

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**  
**FACULTY SENATE RULES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2015**

Attendees: Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, Steven D. Brewer, Nancy Cohen, David Gross, Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, James Rinderle, Susan Whitbourne

**1. MINUTES**

Minutes from the October 30, 2015 Rules Committee meeting approved as amended.

Discussion about centralized (Google) vs email attached documents from Faculty Senate Office.

**2. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA**

Add Amazon to agenda

JTFRA wants more time at Faculty Senate meeting – need to ensure there is new content to share, submit questions in advance of meeting that we want to have answered – give 5 minutes plus Q&A

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

Proposal to create a Department of Biomedical Engineering

<https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/show/2234>

Assignment to Councils:

(Academic Matters Council, Academic Priorities Council, Graduate Council, Program and Budget Council, and add Research Council)

Cost of renovating labs is under-estimated; on salary anomalies - Dean and provost coming to PBC to discuss. They say it will pay for itself. What's the impact on other departments such as biology? Councils should put program proposals on hold until department is discussed. If there is a hold on programs and hiring, is that the best thing going forward? All new hiring is needed.

Engineering is predominantly white and male; Biomedical engineering is more diverse.

More reasonable to discuss how these programs will be housed if department isn't approved. Need to get agreement, critical mass and common interest to attract funding. Where is it going to be housed?

Life Sciences building is a model of interdisciplinary work, but had issues with support. Need to think about collaborative space, currently in 3 different locations. MJ will attend council meetings where there is no one from Rules Committee.

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. 3+3 BA-JD Program between this Campus and the Law School at UMass Dartmouth

Provisional accreditation – they are in year 3 so should be being reviewed for full compliance with all standards, not still provisional. Invite head of pre-law here to discuss. Diane Curtis is advisor for pre-law.

This campus is more rigorous in not double counting of bachelor's degree courses toward masters.

This double counting would be a change in policy - a whole year of undergraduate toward masters.

Final part of accelerated program should be of high standard, not of lower quality.

B. Report from Nancy Cohen – “How to Game the College Rankings – Northeastern University executed one of the most dramatic turnarounds in higher education. Its recipe for success? A single-minded focus on just one list.”

PBC discussion of Northeastern, pro-active approach to student success. Then discussion of article.

This is what it's going to take. Clemson did this. Holub did this here with framework of excellence where he looked at how best to increase in rankings. No one suggested that we move in this direction.

We need to decide what we want to do. “This” is what we do to make UMA a destination of choice.

Attend to what we want to be. Identify cost and start marching down that path. Have courses taught by faculty. PBC will continue discussion. Strategic plan needs to coalesce what we want to be.

National scholarships. Other schools give scholarships with strings attached such as come to meetings, meet with advisor.

C. Items for Rules Committee/Administration meeting on November 23, 2015

Football

JTFRA and progress of budget model

Swamy and budget

Student listening session - all issues of concern to students, student debt, TG bathrooms, racism, etc. what are the action steps. We need to be on top of this. Student activism - entering a new era.

Meehan - online degree program -UMass Center at Beacon Hill - we're offering 3 courses

Looking at Shorelight proposal. Steve wants it distributed to ICTC.

D. Proposed Joint Task Force on Assessing Learning Outcomes in the Gen Ed Curriculum

Assessment of First year seminars - how will it be done?

12 people including 2 undergraduates

Carol Barr, Martha Stassen

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Billings