

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**  
**FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the December 13, 2019 Meeting**

Present: Richard Bogartz, David Hoagland, Sarah Hutton, Mzamo Mangaliso, Jennifer Normanly MJ Peterson, Wilmore Webley  
Visitors: Karen Greene, Faculty Senate office Manager; Jill Hughes, Faculty Senate Graduate Assistant.

1. Minutes

Minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting submitted by Mzamo Mangaliso approved as corrected.

2. Outline of Spring Term Faculty Senate Business

A. Possible presentations/features

Senator Comerford: The secretary has contacted the senator's office. January is out due to legislative activity, so the senator's staff have tentatively scheduled her for the February Faculty Senate meeting.

Sustainability Initiatives: Deputy Chancellor Steve Goodwin had previously informed the Faculty Senate about a Sustainability forum/event and MSP has a stated interest in including sustainability into the contract negotiations. Some discussion followed about other initiatives (e.g. Teaching Faculty, whether tenure track or not). Discussion about possible invites to discuss sustainability.

One member mentioned campus taskforce charged with visioning a net zero energy future. There is a link to the Campus Sustainability Task Force at: <https://www.umass.edu/sustainability/about/planning-taskforces-and-initiatives>. Possible invitees; Sustainability Manager, Manager of Solid Waste, re: Zero waste initiative, Chair of Campus Resilience committee, Carbon Mitigation Task Force

Discussion of having Graduate Dean present at Faculty Senate. The secretary has conferred with the Grad Dean about dates.

Athletic Council (optimal date is March FS meeting). Some discussion of A1 football.

Follow-up on suggestion made at December 12, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting to maintain a database of incidents in which campus community members have been subjected to push back on their scholarship/opinions, other related to free speech. Discussion about past practices on campus (e.g. kiosks), mechanism for majority opinion (e.g. rejects/don't agree) to be heard – to drown out the vocal minority. Discussion about “cancel culture” and the need for conversations before responses that lack nuance or understanding, and opportunity for corrections. Mixed panel of students/outside speakers to have campus conversations instead of just “Dignity and Respect” posters.

Stan Rosenberg—need Ernie May in attendance (secretary is following up on availability)

Campus Scholar Network Site. Need a presentation to the Senate. The current status of this project is that an MOU has been signed, but mechanism for faculty opt out from automatic data transfer from AFR needs to be developed. Not clear that this project is funded and by what campus unit. This will be asked of VCRE at the Rules Committee-Administration meeting on 12/16/19

RC discussion of charge of APC (following up previous year chair's comments at December 12, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting)

B. Proposals coming forward—some trickling through (Data Analysis and Computational Social Science from SBS—likely for February 2020)

### 3. Discussion Items

Activity in the borderlands between freedom of speech and disrespect for members of other groups

- 1) open letter relating to activities of a UMass undergraduate
- 2) removal of a Senior Lecturer from an Accounting course over showing student-made videos made in 2009 with content that some students found objectionable