

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017
8:15 A.M.
CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 801

Attending: Marilyn Billings, Frank Hugus, David Hoagland, Marinos Vouvakis, Bruce Baird, Wilmore Webley, David Gross, MJ Peterson

1. Proposed Ad Hoc Committee on Language Requirement

The committee discussed the International Studies Council's proposal for a World Language Proficiency requirement addition to the undergraduate curriculum at the university. Concerns with such a proposal is that there would be substantial resistance from colleges in which departmental major curricula are already densely filled with courses. The committee agreed that a new committee to study this issue would be a good idea. The Secretary has drafted a proposal for formation of such a committee that broadens its charge. We discussed the proposed composition of the committee. We want to design the charge so that the committee can determine the outcome on its own rather than to have it predefined. We need to have a review of peer institutions and broad on-campus consultation. We revised the draft charge and membership list as well as the reporting requirement.

The Rules Committee decided to put the motion to create the ad-hoc committee on the December Senate meeting agenda. We will refer to the ISC proposal as the basis for the RC's proposal.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the November 17, 2017 Rules Committee meeting were submitted by Bruce Baird. We need to change "AGENDA" to "MINUTES". Other changes involved clarification of some wording. Approved as amended.

3. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For December 15, 2017)

We decided to separate the SBS proposal (item G1 currently) from the rest of the consent agenda items. We cleaned up a few typos. The Secretary will send the revised agenda to the Chair for one final typo check prior to posting for the Senate meeting.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. The draft Consensual Relationships policy provided by the Provost was discussed. There are similar policies at different institutions: Princeton, Cornell and Michigan were mentioned as examples of good policy in this area. We feel that others who work closely with students, such as coaches, should be added to the groups covered by the policy. We think that some parts of the policy need to be rearranged to highlight more clearly what relationships are banned absolutely. Also, the disciplinary aspects of the policy need to be clarified. We also suggest that other unequal power relationships (i.e. faculty/staff, grad/undergrad) should be included in the policy. The Secretary will write up a letter, circulate it amongst the RC, and then send it to the Provost.

B. Comments on proposed Policy on Protection of Minors

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

Respectfully submitted by David Gross.