

## Minutes of the November 21, 2011 meeting of the Rules Committee

Attending: Rick Adrion, Marilyn Billings, Tony Butterfield, Mari Castañeda, Ernie May, Brian O'Connor, Amilcar Shabazz, Ralph Whitehead

### I. A review of agenda items for December 1 Faculty Senate meeting

This review concentrated on the discussion that will occur by the Committee of the Whole of the topic, "What's Next for UMass Football?" The discussion will begin with remarks by each of several members of a panel, and then will be opened up for questions and comments by others.

Secretary May said that one of the panelists, Senator Page has expressed an interest in proposing, for consideration on December 1, one or more motions regarding the move of the football team to the MAC and the FBS. If he submits something by the end of business today, May said, it can be included on the agenda that is sent out a week or more before senate meetings. If he misses this deadline, Senator Page can, at the meeting itself, ask to suspend the rules to allow immediate consideration of his motion or motions. If a motion to suspend gets two-thirds support, consideration of his substantive motions can occur immediately.

The Rules Committee decided to adjust the agenda for December to allow announcements to follow the Committee of the Whole discussion.

It was noted that the local press reported that the future of the football team's existing coaching staff might be known later that day, the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### II. Items for discussion by the Rules Committee

- A. The Committee has received a request for approval of the creation of a new institute, the UMass Innovation Institute. An operation is already up and running. As one committee member noted: "A need for something like this has existed for a long time – but it is crucial for it to be guided by the proper policies." Policies must be developed by the campus and the university, it was said, because federal laws and state laws don't provide sufficient guidelines for how such an entity should conduct its work. To see if additional or altered campus or university policies are needed, the UMA senate could create for a Rules Committee-appointed task force to review the existing policies of the campus and university. The idea of a task force will be placed on the agenda for the December 12 meeting with the administration.
- B. Secretary May reported the meeting that several members of the Rules Committee had with Professor Andrew Zimbalist of Smith College, a sports economist who has consulted in all four of the major professional sports. At the meeting, Professor Zimbalist offered an initial and informal assessment of the plan to move the UMA football team into the MAC and the FBS.
- C. Senator Hugus has voiced concern about the impact that cuts in health services might have on international students and international scholars. This item will be put on the agenda for December 12.
- D. The Rules Committee has received a copy of a memorandum from the Status of Diversity Council to Provost Staros. "The Status of Diversity Council voted (9-0) to request the creation of a campus wide committee to reexamine the reliability and validity of the SRTI as it applies to women and faculty of color," the memorandum begins. "The SRTI data set is large and has been compiled over many semesters. However, a slice of the SRTI data provided by Asst. Provost Martha Stassen indicates there is substantial evidence that faculty of color and women may suffer harm if this instrument is now used with care." This item will be put on the agenda for December 12.
- E. The Rules Committee has received a proposal that the Senate create enabling legislation to allow for two things to happen: First, all eight of the campus's schools and colleges would be designated as colleges. Second, requests could then be made for the creation of schools within what will then be colleges. This proposal will be an item for December 12.