

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting on Friday, March 13, 2020

Present: Lisa Green, Mzamo Mangaliso (responsible for minutes), Jennifer Normanly, MJ Peterson, Wilmore Webley,

Absent: Richard Bogartz, David Hoagland, Sarah Hutton, Rebecca Spencer

Guest (joining via Zoom): Loren Walker, Director of Research Development in the VCRE's area

1. Minutes

Minutes of the February 21, 2020 meeting submitted by Sarah Hutton were approved as amended.

2. Update on UMass Scholars Network: Loren Walker (Via Zoom)

Loren provided updates about progress in setting up the UMass Scholars Network. The UMass network will use the VIVO application similar to the one used at institutions such as Duke, Cornell and others. A list of these institutions would be provided to RC members (it was later emailed to us by Jennifer Normanly). VIVO is an open source web application that can be populated with content of researchers across departments. Its search and browsing function has the ability to rapidly retrieve the desired information, such as publications, grants, course syllabuses, etc. He stated that VIVO has two design principles: (1) its ability to auto populate by extracting information from AFRs and other sources to complete research profiles, and (2) the ability of individual researchers to add and rich their profiles. Kualu will be able to feed into it information on grants and awards. He also noted that VIVO is very robust, has been around long, and has been tested. So it's reliable, adaptable, and customizable. In terms of timing, it may take 9-12 month to get the system going and piloted. A budget has been allocated to begin the pilot. They are currently working with vendors to have the system loaded. He fielded questions from RC members and a general discussion ensued about the various features of the network.

3. Agenda for the 795th Regular Faculty Senate Meeting 2 April 2020

The featured items on the agenda will include: State Senator JoAnne Comerford, Athletic Council Report, Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsorship, By-Law changes

3. Discussion items

a. Faculty Senate and the move to on-line/remote meeting mode

This is what MJ will be figuring out in the coming week. FS councils have less than 50 members and so their meetings can take place as usual. Departments have been asked to have Zoom options for faculty who work from home. Advising has different requirements and obligations to allow students to have access. Members shared strategies for improving the reliability of transmission when using Zoom for video conferencing.

b. State of teaching evaluation discussions

MJ reported on a meeting she had with David Gross, chair of the MSP Holistic Teaching Evaluation Bargaining Group. The group had been meeting regularly to discuss methods of capturing the total contributions of faculty members to the instructional mission of the University through multiple modes of evaluation. A new item proposed for inclusion in teaching evaluation for promotion is peer observation. However, this was not likely to be included as a mandate in current contract. Consideration was given to utilizing retired professors as evaluators, but questions were raised about the capability of some of the retired faculty to do this. Rubrics would need to be developed for observers' evaluation.

c. Items for Rules-Administration meeting on the 30th
Will be discussed over e-mail.