

Rules Committee
January 26, 2018

Attending: Bruce Baird, David Gross, David Hoagland, Frank Hugus, MJ Peterson, Rebecca Spencer, Marinos Vouvakis, Wilmore Webley

1. Minutes

Approval of the minutes from 12/15/18 – postponed again
Approved without change the circulated draft minutes from 1/12/18

2. Agenda Items for Spring Semester Faculty Senate Agenda Meetings

MJ Peterson suggested the following major items for spring semester meetings:

- A) For February, Senate Committee of Meeting as a Whole to discuss possible changes to the academic calendar, as informally discussed at recent Rules Committee meetings. Registrar Patrick Sullivan should be present to make certain all ramifications and unexpected details are properly addressed.
- B) For March, presentation from the Online Education Group. John Wells, leader of the new group, should be present to give an overview of vision and details concerning new campus-wide online education initiatives.
- C) For April 12, Athletic Council report will be presented. This report is ready, but the March Senate meeting date conflicts in time with major athletic events.
- D) Some certificate approvals are anticipated for spring meetings.

3. Discussion Items (as denoted in the draft agenda and listed below in order of discussion)

- A) Members of Ad Hoc Committee on Language Proficiency – The membership list (as circulated today) is still incomplete, and MJ Peterson asked for help in filling open slots associated with particular academic units.
- D) Items for meeting with System President Marty Meehan - Good attendance at the Rules Committee meeting next Wednesday with the President is expected. A specific reason for his visit to Amherst has been not given (there may not be one). Items for an informal meeting agenda were discussed, with thought that Meehan should be given an opportunity to bring up his own items. David Gross will guide the discussion from the Rules Committee side, including the following list of potential general discussion points:
 - i) Vision of the President's Office for online education, and particularly, any changes in goals/structure/resources from the past
 - ii) Capital planning, including opportunities possibly made available through public-private partnerships
 - iii) Enrollment trends and strategies, particularly issues that might affect student opportunities at UMass Amherst
 - iv) Request for heads-up on the "next big thing" that might come down from state government, specifically in respect to special funding bills or impacts from the proposed Fair Share Amendment.

B) Allocation of Proposed Policy on First-Year Seminars to Councils -MJ Peterson gave a short history of the Freshmen Seminar Program, noting that, by the introduction of these seminars as experimental course offerings, the time (3 years from first offering) to evaluate approval/content policies is upon us. The need for such evaluation has been discussed by Peterson with Vice Provost Carol Barr. A brief discussion of which Faculty Senate committees/councils that might be involved ensued without any decisions made.

E) Items for Feb 5th Rules-Administration meeting – Suggested items: mood/climate among students, alongside results from the recent campus-wide climate survey; EOD re-organization.

No time was left for agenda item (C). Before adjournment, MJ Peterson asked that any remaining concerns about the recently circulated policy on K-12 Campus Activities be directed to her.