

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Rules Committee
Minutes

17 February 2017

Attendees: Bruce Baird, Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, Lisa Green, David Gross, Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, Marinos Vouvakis, Susan Whitbourne

1. Minutes

Minutes of the 27 January 2017 Rules Committee meeting submitted by Susan Whitbourne were approved with revisions.

2. Faculty Senate Agenda Items for March 9, 2017

Discussion of the Faculty Senate agenda addressed the reasons for moving the presentation on university demographics by Associate Chancellor Bryan Harvey from February to March. He needed to tailor the presentation to the Faculty Senate. The agenda for March is now full with a presentation by Massachusetts Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, another committee of the whole on the General Education diversity requirement, and a second reading of the bylaw changes. There was some discussion about UMass branding and whether to have someone address the Faculty Senate on this topic. The Faculty Senate also needs a report from the Athletic Council, but the report will not be available before April. The Rules Committee agreed that Bryan Harvey's presentation and a report from the Athletic Council can go onto the April Faculty Senate agenda.

3. Discussion Items

- A. General Education Council: They are working on revising the General Education diversity requirement. The Council held a General Education Diversity Think Tank in January, and they are incorporating the ideas from that meeting into the new proposal. This discussion of the diversity requirement also drew concerns about the progress of work on the General Education Council overall and about the Think Tank which initially attempted to operate as a syllabi review. Additionally, there are course proposals that have spent an inordinate amount of time with the Council without communication with the proposers or a decision by the Council. Routine work still needs to occur while working on the diversity requirement.
- B. Procedure for handling nominations: The Rules Committee had agreed in January that the names of nominees would not appear on the Faculty Senate agenda, but a nominee's name did appear on the agenda. The procedure going forward will be that the election will be announced and a call for nominees will be made at the meeting prior to the election. The names of the nominees will not be presented on the Faculty

Senate agenda for the date of the election. There was discussion of possible ways of receiving nominations.

- C. Rules-Admin agenda 6 March 2017: Members of the Rules Committee expressed concerns about the timeline for the Campus Planning and Resource Committee (CPARC). We will extend an invitation to Jennifer Normanly so that she can discuss the progress of CPARC at the next Rules-Administration meeting. The Rules Committee also would like to hear details on the planned work of the task force on immigration that was established in response to the recent federal executive actions.

- D. Next Rules Committee agenda: A meeting slot for 24 February was cancelled, but now Information Technology would like to discuss cybersecurity on that date. We will meet at 9:00am. Dave Gross also will address the questions about bylaws that were raised at the Faculty Senate meeting on 16 February. We need to clearly indicate in the bylaws who votes and who does not vote. We also need more information on who determines voting rights on councils and committees.

Respectfully submitted,

A Yemisi Jimoh