

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Rules Committee
Minutes

28 October 2016

Attendees: Richard Bogartz, David Gross, Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, James Rinderle, Marinos Vouvakis

1. Minutes

Minutes of the 7 October 2016 Rules Committee meeting submitted by Marinos Vouvakis were approved with revisions.

Minutes of 21 October 2016 were deferred until the next scheduled meeting, 18 November 2016.

2. Faculty Senate Agenda Items for November 11, 2016

The discussion of the Faculty Senate agenda centered on the best approaches to organizing the Committee of the Whole, which will focus on the General Education Council's proposal for a new diversity course requirement. To inform the Senators on the vetting process for the proposal, the Secretary's Notes for 8 November will summarize the comments from the various councils and the Student Government Association. There will be a three-minute limit for comments on the proposal during the Committee of the Whole. The entire Committee of the Whole segment of the 11 November 2016 Faculty Senate meeting will be thirty minutes.

The Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences proposal to change its name drew questions about the length of time the department has been unable to teach insect science. The Rules Committee will request additional information.

Additional discussion of the agenda addressed announcements and the plan to introduce regular reports by the Chair of the Rules Committee informing the Senate of the work occurring in the Committee since the last Faculty Senate meeting.

3. Discussion Items

A. Bylaw changes: The current changes in the bylaws need to be checked for clarity and consistency before they are submitted to the Senate for approval. That discussion also addressed when revisions on the bylaws should cease before approval by the Senate. Making changes on the floor on the day of the third reading seems contrary to the rationale having three readings, so perhaps changes should cease after the second reading. The Presiding Officer will check the Faculty Senate bylaws and Roberts Rules to confirm the process for changing the bylaws.

- B. Rules-Admin agenda: Invite the new Vice Provost for Continuing and Professional Education (CPE), Geraldine de Berly. For the Provost, request an update on the dean searches, further information on the Efficiency and Effectiveness Committee regarding course enrollments, information on First-Year seminars, and an update on the status of the Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development (TEFD) grant. For the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, request information on IALS and changes to the Research Trust Fund formula. Also, a workshop for administrators may conflict with the Rules-Admin meeting on 12 December, so the substitute date will be 19 December.
- C. Next Rules Committee agenda: Guidelines for council reports; 13-week semester.
- D. Items to discuss with State Senate President Stanley Rosenberg during the Ad Hoc Committee on System Performance and System Structure (ACOSS) on 3 December 2016: Fair Share amendment and implications for higher education; the Governor's office and the legislature's rapport with the UMass system President's office and the Board of Trustees; the strong emphasis on efficiency and effectiveness at the Board of Trustees; short-term prospects for higher education funding; legislature's position on the bond issue; priorities for higher education. Also, ask Senate President Rosenberg whether there is anything we can do to contribute to his work toward the success of higher education initiatives for UMass Amherst.

Respectfully submitted,

A Yemisi Jimoh