

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
RULES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AUGUST 1, 2011**

**10:00 A.M.**

**HAMPSHIRE HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM #120**

**AGENDA**

**1. New Dates and Schedule for 2012 Commencement.**

**GUESTS: Nancy Buffone and John Lenzi**

**2. Regular Evaluation of Program Directors of Interdisciplinary Academic Programs**

**GUEST: Joel Martin**

**3. Senate Membership**

The Senate's *Constitution* is a very general document voted by the Trustees. It is somewhat ancient and needs revision in order to align with current terminology and practice. Several years ago, we got pretty well along in the revision process, and then we had a political situation develop that made it tactically unwise to send the revised document along for a formal Trustee vote. This still leaves us with some anomalies in the Constitution that we must continue to adjust and adapt to result in a reasonable operating practice.

**A. The Constitution (Section 5[b]) identifies qualified voters as follows:**

**ELECTIONS AND VOTING ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) Regular elections and by-elections shall be conducted by written ballot in accordance with procedures prescribed in the Bylaws; and**
- (b) Qualified voters shall have the right to vote in regular elections or by-elections. Qualified voters shall be defined as full-time instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, or professors who are not in their first regular semester of service and who are not on leave, or any full-time librarians at the rank of Librarian II or higher who are not in their first six months of service and who are not on leave.**

In practice, there are no longer any "instructors" on campus because that designation has been abandoned and replaced by "lecturers." So, we have been understanding references to "instructors" in the Constitution to also refer to "lecturers." (The MSP definition of "faculty" also includes Lecturers.) For some time, we have had Lecturers who are elected members of the Senate as well as its Councils and Committees.

**(OVER)**

- B. The Constitution does not address post-retirement appointees, undoubtedly because that status did not exist when the Constitution was adopted. However, the Bylaws specify that:**

**Council and Committee members shall be drawn from the widest possible range of available talent among the faculty and librarians, including those with Emeritus status for up to 5 years following their date of retirement, and where appropriate, the administration, the professional staff, the alumni and students.**

**The Bylaws do not directly address the issue of membership in the Senate itself for faculty on post-retirement appointments. However, it seems reasonable to suggest that, at the very least, such post-retirement appointees should be accorded the same privileges for membership in the Senate as Lecturers.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1. That the Rules Committee approve the continued eligibility of faculty on post-retirement appointments for membership in the Senate.**
- 2. That the Rules Committee establish a subcommittee to formulate appropriate revisions to the Bylaws with respect to eligibility for membership in the Senate.**
- 3. Special Report of the Committee on Committees concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 11-064A with Motion No. 66-11 (*adding Professor Farshid Hajir from Mathematics to the General Education Council*).**

**DISCUSSION ITEM:**

**Is the time now right to address the need to revise the Constitution? A few tweaks, or a major overhaul?**