Minutes of the CSM Senate Meeting
Held on October 21st, 2013, Monday
2.30 – 4.00 P.M. at Dean’s Conference room

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair
Chandra Yelleswarapu, Physics, Secretary
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology
Bob Wilson, Computer Science
Marietta Schwartz, Associate Dean, CSM (representing the Chemistry Department)

Members absent:
Robert Stevenson, Biology
Michelle Foster, Chemistry
Juanita Urban-Rich, School for the Environment

Others in attendance:
William Hagar, Associate Dean, CSM
John Duff, School for the Environment
Jack Wiggin, Urban Harbors Institute
Rahul Kulkarni, Physics Department
Robyn Hannigan, School for the Environment

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes of September 16, 2013 meeting: The CSM Senate members approved the minutes unanimously.

2. Updates on previous actions: Further updates will be posted on the Senate wiki.

3. New business:

3a. Program addition: Ph.D. in Applied Physics

Motion: To approve the new Ph.D. program in Applied Physics.

Rationale: The proposed Ph.D. program in Applied Physics is fully aligned with furthering UMass Boston’s mission. The constituency for this degree consists primarily of those who wish to work as independent researchers in high tech industries, positions that demand the independent thinking developed during Ph.D. training. The emphasis will be on problem solving broadly construed. We seek students for whom the discipline of thought inherent in advanced study of Physics will be an aid in finding solutions to a broad spectrum of problems. The inclusion of an industrial advisory committee will also expand the program’s awareness of immediate and projected needs and allow for more effective responses.
Senate Comments: The CSM Senate understands the importance of this program and supports the proposal. The new program has been conditionally approved, pending:

- Required changes in policy regarding admission: the program should include a mechanism of accepting students directly into the PhD Program in addition to the existing path through the Master’s program.
- Suggested changes in presentation: additional emphasis on the recent major transformation of the Physics Department into a strong research department and on the fact that the core courses and most of the electives are already been approved/offered.

Rahul Kulkarni, who presented the proposal at the meeting, considered the changes acceptable. Once the revised proposal is received, it will receive the CSM Senate approval and it will be forwarded to the Dean’s office.

3b. Program addition: M.S. in Urban Planning and Community Development, offered by the School for the Environment – revised proposal.

A motion to un-table the item has been unanimously approved.

Motion: To approve the revised proposal for the addition of the new program M.S. in Urban Planning and Community Development.

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.

The proposed program addition has been approved unanimously.

4. Dean’s announcements

None

5. Other business - None

Meeting was adjourned at 3.10 pm.