

Minutes of the Sept. 13, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting

Attendees: Richard Bogartz, Lisa Green, David Hoagland, Sarah Hutton, Mzamo Mangaliso, Jennifer Normanly, MJ Peterson

Absent: Rebecca Spencer, Wilmore Webley

Visitor: Marilyn Billings

1. *Minutes:*
 - (i) Minutes of the June 14, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by Rebecca Spencer were approved.
 - (ii) Minutes of the July 15, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by Wilmore Webley were approved as amended.
 - (iii) Minutes of the August 26, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting were not considered since they are not yet posted.

2. *Draft Faculty Senate Agenda for Oct. 17 Meeting:* The agenda for the next Faculty Senate Meeting was described as “lean” in its draft form. The main item will likely be a motion to create an ad hoc committee to offer faculty advice to the campus on the topic of “sponsorship of events”. The following bullets outline Rule Committee decisions for how this item will be handled:
 - A Committee of the Whole Discussion will be initiated as the means to introduce the item and then a vote will be held to create the committee.
 - The committee is not charged with creating a policy statement.
 - The four-person faculty group that generated the circulated draft charge for such a committee would be expected to be appointed to the committee given their previous leadership on the issue.
 - Individual campus units are anticipated to draft statements pertaining to the meaning of “sponsorship” and the process for approving sponsorship for their own units. The committee will likely draft a campus-wide statement that guides units drafting such statements. Guidance on so-called “disclaimer” statements may also be offered.
 - There is concern that upcoming events of a controversial nature may be in the pipeline already, adding to the need for quick action by the ad hoc committee.
 - By law, free campus space must be rented to outside entities irrespective of the content of the event planned. The holding of such events does not convey explicit or implicit sponsorship by any campus unit or the campus as a whole. The Public often misunderstands that campus events are not necessarily endorsed by any campus unit, a key reason for the need to have unit sponsorship statements.
 - The committee will report its findings quickly, with January, 2020 the goal.
 - The number of committee members will be in the range 8-10, representing faculty groups across campus colleges.

3. *Open Access:* Marilyn Billings discussed recent developments on the topic of “open access”. Several years ago the Faculty Senate adopted a policy to create a repository into which faculty members can deposit their scholarly writings (“ScholarWorks”). The pursuit for public access to faculty writings faces resistance from publishers who seek restrictive copyright agreements with their faculty authors. Similar resistance is offered by many publishers to “open education” materials, thousands of which have been collected nationwide under “open textbook” initiatives. Billings proposes a campus forum that would offer faculty engagement/encouragement on these endeavors and seeks Rules Committee advice for her planning.

The Rules Committee offered comments about the different roles of open access journals in different disciplines; many are very successful. Connections between open textbook sourcing and student success/motivation were also mentioned.

Billings plans to offer the forum this spring.

4. *Discussion Items:*
 - A. Information garnered at the recent (Sept. 5, 2019) UMass Board of Trustees meeting-
 - i). Concerns about the central UMass Online plan continue to be expressed by faculty members at the other UMass campuses. The long awaited plan has not yet been presented.
 - ii). UMass Dartmouth apparently faces smaller-than-expected fall enrollment, leading to anticipated budget cuts for that campus
 - B. Faculty Senate Invitations -

After brief discussion, there was a consensus that the Faculty Senate should occasionally ask area state senators and representatives to address the Faculty Senate, as was done in the past.
 - C. No other discussion items were introduced.