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9-9-1975

Bulletin - Vol. 09, No. 48 - September 9, 1975

University of Massachusetts Boston

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Recommended Citation

University of Massachusetts Boston, "Bulletin - Vol. 09, No. 48 - September 9, 1975" (1975). *1971-1977, UMass Boston Bulletin*. 215.

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President Wood Discusses
Budget Problems

"We are at the moment of truth in the future of the University of Massachusetts."

In a capsule this is a description by President Robert Wood of the seriousness of the budget battle now being waged between the university and the executive and legislative branches of State government.

In the next two weeks, he told faculty and administrative leaders, we will know "whether we will succeed in getting a budget that will help all of us do the jobs we are here to do."

Wood pointed out that the university is now operating on an interim budget lasting through October. This interim budget is based on 10 per cent less than the budget of the past fiscal year.

At the same time, the university trustees have pared down the budget request from \$118-million to \$103-million, taking into serious consideration the status of the state's economy, and also the real and critical needs of the mission of the University of Massachusetts.

Within recent days the President said that some difficult options have faced his office and the trustees.

One option that was rejected was to not open classes last week.

But other options remaining, if the budget is garotted, are staff furloughs, payless paydays, and closing down the institution later in the year.

Wood stated that the wording of the current interim state budget calls for freezing positions and the only ones that may be unthawed are those certified as to critical need.

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"Critical need" has not been defined. Wood said some 148 university-wide positions-- including 123 faculty--have been requested under the critical category. As of Friday morning, there was still uncertainty about the release of these positions.

In his talk with UMass-Boston leaders, President Wood voiced what could be one of the major threats to the university in the current budget process.

Fiscal autonomy of the university, won in the 1960s by extraordinary labor by university personnel, may now be in peril.

Simply, without fiscal autonomy all personnel actions for faculty and staff, would revert back to cumbersome and awkward practices and procedures.

"Fiscal autonomy should not be taken away through the back door under the current interim budget technicalities," Wood said.

FACULTY MEETINGS

In addition to the Faculty Meeting yesterday (Monday) when President Wood related the budget picture of the university, a SPECIAL FACULTY MEETING will be held on Tuesday, September 16th, at 4 p. m. in the Science Auditorium. Chancellor Golino will address the faculty on campus matters.

College of Professional Studies

As a mark of the vitality of UMass-Boston was the inauguration of the new academic programs of the College of Professional Studies last week.

An academic convocation was held on Friday with Bruce R. Carlson, a Trustee of the University of Massachusetts and President of the Sprague Electric Co. as principal speaker.

President Wood, Chancellor Golino and Dean Richard Freeland also addressed the students, parents, faculty, business and academic leaders who attended.

Mr. Carlson said, "The opening day of a new college is always an exciting event, and this college gives every promise, judging from the high quality of its planning, of quickly taking its place alongside its three sister colleges as a vigorous contributor to the growing reputation of the University here at Boston."

Sociologists at San Francisco Meetings

Five College I Sociologists participated in the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Association of Black Sociologists and/or the Society of Women Sociologists which met in San Francisco last month.

James E. Blackwell presented a paper, "The Power Basis of Ethnic Group Inequality in American Society" in a featured plenary session, devoted to the Impact of Ethnicity: Dissensus and Conflict, during the meetings of the ASA. Professor Blackwell also organized and chaired a Professional Workshop on "Research Proposal Writing: With Special Opportunities for Minority and Women Sociologists" for the ASA annual meetings.

Professor Blackwell and Morris Janowitz (University of Chicago) were the authors in an "Author Meets Critic" Session sponsored by the Association of Black Sociologists. Their book, Black Sociologists: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, was critically appraised by Professor John Bracy, Head of the Black Studies Department at UMass/Amherst, and Harold Cruse, noted author and critic, of Northwestern University. Blackwell also chaired the meetings of the ASA Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology.

Gregory Johnson presented two papers during the meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems: "The Young, The Old and the Politics of Age Exclusion" was presented at the Youth and Aging Section and "Rehabilitation, Conversion and the Professional Ex-Addict" at the Alcoholism and Addiction Section.

Calvin Larson's paper, "The Corporate Economy and the Urban Crisis," was presented during the meetings of the American Sociological Association.

Janet Kohen and Susanne Morgan, also of the College I Sociology Department, attended the annual meetings in San Francisco. Professor Richard Robbins served as a member of this year's C. Wright Mills Award Committee of the SSSP, and Professor T. Scott Miyakawa is serving as a member of the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology of the ASA.

Law and Justice Receives Grant for New Concentration

The Law and Justice Program in College I has received a \$180,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a new interdisciplinary concentration in Law and Justice to be developed over the next three years. Funding will be primarily for faculty release time that will allow the planning and offering of nine new upper level team-taught courses relating to the law to be developed at the rate of three a year.

This fall two of these courses will be offered-- "Prisons and Punishment", taught by faculty members from Sociology and Philosophy, and "Social Justice" taught by faculty from English and Philosophy. In the spring the new course "The Law and Social Change" will be offered by a team of two from Politics and History. These courses are not "law courses" in the traditional sense, but rather deal with the law and legal institutions like prisons and the court from the perspective of law and legal institutions like prisons and the court from the perspective of different liberal arts departments. They are about the law and how it affects people in the world around us, and will rely in a major way on literature and films, as well as material from disciplines such as philosophy, sociology and history.

These courses will be of benefit to any UMB student but should be of special interest to students considering careers in the law or law-related fields. Each of the courses is modelled in part after the extremely successful and popular freshman foundation course "Law and Justice" (Inter-D 101), a course that gives an integrated look at the law from new perspectives. Each of the new courses will be important core courses in the new law and justice concentration approved by the college to begin this semester. Already 80 students have applied to be concentrators.

Also funded by the NEH grant are such innovations as a lawyer-in-residence program. Each year a practicing attorney will be on campus to offer courses and advise students in the program. This semester Atty. Seymour Moskowitz will be teaching a course in "Law and the Poor" (Inter-D 480) on what the law can and ought to do for the poor. He will also be available to students for advising about law-related careers. A series of lectures by Sheriff Buckley of Middlesex County and a number of new 1 and 2 credit mini-courses such as "Sanity, Insanity, and Responsibility", also will be supported by the grant.