

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

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018
8:15 A.M.
CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 801**

Present: Bruce Baird, David Gross, David Hoagland, MJ Peterson, Rebecca Spencer, Marinos Vouvakis and Wilmore Webley.

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the January 26, 2018 Rules Committee meeting were approved as revised.

2. Agenda of the 776th meeting of the Faculty Senate

- The committee discussed Agenda item C. regarding Prof. John Wells's presentation about the newly formed Online Education Group (OEG). The committee first discussed the timing and possible rationales for the formation of the OEG. Several questions regarding the "top-down" approach, revenue retention model, and instructor vetting by University faculty members were raised. Suggestions were made that would help this initiative succeed. Some focused on strengthening the role and involvement of Faculty members and the Faculty Senate in both strategic planning and implementation phases. The chair of the rules committee (RC) will draft and pass to the RC a set of items that the RC would like to discuss with Prof. Wells.
- Some course numbers in the agenda were updated. The RC discussed some course and curriculum management system (CCMS) delays and software glitches. The CCMS had a glitch in November that got proposals stuck. The Faculty Senate office has gone through and manually passed along to councils all hung up proposals that could be found. One member suggested that perhaps CCMS could send automatic emails to the proposer saying where the proposal is in the system.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Membership of Ad Hoc Committee on Language Proficiency

The ad hoc committee membership is completed, but the RC has to choose Chairs. The RC suggested having two co-chairs one representing units that offer language course, and one from units that their students are potential recipients of those language courses. The RC tasked the Secretary of the Senate to reach out to Jim Hicks and Elsa Petit.

B. Allocation of Proposals

The RC allocated two proposals to Councils:

1. First Year Seminar Program: Academic Matters Council (AMC); Program and Budget Council (PBC)
2. Amendments to Academic Grievance Policy: AMC, Graduate Council and Undergraduate Education Council.

C. Items for March 5th Rules-Administration meeting.

- Invite John Wells to talk about OEG.
- Ask Vice Chancellor of Students Affairs and Campus Life, Enku Gelaye for an update on the student mood and the impact of the “Hate has no home at UMass” campaign. Possibly update on post Super-bowl student conduct.
- Ask Chancellor Subbaswamy to brief the RC on his recent trip to India.
- Discuss University and campus capital planning and the State’s Higher-Ed bond.
- Ask Anna Branch to report on climate survey report and what is the University planning to do with those data.
- Time permitting, Assistant Provost Martha Stassen and Prof. Gabriela Weaver should be invited to give an update on online teaching evaluations, alternatively invite them to the upcoming RC meeting.

D. April Faculty Senate meetings

12th – election of secretary, Athletic Council annual report

26th – election of presiding officer, CPARC report

These items are what we are currently thinking about for these meetings. No further changes were made.

D. Low participation in Senate meetings

Perhaps we could include in the Senate meeting agendas more information about presentations and discussions to raise awareness of their importance. In this way, the faculty who don’t get pre-meeting notes (i.e. non-Senators) will have a better idea of the content of the presentations, and therefore might come to meetings or pass along information to their colleagues. In order to increase the number of elected Senators, we might try to activate department heads & chairs win districts with poor representation to encourage their faculty to run for Senate seats.

Respectfully submitted,
Marinos N. Vouvakis