

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Faculty Senate Rules Committee
Minutes of Meeting on 9 September 2016

Present: Bruce Baird, Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, David Gross, A Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, James Rinderle, Marinos Vouvakis, Susan K. Whitbourne

1. Guests: John A. Hird, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
 Julie Caswell, Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Discussion of the Proposal to replace the SBS Global Education Requirement

Dean Hird presented an overview of the reasons for replacing the existing Global Education Requirement in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS). The College wishes to provide students with a more robust advising system that allows them to make decisions that result in a valuable degree, reflecting depth. He is concerned that fulfilling the current Global Education Requirement has become a matter of “checking off boxes.” The proposal reflects the view that taking a foreign language as part of a degree needs to be done for the right reasons and should reflect what the students anticipate they will need in the future.

The SBS Global Education Requirement will be replaced by Pathways. Associate Dean Caswell explained the proposed changes, which would move advising to the departments and provide students a number of options for fulfilling their degree requirements. Choice among these options will be based in a student’s educational and career goals.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the 24 August 2016 meeting submitted by Steven D. Brewer were approved with revisions.

3. Faculty Senate Agenda Items for October 6, 2016

Agrees to set a time limit on Dick Bogartz’s presentation: 20 minutes with 10 minutes for discussion. Encourage President of Graduate Student Senate and Student Government Association to send designees if they are not available to present announcements themselves.

4. Discussion Items

- A. Brief introduction of new Rules Committee members Bruce Baird and Marinos Vouvakis.
- B. Discussion of how to more effectively engage discussion with the Provost on matters within her purview during Faculty Senate meetings.
- C. Later fall 2016 committee of the whole meeting in Faculty Senate on the new diversity requirement. Suggestion to distribute the proposal electronically to faculty before the meeting. The new diversity requirement can impact interdisciplinarity, which should be addressed by the General Education Council in its report.
- D. Campus Planning and Resource Allocation Committee needs more names, particularly of faculty in the professional schools/colleges. Need to pay attention to gender and inclusion on the Committee, which has been affected as the list of available faculty is reduced.
- E. Recommendations for Rules/Admin meeting topics for 19 September 2016: Exploratory Tracks and First Year Seminars and their effects on retention and matriculation; use of student success collaborative advising tool; move-in; results of UMassRising campaign and plans regarding future fundraising.
- F. Discuss longer term capital planning at the October Rules/Admin meeting.
- G. MJ will send Rules Committee her notes from the Campus Leadership Retreat on Sept 1.

Respectfully submitted
A Yemisi Jimoh