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University of Massachusetts at Boston

President Wood Addresses Faculty

President Robert Wood at the faculty meeting last Thursday voiced some new developments that affect faculties. He spoke of two constraints and two new opportunities for the Harbor Campus.

The constraints were on legislation concerning faculty contact hours and new fields of academic law on rights and privileges of faculties.

The opportunities concern graduate programs at UMass-Boston and the recruitment of new types of students.

Wood said the legislation on contact hours is, "a major, serious unacceptable intrusion by the legislature with higher education."

He said he will continue to oppose in principle this type of legislation and said he was, "more afraid of its symbolic impact than its practicability."

In the question and answer period, Professor Eric Robinson (History) on the contact hour legislation said, "all of us should be defending the very nature of our profession" and offered his services in informing the Legislature about the real nature of the academic profession.

On new areas concerning academic law, the president in speaking about personnel policies and practices said, "It's increasingly clear that if we do not develop our plans, they will be thrust upon us by outside groups."

He said a clarification of teaching, research and service must be made and that clear standards are an imperative.

On Affirmative Action laws, he said the university must move in step with the law. At the same time, qualitative decisions on recruitment and promotions begin at departmental levels, he said.

Questioned on tenure quotas and if it were policy to hire "cheaper" assistant professors than provide promotions and tenure, Wood said he is not, "a party to the bargain basement way of doing business."


He said it is, "a mistake to mandate a flat percentage of tenured faculty at any given time" and that he depended very heavily on departmental plans for the future needs of the university.

Wood said fiscal solvency is one of the major concerns of his office and that the University of Massachusetts does not want to find itself in situations that Illinois, Wisconsin, and some parts of Florida experienced on fiscal matters and tenure problems.

On graduate programs at UMass-Boston, President Wood said he is looking forward to programs that Chancellor Golino, Vice Chancellor Spaethling and others are bringing forward.

"This is a year to put high on your agenda new and imaginative graduate programs," he said.

Wood also said he believed there should be, "some very careful insertion in the area of older students." This is linked with educational opportunities for this group as well as offsetting a declining birthrate of college age students in the future.

Help. The United Way of Mass. Bay. 

American Colleges Analyzed

In The World section of the September 21 The Economist (London), the American colleges and universities are under the microscope. The eight page article covers enrollments, curriculum, teaching loads, expansions and contractions of building programs and faculty rolls, finances, educational opportunities, jobs for graduates, choices between public and private institutions, relevant courses, UMass-Boston as "America's last great university?", and "quality vs. equality."

In summation, the report concludes: "There is no reason why equality of educational opportunity should have to mean equality of the education itself, although many radicals would like it to do so. Higher education in America is no longer homogeneous: why should community colleges and research universities be expected to have the same objectives? If the purpose of higher education in the modern world is to enable each individual to fulfill his or her potential, then there are many ways of doing this and the variety of educational choices offered in the United States is just what is needed.

"There is room both for Dr. Edward Levi's concept of his University of Chicago and for Dr. Carlo Golino's of his Boston Campus of the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Levi's university has "a special value because of its unity with an inner direction and judgment as to its course;" it exists to increase the intellectual powers of mankind, not to solve the world's problems. If the consumer--that is, the student--does not like this, he or she can go elsewhere--maybe to Columbia Point where Dr. Golino is trying "to relate the accumulated patrimony of human knowledge to the new set of circumstances that face us" in a culture that has become predominantly urban, for the benefit of people who "so far have not had an opportunity to go to college." Both offer a "quality education" but the order of quality is different. There is no longer a consensus in America on what is meant by excellence in higher education or by an university. The academic world must face this reality."

Influenza Vaccine Available for Faculty and Employees

The United States Public Health Service is recommending influenza vaccination only for those people who are at greatest risk of serious illness or death. Included in this "high risk" group, for which vaccination is strongly recommended, are persons of all ages who suffer from any of the following physical conditions: heart disease; chronic bronchopulmonary diseases such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema; chronic renal disease; diabetes and other chronic metabolic disorders. Annual vaccination is also recommended for older persons particularly those over the age of 60 or 65. The Public Health Service has also stated that vaccination should also be considered for persons who provide essential community services such as those employed by the police and fire departments, mass transit and public utilities.

Although vaccination is the best available means of protecting oneself, the effectiveness of the vaccine varies (70% - 80% effective), local reactions are not uncommon (10%), and occasional (1% - 3%) mild flu-like illnesses have been observed following immunization, and the immunity is, at best, relatively short.

(Continued to Pg. 3)

Influenza Vaccine Available for
Faculty and Employees
(Continued from Pg. 2)

Nantucket Wetlands

Immunization clinics will be held in the Health Services each afternoon from October 28 thru November 1. Appointments should be made by calling Ext. 2522.

Dr. Wesley Tiffney, Director of the UMass-Boston Nantucket Field Station, was named by the Nantucket Conservation Commission as its advisor in connection with determinations to be made by the Commission under the Wetlands Protection Act. Under the Act any person, including town officials and department heads, may request written determination as to whether the Wetlands Act applies to any land in the town.

And in Newton

Open space in Newton is as vital an issue as it is in Nantucket. The Hammond Woods is under continuing development pressure, and Dr. Lawrence Kaplan (Biology) has written a trail guide for the woods. He recently led a walk through the woods as part of the Newton Conservators' Program.

Finnigan-Sullivan

Our warmest best wishes to Jean Finnigan (Intramurals) and John T. Sullivan who were married recently at St. Agatha's Church, Milton. They will live in Quincy after a trip to Bermuda. Sullivan is a student at Boston State College studying law enforcement.

Everyday Toxology

Dr. Frank Mirer, Division of Occupational Hygiene, Massachusetts Department of Labor, will give a talk on "The Toxicology of Everyday Life-The Work Environment" on Wednesday, October 23 at 4 p. m. in room 8--1006 (small lecture hall, Science building).

This is one of a series of colloquia on "Environment, Energy and Natural Resources" organized by Professor David Jhirad of the Department of Physics.

Wiseman Speaks

Frederick Wiseman, the noted documentary filmmaker - - (Titicut Follies, High School, Law and Order, Basic Training, Juvenile Court and others) - - will speak on "The Right to be Brutalized in Private" in Professor Louis Brin's Criminology class on Thursday, October 24, Room 44, College I Building, at 5:30 p. m. Students, Faculty and Staff are invited.

Telephone Transfers

All personnel should be aware that it is possible to transfer an incoming telephone call from outside the University. Depress the receiver button once slowly, and you will hear a ring in the background. When the operator answers, give her the extension to which you want the call transferred.

Envelopes

All personnel should be aware that printed University envelopes are postage paid, and should not be used for interoffice communications.

Administration Cafeteria

Effective immediately the Administration Building Cafeteria will be open from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m., Monday thru Friday, to accommodate people who would like a late afternoon snack. No hot entrees will be served after 3:30 p. m.

Library Tours

Beginning Wednesday, October 30, the Public Services staff
(Continued to Pg. 4)

Library Tours
(Continued from Pg. 3)

of the Library will conduct instructional tours on the use of the library for any interested students, staff or faculty. Tours will start at 12:45 p. m. each Wednesday from the Circulation Desk in the lobby of the Library building.

Health Meeting

Dr. John Strange, Dean, College of Public and Community Service, was a speaker at the recent annual meeting of the Massachusetts Public Health Association in Newton.

Speakers at the meeting reviewed the new and changing roles of professionals on the health care systems. Dean Strange was a panelist with Dr. Howard Hiatt, Dean, Harvard School of Public Health, and John O'Bryant, Director, Health Vocational Training School, Dimock Community Health Center.

A Second Home

In back of the fence circling the Boston State Hospital on Morton Street is a complex of red brick buildings. One of them is known as the "S" building.

Inside is a unit for "Children in Crisis" and one of its counselors for children who have lived fearful lives with cruel and abusive alcoholic parents is a counselor, Steven Johnson who is an UMass-Boston senior.

He has been there three years helping these disturbed children, who eat, sleep and work at the center and also attend classes in English, spelling, arithmetic, history and social studies.

Right now, Johnson is trying to raise funds to bring a group of the youths to Disneyland. "Their world has been so small," he says. "The trip across the country would serve as an added educational experience to help broaden the boys' perspectives and show them how other people live."

He added, "Our boys have so much working against them."

If you are inclined to help, send your contribution to Children in Crisis, Inc., 591 Morton Street, Dorchester, Mass.

Atomic Energy Speaker

Dr. Norman C. Rasmussen, professor of nuclear engineering at M. I. T. will speak on Tuesday, November 15th, at Professor Harold Mahon's class on Energy. The meeting will be at 9:30 a. m. in the Science Auditorium. Dr. Rasmussen is the author of a recent \$3-million Atomic Energy Commission study on nuclear reactor safety.

He will speak on "Safety Issues in Nuclear Energy." This controversial subject with a controversial speaker should make this session an educational experience. All are invited. There will be a question and answer period following Dr. Rasmussen's formal presentation.

Linguistic Circle

UMass-Boston Linguistic Circle will meet at 11:30 a. m. on Tuesday, October 29 in room 5-211, College II to work on proposals for introductory courses in linguistics for the Fall and an informal seminar for February. Students and staff interested in linguistics are invited. For further information, call Neal Bruss, Ext. 3118.