Commission calls for merger of three state universities

Telling his large audience in UMass/Boston's Lipke Auditorium that "the train hasn't left the station; in fact, I'm not even sure it's been made up yet," Chairman David Saxon of the Commission on the Future of the University strongly defended the concept that Massachusetts must have a public university "as great as any in the nation" and said "there is time for discussion of the two plans being presented as to how to accomplish that goal."

"Though Senator Tsongas has said that the two plans are not very different," Dr. Saxon continued, "that is not correct in my judgment." He proceeded to describe the Commission's proposal, which calls for one University of Massachusetts including Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester under a single board of trustees and a strong president.

"It is better to combine the forces of all five campuses," he explained, "so they will not be fighting with each other. There are things each one can offer—Amherst, for example, has academic excellence but no political power because there are no people out there. The people are here in Boston. Amherst cannot flourish without the people of Boston are ill-served or under-served..."

When asked what he saw as the particular mission of UMass/Boston under his plan, Dr. Saxon described the Morrill Act establishing landgrant universities, pointing out that "the issue now is not of agriculture—it's urban problems. The Commission thought in the broad sense, not wanting to be prescriptive. We were thinking about research on our urban centers, about educational opportunities for people who live in them, about attention to urban public schools."

Dr. Saxon contemplated both graduate and undergraduate programs and answered in the affirmative when questioned as to whether there would be more research capability in the future than there is now.

"The present division of authority simply can't go on," he emphasized. "There is great confusion, no one has the answers, no one speaks for the University. You need a strong active board of trustees—you have a board now, but it is not strong or active—and a strong president," which, he explained, "is not inconsistent with strong chancellors. The continued on page 4
UMass/Boston institutes new doctoral program in Clinical Psychology

After five years in the making, a Clinical Psychology doctoral program has been instituted at UMass/Boston. The program, which will accept students for the first time in a clinical setting.

"There are many clinical psychologists in this state who work with adults," says Dr. Joan Liem, chairperson of UMB's Psychology Department and Acting Director of the new Ph.D. program. "But there are few who have expertise with children. We intend to focus special attention on children and adolescents, particularly low-income ethnic minority youths."

Liem says UMass/Boston surveyed over 25 mental health professions, soliciting feedback on the overall state of the profession and identifying areas of need.

The five-year program, Liem says, has been tailored for its area of specialty by combining innovative core and elective courses. She submits "Culture and Mental Health" and "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Life Span Development" as examples of unique core courses that attach special significance to scholarship in the area of developmental psychology. A package of eight elective courses entitled "Ethnic and Minority Perspectives" is also considered unique to the UMB program.

Another thrust of the program will be field participation. Second- or third-year Ph.D. candidates will perform field work under intense supervision. In the fourth year, students must produce an original doctoral dissertation, and in the final year each candidate must spend a portion of the academic year working full-time in a clinical setting.

"We want people to leave this program qualified to work as clinical psychologists," Liem says, with added emphasis. There will be little problem attracting a qualified pool of candidates.

"We've had 600 inquiries already," says Liem. "I get calls daily. There is tremendous interest in the program."

In addition to a personal statement paper and three letters of recommendation, applicants are required to have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, to have completed a minimum of six courses in psychology or a closely related social science field, and to have taken the general aptitude (verbal, quantitative and analytic) and advanced psychology sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

"We expect candidates will have a fair amount of experience in human service work," Liem says. "We'll be looking at work history very closely."

"We want to make sure the students we accept are mature, sensitive people who can take on the responsibility of working with people in crisis."

In keeping with the University's mission, extra efforts are being made to recruit ethnic minority students to apply for the program.

UMass/Boston psychology instructor Dr. Deborah Brome, whose contributions to the study of the development of self-concepts in black children are considered a valuable attribute of the Ph.D. program, traveled to Atlanta seeking minority applicants. She has also contacted potentially interested undergraduates at Howard University. As is the case with most Ph.D. students, money is tight because time constraints preclude them from working fulltime. Inevitably, sacrifices are made, and for students from low-income backgrounds who have the least financial flexibility, the impact is greatest.

"We're trying to reach out to minority candidates and make a special effort," Liem says.

Part of that directive includes easing the financial burden by awarding "stipends," which offer a small remuneration plus tuition waiver in return for academic services provided by the student. A limited number of stipends will be available to students accepted into the program, Liem says. Even those fortunate enough to receive them, she adds, will be forced to make sacrifices.

Recently, two institutes on the UMass/Boston campus, the William Monroe Trotter Center for the Study of Black Culture and the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences, agreed to award one stipend each to separate Clinical Psychology Ph.D. students who will concentrate, respectively, on black and veteran issues.

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Prof. Hans van Willigen awarded grant from U.S. Department of Energy

Utilizing energy from the sun is not simply a matter of standing under it. UMass/Boston chemistry professor Hans van Willigen was recently awarded a highly-competitive $203,800 grant from the US Department of Energy to support construction of an instrument which will make it easier to harness the sun’s power.

The instrument, which van Willigen will build and house inside a laboratory on the Harbor Campus, is known as the Fourier Transform Electron Spin Resonance (FT-ESR) spectrometer. It is one of only a half-dozen such instruments in the world.

The FT-ESR will be used in research of light-induced photochemical reactions, which van Willigen has been studying for eight years. It is believed that studying these reactions will assist in the storage and conversion of solar energy.

UMass/Boston’s FT-ESR is the first instrument built specifically for studying photochemical reactions. Its ability to measure the movement of light molecules in times as short as microseconds is its principal asset.

“This will help us study very fast chemical reactions initiated by light,” van Willigen says. “That is a fundamental aspect of solar energy conversion.”

One of these reactions van Willigen will investigate is photosynthesis, the very efficient process by which plants generate energy from sunlight.

Information gained from the FT-ESR may one day advance the construction of devices powered by solar energy, such as watches, calculators or automobiles, van Willigen says.

In his efforts to gain funding for construction of the FT-ESR, van Willigen solicited research proposals from other area schools, including UMass/Amherst, MIT, and Brandeis. These other proposals were incorporated into van Willigen’s request. “I figured the only way of getting the machine was by bringing in other laboratories,” he explains.

Van Willigen will be assisted in design and construction of the FT-ESR by Professor Dinse of the University of Dortmund, West Germany. Dinse, a physicist, and Van Willigen have been recipients of an ongoing NATO grant that has allowed them periodically to visit each other’s lab.

Van Willigen, a native of Holland, graduated from the University of Amsterdam and received his PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. He served as a visiting professor at the University of California-Riverside before coming to UMass/Boston in 1970.

Sumner Rotman cited for Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education

Sumner E. Rotman, Coordinator of Program Services for the Center for Occupational Education at UMB, has received the Associate Commissioner’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education.

This annual award is presented by David F. Cronin, Associate Commissioner for the Division of Occupational Education of the Massachusetts Department of Education, to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of vocational education in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In addition to his responsibilities at UMass/Boston, where he administers vocational and educational special needs programming through the Division of Continuing Education, Mr. Rotman has served as past president of both the Massachusetts Vocational Association and the Massachusetts Vocational Association of Special Needs Education Personnel and is a regular presenter at local, state and national vocational education/vocational special needs education conferences.
Dr. Effraim Barradas named to Council for the Arts

Prof. Effraim Barradas has been appointed to the Public Arts Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Council for the Arts and Humanities.

Prof. Barradas is chairperson of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

He holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University in Latin American Literature and is a distinguished scholar in the field of Caribbean Studies. Prof. Barradas is a respected member of the Boston-area artistic community. His new appointment follows a two-term tenure as a Board Member of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

Dr. Saxon advocates merger

*continued from page 1*

Regents should have less managerial impact on the separate campuses and carry out more of a coordinating function."

In addition, Dr. Saxon said that it is “vital” that the University play a major role in upgrading education in high school and in combatting what he termed the “non-participation” in education characteristic of many high school students. He also said that the Commission was “driven to” a recommendation for formula budgeting.

“Everyone should understand what each part of the University’s budget is and why,” said Dr. Saxon. “There should be no politics involved—just the application of a formula—and it should be the same for each of the five campuses.”

Dr. Saxon supported Senator Tsongas’ call for a board to review potential trustees, saying that it “has the potential to work, so long as people want it to and the review board itself is good.”

Tsongas speaks at UMB

*continued from page 1*

Relieving the concerns of some faculty who has seen reports in The Boston Globe about the possible sale of the downtown campus building, Tsongas stated that “everyone is committed to a downtown operation.” The idea, he explained, would be to see if some monies could be made and coordinated for a special endowment fund by the sale of some assets in the system.

He also told his audience of his plan to have as Regents people with ties to the business community to develop a strong constituency for higher education and a

Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning has moved to UMass/Boston. At the official announcement were, left to right: Robert Schwartz, education advisor to Gov. Michael Dukakis; UMB Chancellor Sherry H. Penney; MFCTL Executive Director William L. Dandridge, and Associate Director Karen O’Connor.

Field Center for Teaching and Learning moves to UMB

The Massachusetts Field Center for Teaching and Learning will now be housed at UMass/Boston.

The Center, headed by Executive Director William L. Dandridge, had been located at Bridgewater State College. Associate Director Karen O’Connor accompanied Dandridge in the move to Wheatley Hall.

“I look forward to the Center’s providing new and exciting opportunities for research and collaborative projects with teachers,” said UMB Chancellor Sherry H. Penney. “Having the Center on our campus will help UMass/Boston’s commitment—a commitment I regard as a critically important priority—to train highly-qualified teachers and to advance the improvement of the Commonwealth’s schools.”

The Center performs four major roles: it is an information resource for teachers; it provides opportunities for teachers to share their experiences; it is a focal point for studies about teachers, teaching and school reform; and it gives public recognition to excellent teaching.

“We believe the current crops of experienced teachers in Massachusetts represents an untapped resource about the teaching/learning process and what best works in schools,” said Director Dandridge, who has served in his current position since 1985.

Dandridge worked in the Boston Public Schools as Manager of the Institute for Professional Development, then as Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Karen O’Connor spent a year at the Harvard Graduate School of Education before joining the Center in 1985. She was a kindergarten teacher for about 10 years.

In addition to the Regent’s Plan, which has been officially transmitted by the Board to the higher education community and will be voted on in May for submission to the Legislature, the Commission for the Future of the University calls for the creation of a “superboard” and a strong president’s office to manage all five universities: Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and Worcester. (see page 1 story on Dr. Saxon’s visit)

Their report, like the Regents’, calls for the development of a world-class public university, saying that the Commonwealth’s future depends on it; recommends the continued strengthening of UMass/Boston; and emphasizes the importance of the connections between the universities and the schools.

Copies of both reports have been circulated by Chancellor Penney to the Deans, and there will be continuing opportunities for campus discussion.