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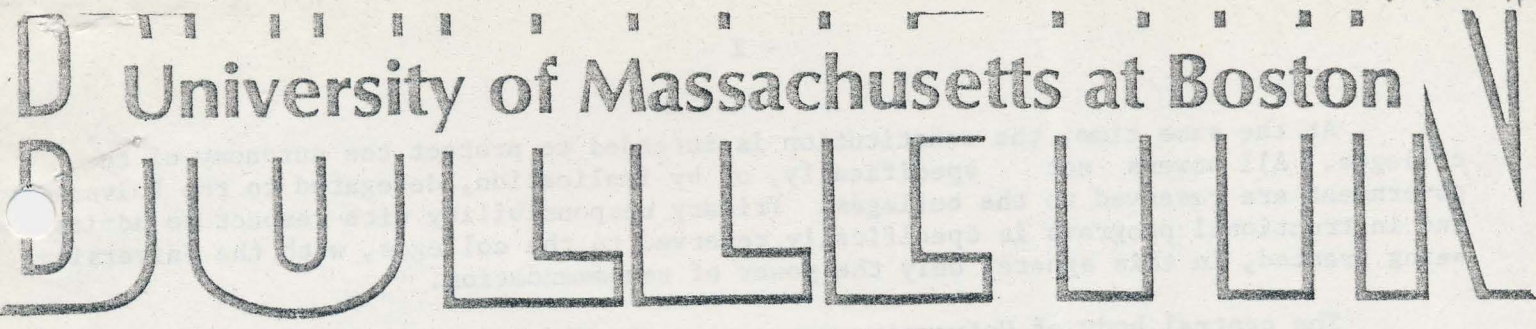


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University of Massachusetts at Boston

VOL. III No. 11

March 21, 1972

Referenda on Constitutions of

College I

University

College II

Students, faculty, and staff of UMass-Boston will have the opportunity to express themselves on the matter of ratifying the Constitutions proposed for Colleges I and II and the University.

Information and discussion meetings on the three Constitutions will be held this week for anyone who has questions and comments.

The University Constitution will be discussed TUESDAY, March 21, at 12:30 p.m. in 1-624.

The College I discussion will be on THURSDAY, March 23, at 12:30 p.m. in 1-624.

The College II discussion will be on WEDNESDAY, March 22, at 4 p.m. in Room 215, and on THURSDAY, March 23, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 1-222.

Faculty and staff will ballot by mail, with ballots returnable by March 29. Students will ballot Monday through Thursday, March 27 - 30, in the Sawyer Lounge between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

On this and following pages are the summaries of the proposed Constitutions.

UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION:

The main problem that had to be solved in writing the constitution for the University as a whole was that of distributing powers between the University and the Colleges. The answer represented by the proposed constitution is one neither of extreme centralization nor of extreme decentralization. The University government is accorded those powers which seemed essential for the faculty and students to have an effective voice on a University-wide level. Those powers include: reviewing, and consulting with the Chancellor, concerning budget and utilization and administration of funds, and of University-wide facilities; establishing general personnel procedures; approving of graduate programs; and taking part in the selection of University-wide administrative appointees, and in the planning and development of the University, including the planning, staffing and evaluation of new programs.

(continued)

At the same time, the constitution is intended to protect the autonomy of the colleges. All powers not specifically, or by implication, delegated to the University government are reserved to the colleges. Primary responsibility with respect to admissions and instructional programs is specifically reserved to the colleges, with the University being granted, in this sphere, only the power of recommendation.

The central body of University governance, in the proposed constitution, is the Assembly. Here too extremes are avoided. The Assembly is to be composed of from 40-70 student-faculty members, apportioned, as in the present constitution, on a 40%-60% basis. The professional staff is accorded 2-3 voting members, and the non-professional staff 1-2 voting members. A Steering Committee of the Assembly is given the responsibility of setting agendas, and a separate Committee on Committees is to staff the various committees of the Assembly.

The role of the Chancellor, save in a few details, remains as it is in the present system of University governance.

A University Tenure and Grievance Committee is provided for, with its jurisdiction being appellate in relation to colleges that establish such committees of their own, and otherwise original.

Student funds are to be apportioned by a University Student Affairs Committee; but the membership of the Committee is to consist in delegations from the colleges (4 students and 2 faculty members), and it is specifically stated that "funds shall be allocated largely to the colleges."

As in the present constitution, there are provisions for University-wide initiatives and referenda.

The proposed constitution will go into effect when approved by (a) either a majority of the full-time faculty, or two-thirds of the full-time faculty voting in each college, and (b) either a majority of the full-time students, or two-thirds of the full-time students voting in each college, and (c) the Chancellor, the President, and the Board of Trustees.

COLLEGE I:

"A faculty-student committee has elaborated the proposed Constitution of College I, which was subsequently discussed extensively and revised at meetings of faculty and students of the College.

Three principles are at the basis of the Constitution proposed for College I:

- (a) every member of the College ought to have the opportunity to actively participate in the governance of the College;
- (b) the actual extent of participation is limited by the people's willingness to participate;
- (c) To the extent that a representative body is paralyzed or made inefficient by lack of effective participation, its influence vis-a-vis the administration will be weaker.

(continued)

The proposed Constitution combines the right of participation and the need for effective representation of the views and interests of faculty, students, and staff. It does so by establishing a relatively small governing body of twenty-one elected representatives (the Executive Commission), and subjecting that body to a vast array of checks and controls to be exercised by the broader constituencies. Thus, representatives may not serve consecutive terms, they may not serve on College committees, they must follow instructions given by a faculty, or student, or staff, meeting, they may be recalled at any time, and their actions may be veto-ed by a meeting of their electors. These checks are made relatively easy to exercise.

The internal composition of the governing body is: eleven faculty, eight students, one professional staff member and one non-professional staff member. In percentage terms, the faculty-student-staff breakdown (52 % faculty, 38% students, 10% staff) is about the same as in the present University Senate (56%, 40%, 4%), with a slight increase in staff representation.

The proposed Constitution of College I also embodies basic principles of the present University Constitution; in particular, the organ representing the College I community is given wide-ranging powers vis-a-vis the administration, and democratic procedures within departments are provided for in the Constitution."

College II:

The College II constitution is truly a joint effort of all constituencies of the college including faculty, students, professional staff and administration. The original proposal traveled a tortuous trail of discussion and argument, discussion and revision, discussion and amendment, and simply discussion, before arriving at its final form. The final document is a masterful compromise of innumerable points of view reached after free and open discussion by all concerned.

The form and content of the constitution have been guided by some general principles:

1. That those affected by the Constitution shall have a voice in the business of the College and in its proceedings.
2. That every person, regardless of his specific job or paid position, shall be made responsible for the College community as a whole and for the life of the institution in a broad sense.
3. That the different sectors of the College be given the opportunity, in governance, of being mutually responsible; that communications between administrators, students, professional staff and faculty be made easier, more frequent, rather than obstructed by the method of governance.
4. That the business be conducted well, efficiently with competence and with the least amount of time uselessly spent by those involved.
5. That the business be conducted in ways that are conducive to learning, that are compatible with our educational objectives.

(continued)

Composition of the governing body:

The 35 members will be made up of 20 faculty, 12 students, and 3 staff members. The faculty election process guarantees departmental representation as well as representation by junior faculty. Student elections guarantee representation for the 3 upper classes and leaves open the possibility for representation by any special interest groups through 3 at large seats.

As in the current governance system, the Senate shall have Faculty and Student Co-chairmen who, along with the elected Secretary will also be members of the SEC. In order to assure communication with the administrative branch of the University, the Dean of the College II has been included as a non-voting member of the SEC. All senate meetings will be open and non-members will be allowed floor privileges under certain circumstances.

A host of safeguards are offered to the constituencies of the College in the form of Recall, Initiative and Referendum provisions and procedures. Individual members are assured of a hearing by a Special Committee in any case where the individual feels that all alternative avenues of redress have been unresponsive to his or her ideas, suggestions or complaints. The Standing Committees are the backbone of the governance system and in all, except the Tenure and Grievance Committee, the SEC will attempt, insofar as possible to include representatives from all constituencies on each committee, in accordance with the interests, wishes and qualifications of the individuals concerned.