

Minutes of the November 15, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting

Attendees: Richard Bogartz, Lisa Green, David Hoagland, Sarah Hutton, Mzamo Mangaliso, Jennifer Normanly, MJ Peterson, Rebecca Spencer (Chair), Wilmore Webley

1. Minutes:

- a. Minutes of the Oct 18, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by Sarah Hutton were approved as amended.
- b. Minutes of the September 13, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by David Hoagland were approved as amended.
- c. Minutes of the August 26, 2019 Rules Committee Meeting submitted by Wilmore Webley were approved as amended.

2. Preliminary Agenda for the 791st Faculty Senate Agenda on Dec. 12:

Annual reports: The issue of guidance for presenting annual reports on Senate Floor was discussed. A motion to “allow and encourage the reports to be made in 3-5 minutes, followed by Q&A” was adopted unanimously.

3. Discussion items

- a. Feature for December meeting:
 - i. Stan Rosenberg Invitation: The implications of inviting Stan to the Faculty Senate were discussed. Concerns were raised about the political fallout from such an invitation. The alternative was to invite him to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to the University. The decision was to consult with top administrators to see if there are any considerations we should know about.
 - ii. Grad School: The presentation would cover issues that Faculty are interested to know about, including Grad student enrollments, VISAs, expansion of master’s programs.
 - iii. Faculty recruitment: There seems to be a general lack of clarity in the departments about the Pathways program. Members shared instances when negative interpretations of the program in some departments have made the Pathways appointees feel unappreciated and unwelcomed. It was decided to invite Amel Ahmed, Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and leader of the STRIDE workshops to a future RC meeting.
- b. Bylaws revision – Research Council.
 - i. The proposals from the Research Council to add the VC for Information Technology as an ex officio member and create a standing subcommittee was discussed. The Rules Committee doesn’t make decisions about bylaw revisions - the Faculty Senate does over a number of 3 meetings. The secretary will get the bylaw revision process started either in December or January. Re: the creation of a standing subcommittee, any Council can do this, unless the subcommittee is specified in the Senate by-laws.

MJ will work on what they intend with their newer proposal to create a standing subcommittee on Research Computing.

c. Possible Presentations for Spring

- i. Sustainability and resilience. It was noted that MSP leadership have identified ecological climate as one of the initiatives they want to push. It was important that the Faculty Senate takes an active role on the issue.
- ii. Creation of a Scholar Network site for the Campus. It was noted that many universities e.g., Duke University, have Scholar's Network sites that inform the public about the research interests, publications, grants and other activities of their faculty. For UMass an MOU was signed over the summer. Its creation will require an allocation of resources and funding. It was decided to invite someone to a future meeting to give the details of how it would work at UMass-Amherst.

4. Other:

Modernizing the Faculty Senate website: A suggestion was made to look at Faculty Senate websites at other Universities for 'best practices' to bring ours into the 21st century.