

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Minutes for Rules Committee Meeting
August 26, 2019

Attending: Bruce Baird, Dave Hoagland, Frank Hugus, MJ Peterson, Wilmore Webley

1. Approval of minutes from the July 15th meeting

postponed because members did not have a chance to review them.

2. Senate Leadership Recruitment:

- a) Chair of the Rules Committee – Lisa Green was asked about her interest in serving as chair and she requested some time to think about it before making a final decision.
- b) Chair of CPARC – Secretary Peterson reported that Anthony Paik, full professor in the Sociology department, is willing to assume the role of CPARC chair. This will need to be discussed with Chancellor Subbaswamy.

We reviewed the “Proposed new charge and composition of CPARC” document. The chancellor’s edits appear to be reasonable. Secretary Peterson will give RC members time to review the document and then the chancellor will share it with the deans.

3. Proposal for Task Force on Guidelines regarding Organizing, Endorsing, Sponsoring Events

- Professor Stephen Clingman was the only presenter and gave an overview of how this initiative started. Clingman reported that it started with him and Alon Confino, who are both Jewish, after the dispute about the May event. They both believed at that time that this event should go forward, even though they might not agree with all of the content.
- Both Clingman and Confino attended the event and did not find it anti-Semitic, although others felt it was.
- They felt that the Chancellor was under tremendous pressure to cancel the event and felt that there should be a committee to explore guidelines for hosting events of this nature.
- He reported that there have been contentious debates in departments about funding of events that not everyone might be supportive of.
- He made it clear that this initiative is not designed to tell departments what to do.
- Clingman reported that Senator Yemisi Jimoh was initially willing to present the plan to the faculty senate, but raised concerns after reading the narrative.
- Professor Clingman said there are 5 questions/issues that should be addressed in these guidelines:
 - i. What does sponsorship mean? Is it money or just support?
 - ii. What should we do about people who are offended?

- iii. There should be clarification about sponsorship and types of events and then have clear guidelines
 - iv. Will faculty senate support this? Should it be a faculty senate resolution for affirmation of values?
 - v. We should defend the right of a public event that supports a person's right to free speech.
- The discussion centered on an ad hoc committee that could come up with a draft of a policy.
 - The consensus was that a presentation be made to the Faculty Senate on the issue and suggest that we will elect an ad hoc committee to explore writing a policy that would serve as a reasonable guideline for all entities.
 - Professor Clingman wants to press pause at this time until he is able to meet with the committee who composed this initial document.

4. Agenda for the 788th Faculty Senate, Sept. 12, 2019

- "ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SPONSORSHIP OF EVENTS ON CAMPUS" will be removed from the agenda at this time to give Professor Clingman and his group time to meet and discuss next steps.

- "Special Report of the Academic Matters, Academic Priorities, and Program and Budget Councils concerning the Creation of a Certificate in Teaching of English as a Second or Other Language, as presented in Senate Document 20-xxx" will be removed from the consent agenda and made a separate new item on the agenda.