

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE**

**Friday, November 17, 2017  
8:15 A.M.  
Campus Center, Room 801**

**Present: Bruce Baird, Marilyn Billings, David Hoagland, Frank Hugus, David Gross, MJ Peterson, Rebecca Spencer, Marinos Vouvakis, and Wilmore Webley.**

**Special welcome to our newest member David Hoagland!**

**1. MINUTES**

**Minutes for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> prior meeting were approved as amended.**

**3. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For December 14, 2017)**

**Discussed agenda. Proposal for ad hoc committee to study language requirements. Because it is an item of New Business, This will come on the agenda before the SBS proposal (which is now considered old business, Item G. 1). Agenda provisionally approved subject to further email discussion.**

**4. GUEST: PROF. SIGRID SCHMALZER (9.30 am)**

**Concern regarding the Academic Grievance Procedures (Sen. Doc. 17-011)**

**Professor Schmalzer presented the particulars of a case about a disputed essay grade, to indicate both that the Academic Grievance Procedures appear not to conform to AAUP guidelines and may possibly infringe on faculty prerogative, and that the panel appears to have overstepped their bounds in their decision on the case. She requested us to revisit the language of the policy, revisit the composition and remit of evaluating committee, and consider the necessity of revisiting the Academic Grievance Procedures on these points.**

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Chair of Rules Committee for Spring**

**David Gross agreed to remain as chair.**

**B. Need for an additional Rules Committee meeting before end of term**

**Need to discuss new consensual relation policy and new risk management policy.  
Dec. 1, 8:15 AM location TBA.**

**C. Deadline for dropping a class with a “W” grade**

**Discussion of perceived problems with the current deadline. Agreement to refer the matter to the Undergraduate Education Council.**

**D. Thanksgiving Break**

**Discussion included consideration of impact on student motivation and alignment with the other Five Colleges. Agreement to invite University Registrar Patrick Sullivan to a future meeting to address the various issues involved.**