

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE
RULES COMMITTEE
Minutes**

Friday the 13th
(of April 2018)

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

1. Approval of the minutes from 3/9/18 and 3/23/18

Minutes approved as corrected.

2. Agenda for the 778th Meeting of the faculty senate:

Frank is willing to be the presiding officer for one more year.

Discussion focused on small corrections, including need to add annual report of the Status of Women which was postponed. Discussed the need for response from calendar committee and Patrick Sullivan regarding a survey of other schools' start date. This was considered for a possible fall topic.

3. Other Discussion Items

a. Mt. Ida response: Transitions for students are being thoroughly considered. Discussions starting to trend positive.

b. John Wells visit: Addressed questions about organization of online courses. Particular attention focused on faculty 'owning the course'. In this model, there is a course designer who controls quality and can mentor graduate students (course facilitators) who are implementing it. Works well for the grad student too as they get the mentoring but don't need to over-invest in design. There have already been discussions with faculty union about this. Faculty would maintain the intellectual property rights over the syllabi and course materials they prepare.

Does this model diminish the importance of faculty members? Currently CPE courses are primarily taught by graduate students so this model would {theoretically} move to more involvement of faculty than currently present in CPE courses. This model would put a UMA faculty member in the oversight role for all of our CPE courses which is different than current model for CPE.

The compensation model in Isenberg is 80:20. So faculty are still engaged in mentoring the course facilitators. The treatment of work on online courses as part of faculty work load may be hard to translate at a general level – department allocation of resources will dictate how this translates to their faculty load. Restructuring the organization responsible for maintaining

online programs is both important to maintaining our quality in spite of expansion but to enhancing our ability to increase net revenue.

Also discussed whether the new Online Ed will use Blackboard or Moodle. This will be considered by a committee with a focus on the student experience. How to get faculty trained to provide a good online experience is under consideration. Could be timely for new faculty. Some pilots are underway which might identify best practices.