

**Faculty Senate
Rules Committee
Minutes of the Meeting on November 16, 2018**

Present: Joseph Black, Dave Hoagland, Frank Hugus, MJ Peterson, Rebecca Spencer, Marinos Vouvakis, Wilmore Webley

1. Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the previous meeting (Oct. 19, 2018) were approved without change.

2. Upcoming Faculty Senate Agenda:

The many courses that cleared councils and made ready for action at the next faculty senate meeting were briefly discussed. The ordering of letters “LBGTQ” in the course title for Public Health 340 was again mentioned as a possible concern: Peterson will confirm the intended ordering. The proposed Revision to the BS Microbiology degree requirements was missing in the draft agenda, and Secretary Peterson will check to see if there was a reason for not listing it, and add it to the Senate agenda if it has been recommended by all of the Councils to which it was referred.

Hugus suggested that a council decision should be accompanied by comments that outline the reasoning behind the decision, a past practice that has not continued for all of the items now up for Faculty Senate approval.

3. Discussion Items:

Selection and Terms of Associate Deans - As more Associate Deans have been appointed, concerns are arising because these positions are not described in campus governance documents. The codifying of these positions has become an MSP interest, but the Deans may want otherwise, to maintain greater flexibility in the ways that their offices can function. As suggested at the previous Rules Committee meeting, Peterson is approaching the individual Deans to get their perceptions about these positions, and thus far, she has met three Deans. The key initial issues are (i) appropriate practice in making such appointments and (ii) appropriate means of periodically reviewing associate dean performances. Whether associate deans have a role in faculty supervision is a related issue that might affect the way that these positions might be codified, as some faculty members feel that faculty input into reviews is essential if this role is taken. In the subsequent Rules Committee discussion many additional questions were raised, such as “What is the duration of an Associate Dean appointment?”, “Are all Associate Deans appointed full-time and are they members of the MSP?”, and “Should all Associate/Assistant Deans be faculty members?” (some currently are not). The Deans themselves have discussed some of these issues recently. Lastly, is Faculty Senate Document 90-029C, “Search and Appointment Procedures for Deans, Academic Department Chairs and Heads, and Academic Program Directors” a relevant place to start the discussion? Further considerations of this topic at Rules Committee meetings are anticipated, especially as

information is gathered from additional interested parties (additional Deans, the MSP, the Provost, etc.).

Bias Incidents and Hate Group Communications – At yesterday’s Faculty Senate meeting the Chancellor described ways that the administration is handling the apparently increasing frequency of campus bias and hate incidents. The members of the Rules Committee expressed support for the Chancellor in his efforts but also asked how the broader faculty and the Faculty Senate could respond to these incidents and their impacts on campus climate, with many perspectives outlined and potential actions mentioned. Also, factors that might explain the rise of such incidents were discussed (social media influence, recent political turmoil, etc.). The committee agreed that continuing this discussion at the upcoming Rules Committee-Administration meeting would be a good next step.