

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RULES COMMITTEE
concerning
**THE CONTINUATION OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ONLINE LEARNING**

Presented at the
663rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
May 17, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Maurianne Adams
Marilyn Billings, Chair
Seshu Desu
Robert Faulkner
Arthur Kinney
Ernest May
W. Brian O'Connor
Robert Wilson
Donna Zucker

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ONLINE LEARNING

The Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning was formally established on September 23, 2004 for a duration of three years because the growth and demand for online instruction, both through UMASS ONLINE and through technologically assisted enhancement of regular classes, raised academic and administrative issues which merit sustained and focused attention from the campus community. (See the draft report *Ensuring Quality in Online Higher Education Courses* by Andrew Churchill [Center for Education Policy] dated April 27, 2004, presented to the Graduate Council.)

The Committee's charge has been to:

- **Oversee academic standards and issues of quality assurance with respect to all UMA undergraduate and graduate courses and programs taught online or in hybrid format.**
- **Research issue of comparative outcomes assessment with respect to traditional, hybrid, and online courses and programs.**
- **Recommend policy changes, as appropriate, to the Graduate Council and the Academic Matters Council.**
- **Advise the campus administration with respect to the provision of "how-to" materials and instructional design assistance for new online instructors.**
- **Advise the campus administration, the Graduate Council, the Academic Matters Council, the General Education Council, and the Undergraduate Education Council with respect to issues of online learning.**

The Committee's membership consists of:

- a) **Twelve At-Large Faculty Members of Librarians (including one from each school and college), selected by the Committee on Committees;**
- b) **A Representative of the Graduate Council, selected by the Chair of the Graduate Council;**
- c) **A Representative of the Academic Matters Council, selected by the Chair of the Academic Matters Council;**
- d) **A Representative of the Undergraduate Education Council, selected by the Chair of the Undergraduate Education Council;**
- e) **A Representative of the General Education Council, selected by the Chair of the General Education Council;**
- f) **A Representative of the University Service, Public Service and Outreach Council, selected by the Chair of the University Service, Public Service and Outreach Council;**
- g) **A Representative from the Center for Teaching;**
- h) **The Five College Coordinator or a designee;**
- i) **The Secretary of the Faculty Senate or a designee;**
- j) **The Faculty Advisor to the Provost;**
- k) **The Vice Provost for Outreach and Director of Continuing Education;**
- l) **The Provost or a designee;**
- m) **The Director of the Office of Institutional Research or a designee;**
- n) **The Director of Assessment or a designee;**
- o) **The Director of Academic Computing or a designee;**
- p) **The Chief Information Office or a designee; and**
- q) **One Undergraduate Student and One Graduate Student, selected by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate.**

The Ad Hoc Committee Chair shall be a faculty member elected from among its regular voting members.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Online Learning has asked for an extension of its original three-year commitment.

MOVED: 53-07 That the Faculty Senate extend the term of the AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ONLINE LEARNING for one year, at which time, a final report will be presented to the Faculty Senate at its last meeting in the Spring 2008 semester.