

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting on February 15, 2019

Present: Bruce Baird (Chair), Joseph Black, Lisa Green, David Hoagland, Frank Hugus, MJ Peterson, Wilmore Webley

Minutes: Minutes from the January 25, 2018, meeting were approved with corrections. Minutes for the December 7, 2018, meeting are pending.

1. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (for March 7, 2019)

The University Press Committee is scheduled to present its annual report. The committee discussed adding additional presentations to the agenda (see Discussion Item A below).

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Presentations or Discussion Times at upcoming Faculty Senate meetings

The committee agreed to invite presentations from two speakers at the March 7, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting: Olufunmilayo (Funmi) Adebayo, Assistant Dean for Inclusion and Engagement at the Graduate School, on her office's current initiatives, and Barbara Krauthamer, Graduate Dean, on graduate application trends and stipends.

MJ Peterson noted the possible need for contingency plans for presentations in the April Senate meetings should the Athletic Council be unable to present its report as scheduled.

B. Boston Campus Developments

The committee discussed concerns expressed by UMass Boston faculty and staff at the recent special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

C. Hampshire College

The committee discussed recent developments at Hampshire College.

D. Other

Online Education Initiatives. The committee discussed ongoing uncertainty among faculty and departments about the scope, focus, goals, and processes of the UMass Amherst Online initiative. The committee agreed to invite faculty and/or administrators involved in designing and implementing the initiative's pilot online courses to speak to a special meeting of the Rules Committee to help clarify these issues. The committee also proposed the creation of an ad hoc Senate committee

to coordinate the collection of information about the university's online initiatives.

Dean Searches. The committee discussed suggestions for creating more effective and transparent search processes for Deans in light of faculty frustration with poor communications in a recent search. MJ Peterson will compile suggestions and circulate for committee comment.

Weather Delays. The committee registered dissatisfaction with recent school weather delay decisions that were felt to delay closing past the point of safety.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00.