Minutes of the CSM Senate Meeting  
Held on September 16th, 2013, Monday  
2.30 – 4.00 P.M. at Dean’s Conference room

Members in attendance:  
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair  
Chandra Yelleswarapu, Physics, Secretary  
Robert Stevenson, Biology  
Bob Wilson, Computer Science  
Juanita Urban-Rich, EEOS

Members absent:  
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology  
Michelle Foster, Chemistry

Others in attendance:  
William Hagar, Associate Dean, CSM  
Marietta Schwartz, Associate Dean, CSM  
Andrew Grosovsky, CSM Dean  
John Duff, School for the Environment  
Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Election of the Senate Chair: Catalin Zara has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairman of the Senate.

2. Election of Secretary for the Senate: Chandra Yelleswarapu has been unanimously re-elected as the Secretary of the Senate.

3. Approval of the minutes of May 20, 2013 meeting: The CSM Senate members approved the minutes unanimously.

4. Updates on previous actions: Updates will be posted on the CSM Senate wiki.

5. New business:

5.a Course change: MATH 345 – Probability and Statistics I
and
5.b. Course change: MATH 346 – Probability and Statistics II

Motion: To pre-approve the changes in the course description for MATH 345 – Probability and Statistics I
Motion: To pre-approve the changes in the course description for MATH 346 – Probability and Statistics II

Rationale: These courses have been offered on a regular basis and are also considered to be a standard course at other universities. The proposed changes affect the course descriptions only, which now describe the content of the courses with more detail and greater precision.

The proposed changes in course descriptions have been pre-approved and will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

5.c. Course addition: MATH 490 – Thesis Research

Motion: To pre-approve the addition of the new course MATH 490 – Thesis Research

Rationale: The mathematics honors program requires students to complete a substantial independent research project under the supervision of a faculty member. This course will provide an opportunity for qualified, advanced students to work on a specialized research project under the guidance of a faculty advisor. It enables students to receive academic credit for this work, and will make it visible on their academic transcripts.

Although this course is repeatable up to six credits, Mathematics majors (who are required to take a certain number of mathematics courses at the 300-level or higher) may count this course at most once toward their upper-level elective requirement.

The proposed new course has been pre-approved unanimously and will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

5.d. Course addition: MATH 697 – Special Topics

Motion: To approve the addition of the new course MATH 697 – Special Topics.

Rationale: This is a placeholder for courses in new and emerging fields. It would allow the Mathematics Department to offer graduate-level courses to multidisciplinary audiences. Course content will be approved in each instance by the department chair prior to the registration period.

The proposed new course has been approved unanimously. It will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Council.

5.e. Course addition: CHEM 641 – Chemistry and Biochemistry Education Research on Learning, Learning Environments, and Teaching
Motion: To approve the addition of the new course CHEM 641 – Chemistry and Biochemistry Education Research on Learning, Learning Environments, and Teaching

Rationale: The Chemistry Department is proposing a new track on Chemistry Education Research within the Chemistry Ph.D. program. This course will be of interest to graduate students who intend to pursue academic positions after completing advanced degrees and may be of interest to M.Ed. students seeking professional licensure.

The proposed new course has been approved unanimously. It will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Council.

5.f. Course change: EEOS 798 – Internships in Environmental Science

Motion: To approve the changes to the course EEOS 798 – Internships in Environmental Science

Rationale: The proposed amendment would allow students to earn required internship credits over multiple (2) semesters.

The proposed new course has been approved unanimously. It will be sent to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty Council.

5.g. Program addition: Master of Science in Urban Planning and Community Development, offered by the School for the Environment.

Motion: To approve the addition of the new program Master of Science in Urban Planning and Community Development, offered by the School for the Environment.

Rationale: This MS program represents a significant piece of the School for the Environment’s graduate program development. It deeply leverages both the School’s and participating unit expertise in urban planning and community development and leverages their existing course offerings.

Key notes:
1. The Phase I proposal was approved before the School for the Environment (SFE) existed and was not discussed by the CSM Senate. Housing the program in the SFE would bring together knowledge and research on critical challenges facing societies across the globe.
2. Urban Planning and Community Development will become a department within UMass Boston newly created SFE. The department will be chaired by a full-time faculty member with the rank of professor reporting to the dean for the SFE.

The senate members requested for more time to review the proposal and consult with their departments. A motion to table the proposal has been approved unanimously.
6. Dean’s announcements

Dean Grosovsky discussed the increasing popularity of the Freshmen Success program and the growth in student enrollment and in FTE in the college. He also announced that the Phase II draft proposals for Integrated Biosciences and for Computation Sciences are being developed.

7. Other business - None

Meeting was adjourned at 4.10 pm.