

## **Rules Committee Meeting Minutes March 8, 2019**

Attending: Bruce Baird, Joseph Black, David Hoagland, Frank Hugus, MJ Peterson, Wilmore Webley

Absent: Lisa Green, Rebecca Spencer, Marinos Vouvakis

Visitors: Christine Wilda, Associate Chancellor for Compliance, and Matthew Dalton, Chief Information Security Officer

### **1. Past Minutes:**

Circulated minutes of the previous meeting (Feb. 15, 2019) were approved without change. Approval of the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2019 meeting are still pending but the minutes probably will be available for approval at a future meeting.

### **2. Faculty Senate Agenda Items:**

The Athletic Council report, tentatively scheduled for presentation at the April 11 Faculty Senate Meeting, may be postponed if the Athletic Director is unavailable due to attendance at an NCAA playoff game of this year's successful UMass Hockey team. This scheduling problem may not be resolved until the last minute. The Calendar Committee will present at the same meeting, offering for approval a '20-'21 academic calendar. The proposed calendar is little changed from those of recent years. Constraints on the academic calendar for '21-'22, on the other hand, are significant, suggesting the need for more significant changes.

The Faculty Senate Nominating Committee will meet again after break. Finding volunteers to serve on the various Faculty Senate Committees and Councils is becoming more difficult. The Provost recently helped by re-circulating a solicitation for volunteers, but personal entreaties to prospects appear to work better than campus-wide communications.

### **4. Discussion Items**

#### **A. Discussion with Christine Wilda and Matthew Dalton of a draft Information Privacy policy:**

UMass has drafted a new policy designed to protect the privacy of personal and institutional information as well as to govern the use of such information for research, campus governance, policing, etc. The new policy will create an Institutional Privacy Committee (IPC), with membership as outlined today in some detail, charged to implement the policy across the campus. Questions about ways the administration can support units to comply with the policy and ensure broad training were discussed, based on the sense that most faculty and staff members are ignorant of the relevant issues and practices. Three factors motivated the new policy: (i) compliance with law, (ii) inadequacy of current policies/practices, and (iii) clear need to communicate better how collected information is shared/used in the UMass community. Several specific

situations where some sharing might be appropriate were discussed between Rules Committee members and the two visitors.

**B. Recent State of the System Address (UMass Online):**

Implications of President Meehan's recent State of the System Address, particularly its focus on the proposed central UMass Online initiative, were the subject of a few comments. Meehan's remarks didn't add much to the details already known about the initiative except that a substantial initial expenditure is indicated and significant impacts on individual campus online efforts are not anticipated. The President's Office intends to introduce the initiative through discussions with faculty members and administrators over the coming months. Newspaper articles describing the initiative seem accurate to the extent that information is available.

**C. Other**

Peterson outlined progress in finding the replacement for Jeanne Vasu in the Faculty Senate Office.

It was suggested that the Center of Counseling and Psychological Health might give a Faculty Senate presentation on the role of faculty members in monitoring and addressing student mental health issues. The next opening for a presentation is in the fall.