

Rules Committee Minutes, Meeting of Monday, Aug. 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Hampshire House #120

Present: Joe Bartolomeo, Chair, Ernie May, Marilyn Billings, Tony Butterfield
Guests: Nancy Buffone, John Lenzi, Joel Martin

1. New Dates and Schedule for 2012 Commencement. There was an extensive discussion of both the content (proposed new dates) and process (how the new dates were arrived at and the Senate procedures for changing the Commencement schedule). Based on the Graduate Council's initial negative reaction to moving the Graduate Commencement to Thursday late afternoon, GC Chair Linda Shea will be asked to convene the GC before the fall semester begins, with Nancy Buffone invited to their meeting. John Jenkins, Chair of the Academic Matters Council, will also be asked to convene AMC for a face-to-face discussion.
2. Evaluation of Program Directors and other Academic Administrators. Senate Docs. No. 90-029A and 90-029C were discussed. In addition to covering search and appointment procedures, for interim appointments in particular, visitor Martin suggested that evaluation of administrators should be included; in particular, that new appointees should be given non-threatening feedback on their performance after their first year. Further, that Center and Institute Directors should be included in these Senate documents. "It is recommended that the appointing authority arrange for a mechanism for providing developmental feedback at the end of one year, based on input from relevant parties such as faculty, staff, administrators and students."
It was agreed that input from Mike Malone would be needed re. Center Director evaluations. Joel Martin was seen as the appropriate person to take responsibility for moving this ahead, with input from Mary Deane Sorcinelli.
3. Senate Membership. While the Senate Constitution may need overhauling, that is a major task that will ultimately require Trustee approval. More feasible for the immediate future would be to amend the Senate Bylaws to include that retired faculty on post-retirement appointments are eligible for Senate and Committee membership. Meanwhile, Ernie will work on language specifying that full-time faculty et al. appointments are needed.
4. Action items 1, 2, and 3 were approved (See agenda).
5. Mace Carrier at Commencement. There was a brief discussion of who would be an appropriate person to carry the mace at Commencement, since Prof. Richason has become an "honorary carrier" due to his advanced age. There was considerable sentiment that it be the head or high-ranking member of the Faculty Senate, since the senate is a vitally important part of campus governance.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony Butterfield