

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
RULES COMMITTEE  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2015-2016**

**Presented at the  
761<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
October 6, 2016**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**Marilyn Billings  
Richard Bogartz  
Steven D. Brewer  
Nancy Cohen  
David Gross  
A Yemisi Jimoh, Chair  
MJ Peterson  
James Rinderle  
Susan Krauss Whitbourne**

**Annual Report of the Faculty Senate Rules Committee  
Academic Year 2015-2016**

**General Overview**

In addition to setting the agendas for ten regular meetings of the Faculty Senate, reviewing Senate documents from all Faculty Senate councils and committees, and working on behalf of the Faculty Senate during winter and summer breaks, the Faculty Senate Rules Committee convened thirty-four meetings of the Committee and of the Committee with the University administration during the academic year 2015-2016, including summer.

The Rules Committee agenda meetings convened as follows: 28 August 2015; 11 September 2015; 25 September 2015; 9 October 2015; 23 October 2015; 30 October 2015; 13 November 2015; 11 December 2015; 6 January 2016; 15 January 2016; 5 February 2016; 26 February 2016; 11 March 2016; 25 March 2016; 25 March 2016; 15 April 2016; 29 April 2016; 11 May 2016; 10 June 2016; 25 July 2016; 24 August 2016.

The Rules Committee/Administration met as follows: 4 September 2015; 21 September 2015; 19 October 2015; 23 November 2015; 14 December 2015; 8 January 2016; 1 February 2016; 22 February 2016; 7 March 2016; 4 April 2016; 25 April 2016; 16 May 2016; 25 July 2016; 24 August 2016.

Rules Committee members: Marilyn Billings (2017 S), Richard Bogartz (2017 S), Steven D. Brewer (2016 S), Nancy Cohen (2016 S), David Gross (218 S), A Yemisi Jimoh, Chair (2017 S), MJ Peterson (2018 S), James Rinderle (2017 S), Susan K. Whitbourne (2017 S).

**Faculty Senate Agendas**

- On the agenda for the 750<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 10 September 2015, the Rules Committee invited Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg, Massachusetts Senate President, to present on the state of higher education and on the standing of UMass Amherst in the Senate of the Commonwealth. The agenda also included Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy's State of the Campus Address.
- The agenda for the 751<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 8 October 2016 includes updates from the co-chairs of the Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight (JTFSO: Nancy Cohen, Bryan Harvey, and Amilcar Shabazz) and the Joint Task Force on Resource Allocation (JTFRA: Elizabeth Chilton and Timothy Anderson) as well as a report by Joseph Berger and Mzamo Mangaliso on internationalization (a campus priority in the strategic plan).
- Included on the agenda for the 752<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 12 November 2015 is a presentation by Dan Gerber, Chair, of the Faculty Senate Council on Public Engagement.
- On the agenda for the 753<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 10 December 2015, the Rules Committee invited Ruth Yanka, Executive Director, Administration and Finance, to report on UMass textbooks with Amazon.
- On the agenda for the 754<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 28 January 2016, the Rules Committee invited President Martin T. Meehan, the University of Massachusetts System, to address the Faculty Senate. The agenda also included a presentation on "The State of Information Security" by Julie Buehler, Vice Chancellor for Information Services and Strategy and Chief Information Officer, Matthew Dalton, Chief Information Security Officer, Steven Brewer, chair, of the Faculty Senate's

Information and Communication Technology Council, and Ryan Wright, Associate Professor, Operations and Information Management.

- The agenda for the 755<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 18 February 2016 includes a presentation by Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy on the campus budget in relation to the current budget discussions in the Massachusetts legislature. Also on the agenda is an update on the work of the Joint Task Force on Resource Allocation (JTFRA) by task force Co-Chair Jennifer Normanly.
- On the agenda for the 756<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 10 March 2016, the Rules Committee invited John Bryan, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, to present on the new Academic Personnel Workflow System (APWS).
- For the 757<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 7 April 2016, the agenda includes a presentation on “Open Access to Faculty Publications” by J. Eliot Moss, Chair of the Faculty Senate’s Research Council. Also on the agenda are a resolution opposing hate speech and a Committee of the Whole discussion on the minimum class size guidelines requested by the Efficiency and Effectiveness Committee of the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees.
- For the 758<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 28 April 2016, the agenda includes routine business along with a special motion to Professor Judith Goodenough, a motion from a group of senators addressing the participation of UMass Amherst in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and a resolution on an inclusive campus at UMass Amherst.
- Included on the agenda for the 759<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate on 5 May 2016 are the final reports of JTFSO and JTFRA.

### **Rules Committee/Administration**

The budget was a pressing concern over this academic year, making it an agenda item for a number of meetings. The Rules Committee and Administration also had regular discussions on student life at UMass Amherst, on the University-Town of Amherst collaboration, and on the Shorelight distance learning proposal.

- 4 September 2015: campus budget; admissions and targeted recruitment; undergraduate exploratory tracks; Town of Amherst and UMass community relations, faculty searches.
- 21 September 2015: campus budget planning; UMass@UMass and Student Life; Undergraduate Research Initiative Program; student debt; strategic planning (JTFSO and JTFRA); temporary shutdown of WMUA.
- 19 October 2015: Disability Services and LuvoLearn document management service; UMass Rising and campus development; University-Town of Amherst Collaborative (UTAC); Shorelight localized distance learning.
- 23 November 2015: budget shortfall; assessment of the First-Year Seminars; update on bullying policy; Accelerated Master’s Programs; course offerings at Boston UMass Center, One Beacon Street; student activism for an inclusive campus.

- 14 December 2015: diversity and inclusion; FBS football; Student Affairs initiatives; need-based financial aid; cyber-security threats
- 8 January 2016: campus budget transparency; UMass Police Department in organizational structure; New Student Orientation; fixed-cost bachelor's degrees; UTAC; Undergraduate Research Conference.
- 1 February 2016: SRTI (course evaluations); Student Affairs planning for spring; three-year degrees and accelerated Master's programs; responses to address of President Meehan.
- 22 February 2016: campus budget; FBS football; College of Education reorganization
- 7 March 2016: request from Trustees for minimum class size guidelines; Core Research Facilities; new Research Trust Fund (RTF) distribution for departments and colleges; Student Affairs; cluster hires; First-Year Seminars.
- 4 April 2016: budget update; UMass Police Department; Drupal websites; SRTI (course evaluation) questionnaire.
- 25 April 2016: campus budget update; long-term plans for campus website maintenance and development; deferred maintenance; fossil fuel divestment.
- 16 May 2016: college budget councils; UTAC; Continuing and Professional Education, including reorganization and search for Vice Provost for Continuing Education; FBS football.
- 25 July 2016: enrollments for the fall and university-wide admissions requirements; financial aid, guidelines for merit and need-based scholarships; Exploratory Tracks; resource allocation system.
- 24 August 2016: Shorelight localized distance education, dean and faculty searches; UMass Innovation Institute; capital planning, water (drought), and construction; preview state of the campus, 2016-2017.

## **Rules Committee**

During its meetings this year, the Rules Committee conducted routine business (including discussions of academic policy changes, campus and Faculty Senate governance, new programs, program reorganizations, and more) as well as invited sixteen individual guests to discuss campus-wide issues during ten different Rules Committee meetings.

- 28 August 2015: Carol Booth, recently hired University Ombudsperson, met with the Rules Committee about the reorganization of that office and the move of the academic honesty and grievance procedures from the Ombuds to the Office of the Provost. She also discussed the International Ombuds Association and UMass Amherst's compliance with its code of ethics, which are not conducive to the process required for cases involving concerns with academic honesty. The Committee also discussed the proposal for an Emeritus Academy.
- 11 September 2015: A discussion with Nelson Lacey, Faculty Senate Representative on the Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), focused on the role of that body in policy on athletics nationwide and at UMass Amherst.

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- 25 September 2015: Anticipating the new course materials ordering process through Amazon, Ruth Yanka, Executive Director of Administration and Finance and Alyson Gill, Associate Provost for Instructional Innovation, discussed the ordering system. Additional guests on the agenda were Betsy Dumont, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Barbara Partee, Distinguished University Professor Emerita, to discuss the proposed Emeritus Academy at UMass Amherst.
- 9 October 2016: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, including discussion of a report from the meeting of the Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) and a discussion of communication received from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).
- 23 October 2015: The Rules Committee conducted routine business and engaged in a discussion of a revised Emeritus Academy proposal and a Special Report of the Provost, focusing on the Shorelight localized distance learning initiative.
- 30 October 2015: The new Assistant Provost for Diversity, Leykia Brill, and the President of the Massachusetts Society of Professors, Randall Phillis, were guests at this meeting. The discussion with Assistant Provost Brill focused on her planned initiatives for increasing enrollments and retention of high-performing students who can improve inclusion on this campus. Professor Phillis addressed concerns related to the unfunded faculty salaries in the collective bargaining agreement and other Union issues.
- 13 November 2015: The Rules Committee received a request for advice on the 3+3 BA-JD program from John McCarthy, Senior Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School. This request and the proposed Joint Task Force on Student Success Learning Outcomes (JTFSSLO) were topics for discussion at this meeting.
- 11 December 2015: In addition to routine business, the topics for discussion at this Rules Committee luncheon meeting included an assessment of the state of the campus, which addressed inclusion and social justice following student activism at UMass Amherst in the Fall 2014 and the Fall 2015 terms.
- 6 January 2016: Discussions of SRTIs (course evaluations) and the policy on grades of Incomplete as well as routine business were the focus of this meeting.
- 5 February 2016: Julie Buehler, Vice Chancellor for Information Services and Strategy and Chief Information Officer, discussed the Information Technology strategic plan. John Bryan, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, and David Hart, Director of the Center for Educational Software Development, reported on the development of the Personnel Workflow System and the process underway to acquire feedback from users. The Committee also discussed reorganization in the College of Education.
- 26 February 2016: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, including further discussion of the reorganization of the College of Education, the faculty's role in creating/maintaining an inclusive classroom, and the possibility of a resolution on active bystandership following from an act of hate-speech graffiti on campus.
- 11 March 2016: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, including further discussion with Nelson Lacey who is the COIA Representative, cluster hires, and the course enrollments request for guidelines.

- 25 March 2016: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, including a discussion of Drupal websites and the academic calendar.
- 15 April 2015: The co-chairs of JTFRA, Elizabeth Chilton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement, and Jennifer Normanly, Head of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, presented a summary of the final report forthcoming from the task force. Gabriela Weaver, Director of the Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development (TEFD) discussed TEFD's current and future programs designed to facilitate inclusive classrooms and addressed the Rules Committee's queries regarding the potential for expanding some of the programs for use as campus-wide inclusive classroom training if UMass Amherst might offer such training. The Committee also discussed a revised resolution on an inclusive campus at UMass Amherst (previously a resolution against hate speech) and a motion from faculty senators on FBS football.
- 29 April 2016: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, including discussion of the proposed campus-wide strategic planning and budget advisory committee.
- 11 May 2016: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, including course enrollment guidelines and the proposals to restructure the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' degree requirements.
- 10 June 2016: A discussion with Ruth Yanka, Executive Director of Administration and Finance, focused on the results of the Amazon@UMass Surveys. Additional discussions addressed composition of the Campus-Level Planning and Resource Committee and the proposal from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) restructuring its degree requirements.
- 25 July 2016: Pamela Marsh Williams, Assistant Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Advising and Learning Communities, met with the Rules Committee to discuss concerns with credentials overlap. The Committee also discussed the status of the new General Education diversity requirements, the SBS proposal to restructure its degree requirements, and the implications for UMass Amherst of the fiscal year budget for 2017.
- 24 August 2016: A discussion with James Roche, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, focused on admissions requirements and competition for students at peer universities as well as the potential impact of a language proficiency requirement for a UMass Amherst degree. Additional discussions addressed an invitation to John Hird, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences to discuss the SBS degree requirements and selection of faculty representatives for membership on the Campus Planning and Resource Committee (CPARC).

### **Rules Committee Policy and Governance Major Discussions, 2015-2016**

Restructuring the degree requirements in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Course enrollment guidelines

General Education diversity requirement

Joint Task Force on Resource Allocation

Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight

Joint Subcommittee on Administrative Costs and Services

Emeritus Academy at UMass Amherst

Updating the Faculty Senate policy on centers and institutes

UMass Law 3+3

**Committees, Task Forces, Special Motions, Resolutions, and Other Activities**

Campus Planning and Resource Committee (CPARC)

Special Motion of Thanks to Professor Judith Goodenough

Resolution on FBS football

Resolution on an Inclusive Campus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Resolution Opposing Hate Speech at the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Shorelight Program Advisory Committee

Joint Task Force on Student Success Learning Outcomes (JTFSSLO)

Rules Committee representation (Chair, Rules Committee) on the Campus Forum on Diversity,  
3 December 2015

Rules Committee representation (Chair, Rules Committee) at Deans Council meeting with Student  
Government Association, focusing on an inclusive campus at UMass Amherst, 8 December 2015

Rules Committee meeting with President Martin Meehan, 16 October 2015

Faculty Senate Leadership Retreat with Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy, 15 October 2015