

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Rules Committee
Minutes

21 April 2017

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

1. Minutes

Approval of minutes from the 7 April 2017 Rules Committee meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

2. Faculty Senate Agenda Items for May 4, 2017

Discussion of the Faculty Senate agenda focused on a report for the Campus Planning and Resource Committee (CPARC); a proposal from Commonwealth Honors College (CHC) to reinstate the requirement for an honors thesis; elections for open Faculty Senate officers.

The chairperson of CPARC, which will be completing its first year, will have ten minutes on the agenda to report on the activities of the committee and five minutes will be scheduled for questions. Also scheduled on this agenda is a proposal from the Commonwealth Honors College requiring all honors students to produce independent research or a performance project. The Rules Committee received queries from deans and department heads/chairs who reported that they had not been consulted. During the meeting, Commonwealth Honors College Dean, Gretchen Gerzina replied to an e-mail query that an associate dean from CHC consulted with all of the deans and heads/chairs. The question on the proposal form that asks about consultation was indeed satisfied as reported.

Faculty Senate bylaws require elections during the final meeting of the academic year for the Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees at the expiration of a two-year term and annually for the Presiding Officer. There are nominees for the Faculty Delegate, but no nominees for the Presiding Officer. The Rules Committee will continue to seek out candidates and call for nominations from the floor during the meeting.

3. Discussion Items

A. Proposed changes to the Board of Higher Education (BHE) Program Approval Procedures:
The UMass system President's Office requested that the Rules Committee comment on proposed revisions to program approval procedures. The revisions would bypass crucial steps in the current approval procedures and move preliminary proposals (or letters of intent/LOI) directly to BHE. This new process makes it possible for BHE to stop a proposed program before a fully developed proposal undergoes a thorough review. A response from the Rules Committee is due 28 April 2017. This is an important issue so the Rules Committee will circulate a draft letter through email and send a response by the deadline.

B. Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC):

The new chairperson of the IFC, Robert Lublin, is from the Boston campus. Outgoing chairperson, Susan Whitbourne, who is from the Amherst campus, promoted an initiative to get more access to meetings with the Board of Trustees (BoT). That initiative is gaining support with potential opportunities opening for Faculty Delegates to have two seats on the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs (CASA). There is uncertainty whether access to CASA will include the executive session. They also are seeking seats on the Committee on Administration and Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

A Yemisi Jimoh