware of two other universities who've met their revenue goals. Third, there's local competition: Southern New Hampshire University are a large online presence and they've recently

partnered with community colleges. And, fourth, there are a range of unanswered questions about compensation for online instructors.

The question and answer period starts with the Moderator asking whether this is UMass Online or UMass *Boston* online. The Dean clarifies that it's UMass Online—a completely separate entity, although, he notes, our online programs may benefit from their marketing. He clarifies again that they do not take themselves to be competing with us; they're going after a different student population. She also asks whether they're committed to investing in advising and providing robust student support. The Dean says that he asked about this, and they claimed that they would invest in those support services.

A Senator asks three questions about the proposal. First, do we know how the revenue will be distributed to the campuses? The Dean says we don't know, but suspects that it will be like everything else. Second, do we know how they proposed to build this online system? The Dean says that they haven't decided yet, but that they're looking for a potential partner or company. Third, does this have anything to do with Mount Ida? The Dean says that Mount Ida was not mentioned during the meeting.

The Moderator asks about student debt. The Dean says that they are exploring areas of financial support, such as firms sponsoring further education and training.

A Senator asks about the potential impact on CLA online courses and programs. The Dean re-emphasizes that they do not expect there to be anything other than a positive impact. That is, our online courses and programs may benefit from their marketing, but that they're going after a different student population and offering different courses.

A Senator asks about how bargaining would work for faculty on this new online campus. The Dean says that they asked about this, and the claim is that they'll model/honor what we do in our other colleges.

A Senator expresses concern about the proposal. She notes that retention is notoriously bad in online programs, and lowering admission standards only makes this worse. It looks like an easy source of revenue, but one that exploits those who likely need face-to-

face contact in order to complete courses and programs. Another Senator follows up, noting that UMass Boston is supposed to admit and support non-traditional students. She asks whether they'll be state subsidies or support for these students. The Dean was not sure about this.

A Senator asks whether UMass Online will have a tenure-track system, and expresses concern that these large online universities undermine the tenure system more generally. The Dean doesn't think that it will have this kind of personnel structure, but notes that he was surprised to learn that it will have both a dean and provost.

Another Senator asks that FSU and UMB online instructors be included at any future meetings. The Dean informs us that Marlene Kim (Faculty Staff Union President) and two online instructors were present at the meeting.

Moving on from the issue of UMass Online, the Moderator asks whether there are any updates on either Mount Ida or the academic masterplan. The Dean says not, but that he and the Provost appreciated the CLA Senate's feedback on the plan.

A Senator asks if there's any update on the Chancellor's search. The Moderator interjects to inform the Senator that Heike Schotten will be joining us presently to update us on this issue. The Dean tells us that the Interim Chancellor will not accept an extended Interim contract and she will not participate in a search (even if that search is a "search"). She wants a full evaluation and either to be appointed or to leave the position. The Moderator asks for clarification on her position. If she's proud of the work she's done, why is she opposed to a search? The Dean doesn't know for sure, but speculates that she doesn't think it's fair to be judged on issues like parking, the dorms, and Mount Ida which she inherited. He also notes that some alums with deep pockets are advocating for her.

Dean's Report ends 3PM.

4. Moderator's Report

The Moderator starts by reminding Senators that if they'd like to continue serving on the CLA Senate they should let her know by the end of next week. She announces that Sarah Hamblin (Member of the Senate Executive Committee) will take over as Moderator of the CLA Senator in 2020. There will be an open seat on the CLA Senate Executive Committee.

The Moderator then turns the floor over to a Senator who has been crafting a new communication strategy between the CLA Senate, Faculty Council, and the Faculty Staff Union. He explains that we routinely take up similar issues, and yet we're often not in regular contact. We can benefit from sharing our concerns and resources and, by doing so, we reduce the risk of duplicating our efforts. He informs us that minutes from these committees will be available on a shared Dropbox folder.

A Senator asks whether the various Senates across UMB talk to each other. The Moderator says that they don't, but perhaps they should. She's been in touch with Nursing, but agrees that it would be good to open up lines of communication with other Senates too.

The Moderator's report ends at 3:10pm

5. Motion from Majors, Honors, and Special Programs to approve the following:

- Change to English concentration/minor

Approved unanimously at 3:11pm

- Change to Sociology Graduate Program

Approved unanimously at 3:12pm

6. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following NEW courses:

- Comm 345 German 350L
- English 105 Hist 185
- English 344 Music 118

A Senator asks about the consistency of the communication course's pre-requisites. Once resolved, the courses are approved unanimously as a block at 3:15pm

7. Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve the following courses changes:

These course changes are a late addition, and the Moderator explains that Sociology is restructuring its program and that these changes are required for standardization.

- Sociol 337 Sociol 470
- Sociol 478 Sociol 223L
- Sociol 225L Sociol 228L
- Sociol 423L Sociol 338
- Sociol 346 Sociol 36L
- Sociol 384 Sociol 386
- Sociol 480 Sociol 322

A Senator asks why Sociology is removing Asian American courses from cross-listing. A Senator representing the department explains that this has to do with issues of fit and methodology. The course changes were approved unanimously as a block at 3:18pm

8. Visit from Heike Schotten (Chair of the Executive Committee of Faculty Council)

The meeting ends at 4PM.