

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**  
**RULES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2016**

Present: Bruce Baird, Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, David Gross, Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, Jim Rinderle, Marinos Vouvakis and Susan Whitbourne

1. **MINUTES**

Minutes of the September 23, 2016 Rules Committee meeting were unanimously approved as revised.

2. **FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For November 10, 2016)**

Discussion of several agenda items under the placeholder New Business item was deferred to the October 28<sup>th</sup> RC meeting. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate will lead the Committee of the Whole that will be 30 min. long, and will send the Gen Ed Council's proposal to the Senators ahead of the meeting. The chair of the Gen Ed Council, Claire Hamilton, will first give a short introduction on the topic and then the floor will be open for comments and questions. Each speaker will be given a maximum of 3 min.

3. **INFORMATION ITEM**

**General Education Council's Recommendations for Change in the Diversity Requirement**

Some concerns were voiced about the Gen Ed Council's recommendation for Change in the Diversity Requirement. In the coming days, the RC will write a memo to the Gen Ed Council outlining those concerns. The RC will reach out to the SGA regarding the Committee of the Whole on this item. The RC will invite the chair of the Gen Ed Council, Claire Hamilton, and the Faculty Advisor for Diversity and Inclusive Excellence, Anna Branch, to the October 21<sup>st</sup> RC meeting to further discuss his item.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Faculty Senate Appointee to the Parking and Transportation Advisory Board**

The RC delegated the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to recruit an interested faculty member willing to serve on PTAB. Alternatively, Prof. Jimoh or the chair of the RC will volunteer.

**B. Special Nominating Committee's 2015 Proposal on Transition**

The chair of the RC will draft a proposed bylaw change that would allow for at least one semester overlap between the Senate's vote for new Secretary and the Secretary-elect taking office, allowing for a proper transition/training period for the Secretary-elect.

**C. Faculty Senate Constitution**

Discussion was tabled to the January RC meeting.

**D. Update on process for considering D requirement proposal**

This topic was discussed during item 3. Information Item.

**E. Faculty Senate Practicum Course – UNIVRSTY 298A, Sen. Doc. No. 98-010A**

The Secretary of the Faculty Senate introduced the current format of the Senate Practicum Course to the RC members. It currently allows for multiple semester re-takes. The Secretary will draft a proposal that would limit the Senate Practicum Course to one spring semester offering per student, and she would actively recruit from the SGA.

**F. Participation in Faculty Senate Councils and Committees**

This was motivated by Prof. Dan Gordon's comments during a Faculty Senate meeting regarding disproportionate large numbers of non-tenure track faculty members in Senate Councils. The Secretary shared data showing that it is confined to particular councils and will provide that information to Professor Gordon.

**G. Senator Hajir's Comments regarding Semester Length**

Discussion was tabled due to time considerations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marinos N. Vouvakis