

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting on Friday, October 18, 2019

Present: Richard Bogartz, Lisa Green, David Hoagland, Sarah Hutton, Mzamo Mangaliso, MJ Peterson, Rebecca Spencer, Wilmore Webley

Meeting called to order at 8:30AM by Rebecca Spencer, Chair

1. Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the September 13th 2019 meeting submitted by Dave Hoagland
Minutes to be reviewed at next meeting.
 - b. Minutes of the October 4th 2019 meeting submitted by Lisa Green
Approved as revised.
2. Agenda for the 790th Faculty Senate, Nov. 14, 2019 (see attached agenda)
 - a. Should we have announcements first? Yes.
 - b. Program approval – SBS: Communication, Anthropology (discussion)
 - i. Do we currently have a process for how departmental rules are followed in the program proposal process? No, we do not. There *has* been a department approval – the question then becomes, do we need to do approval within a certain period of time?
 - ii. Is pedagogy dictated by what SPIRE can and cannot do? There are many holes in the electronic system of CCMS.
 - iii. Do we need to come back and address this larger question of having larger departmental rules? Do we need to follow up, or is this an anomaly?
 - iv. Perhaps a way to increase attendance – asking that a representative from proposing department be present at Faculty Senate meeting for discussion.
 - v. If something leaves the department, it should go through the Curriculum Committee approval process before going to Academic Matters – there should be a representative sitting on the Curriculum Committee communicating back to the department letting them know that the proposal was approved/moving forward. If this process does not occur, it is not the responsibility of the Faculty Senate to solve this issue; it is a problem within the department.
 - vi. There should be a failsafe to discuss proposal in Faculty Senate, in the case that the Curriculum Committee had been bypassed (this has happened in the past).
 - vii. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, MJ will provide a statement regarding the necessity of proposing department to have representative at the meeting.
 - viii. Agenda for the 790th Faculty Senate, Nov. 14, 2019 approved.
3. Members of Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsorship of Events

- a. Suggestions for membership
 - b. When we are composing this group of people, should we consider membership outside of the faculty?
 - c. Committee members agreed that it was more important that members be thoughtful and have the perspective/appreciation for rules being determined, as opposed to which department they were coming from.
 - i. MJ confirming with original four members to continue service (HFA represented).
 - ii. For remaining four members of committee:
 1. Jennifer Normanly asking within CNS - sending out email to all the heads and chairs, asking for volunteers.
 2. Psychology of Peace and Violence
 3. Public Health
 4. SBS
 5. Reach out to Office of Religious and Spiritual Life for representation
4. Discussion Items
- a. Feature for December meeting
 - i. Graduate School – updates/current state of the school, graduate education.
 - b. Bylaws revision – proposal from Research Council to add VC for Information Technology or designee as an ex-officio member
 - c. Post-award support services for PIs and other investigators

Open Discussion

- Faculty Senate meeting attendance – open discussion and comment periods seem overwhelmingly sparse.
 - We wish to conduct a longitudinal analysis of attendance to see if we are in a natural lull, or if we're at an all-time low.
 - We are districted for 86 senators, and are currently around 59.
 - Perhaps we consider moving the meeting into a more contemporary space, to encourage engagement – future agenda item.
 - For administration: we'd like more information from administrators, more presentations.
- Does presiding Faculty Senate presiding officer have the right to call attention to specific events/individuals, based on their own discretion? Example: calling for moment of silence for Elijah Cummings. Dave suggests: if it's a UMass affiliate, no problem. If this individual is not, we could potentially get into hot water. Since these are public meetings, we should be mindful.