

University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Faculty Senate Rules Committee  
Meeting Minutes March 27, 2009  
University Club, 8:15-9:45 AM

Attendees: Marilyn Billings, Robert Faulkner, Ernest May, John McCarthy (Chair), Brian O'Connor, Donna Zucker

Guest: Laura Lovett, Chair, Status of Diversity Council

1. Laura Lovett, Chair of the Status of Diversity Council discussed her report distributed previously "Preliminary Call for a University of Massachusetts Diversity Plan." Following a lengthy, comprehensive and informative discussion led by Professor Lovett about the past history of Diversity Plans and their current plans, it was agreed to bring to the surface many of the plans/proposals from the past and to revitalize these plans/proposals and centralize the resources and to establish a comprehensive web site. It was also agreed to arrange a meeting with Jo-Anne Vanin, Dean of Students, Susan Pearson, Associate Provost, Chancellor Holub and others to discuss the next steps to firmly establish this Diversity Plan.
2. The Minutes of the January 30, 2009 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by Marilyn Billings and those of the March 13, 2009 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by Robert Faulkner were approved.
3. Faculty Senate Agenda Items
  - A) It was agreed to cancel the April 9, 2009 Faculty Senate Meeting due to Passover.
  - B) The presentation by Mary Deane Sorcinelli, Associate Provost for Faculty Development, will be rescheduled for a later meeting.
  - C) A Special Faculty Senate Meeting may have to be scheduled in April to discuss the Revised Strategic Plan.
  - D) The General Education Task Force will be issuing a report and it was agreed that this report will be presented as a formal motion at the May 14 Faculty Senate Meeting (It was agreed to add this meeting to the schedule to prepare for the backlog of business). The motion will be an amendment to the original 1985 document with the motion to establish the General Education Curriculum.
  - E) The Academic Calendar for 2009-2010 was discussed as there is a problem concerning the Winter Term. Currently it is TBA and it could start about a week before the Holiday Break or early in January-it was decided to let Continuing and Professional Education make a decision as to the dates but the option may fall to the Rules Committee to make the final decision.
  - F) The Special Report of the Rules Committee concerning Bylaw Changes and the Special Report of the Academic Matters, Program and Budget and Undergraduate Education Councils concerning the RN to BS Online Program will be reassigned to a later Faculty Senate Meeting

Discussion Items:

Very limited discussion on the Budget, Reorganization and Topics for the RC/Administration meeting topics for Monday, April 13.

Your faithful scribe,  
Brian O'Connor