

**2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

OF

RULES COMMITTEE

**Presented at the
780th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
October 18, 2018**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

**Marilyn Billings
Bruce Baird
David Gross, *Chair*
David Hoagland
Frank Hugus
MJ Peterson
Rebecca Spencer
Marinos Vouvakis
Wilmore Webley**

Annual Report of the Faculty Senate Rules Committee
Academic Year 2017-2018

General Overview

In addition to setting the agendas for seven 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 meetings of the Committee and of the Committee with the University administration during the academic year 2017-2018, including summer 2018.

The Rules Committee agenda meetings convened as follows: 8 September 2017; 13 October 2017; 3 November 2017; 17 November 2017; 1 December 2017; 15 December 2017; 12 January 2018; 26 January 2018; 16 February 2018; 9 March 2018; 23 March 2018; 13 April 2018; 20 April 2018; 27 April 2018; 25 May 2018; 15 June 2018; 23 July 2018; 20 August 2018.

The Rules Committee-Administration met as follows: 18 September 2017; 16 October 2017; 13 November 2017; 11 December 2017; 12 January 2018; 5 February 2018; 5 March 2018; 2 April 2018; 23 April 2018; 14 May 2018; 23 July 2018; 20 August 2018.

Faculty Senate Agendas

- The agenda for the 770th meeting of the Faculty Senate on 14 September 2017 featured Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy's State of the Campus Address, a presentation by Professor Max Page on the Fair Share Amendment, and a presentation by Vice Chancellor Julie Buehler and Chief Information Officer Matthew Dalton on cybersecurity. Also included were elections for the Associate Delegate to the Board of Trustees, two members of the Rules Committee and an election for the Chair of the Rules Committee. A vote on actions taken by the Rules Committee on behalf of the Senate was held.
- The agenda for the 771st meeting of the Faculty Senate on 12 October 2017 included a committee-of-the-whole discussion of the proposed changes to undergraduate degree requirements in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- The agenda for the 772nd meeting of the Faculty Senate on 16 November 2017 included a panel discussion on the Open Access Education Initiative. Several annual reports from councils and committees were accepted and David Hoagland was elected as Delegate to the Board of Trustees.
- Included on the agenda for the 773rd meeting of the Faculty Senate on 14 December 2017 were a motion to create the Ad Hoc Committee on Language Proficiency and a motion to approve the report in favor of changes in the undergraduate degree requirements in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences to replace the existing Global Education requirement.
- On the agenda for the 774th meeting of the Faculty Senate on 25 January 2018, Professor Claire Hamilton, Chair of the General Education Council, gave a presentation on the transition to the new DU and DG General Education designations.
- The agenda for the 775th meeting of the Faculty Senate on 15 February 2018 included a Committee of the Whole discussion of proposed changes to future academic calendars.

- On the agenda for the 776th meeting of the Faculty Senate on 8 March 2018, the Rules Committee invited John Wells from the Provost's Office to discuss plans for the new Online Education Group and Nancy Cohen, Senior Planning Officer from the Chancellor's Office, to discuss aspects of campus strategic planning and upcoming accreditation activities. The Special Nominating Committee report provided one name for nomination to be Senate Secretary for 2018-2021: M. J. Peterson.
- For the 777th meeting of the Faculty Senate on 12 April 2018, the election of Senate Secretary was held. The postponed presentation on strategic planning by Nancy Cohen was on the agenda.
- For the 778th meeting of the Faculty Senate on 26 April 2018, the election of the 2018-2019 Presiding Officer (nominee: Frank Hugus) was on the agenda. The Rules Committee offered a special report on the Mount Ida teach out and the Academic Matters Council offered a special report on proposed changes to the W date on future academic calendars. Professor Jennifer Normanly, Chair of the Campus Planning and Resource Committee (CPARC), gave a report and campus planning and budgeting and Professor Nancy Cohen, Senior Planning Officer, reported on the updated Campus Strategic Plan.

Rules-Administration

The Rules Committee meets regularly with senior members of the Administration in order to stay up-to-date on issues facing the campus. Specifics of this year's meeting agendas are as follows.

- 14 September 2017: New students orientations and September move-in; profile of the class of 2021; prospects for future federal research spending.
- 16 October 2017: Chancellor's discussion of faculty being targeted for speech; student retention trends; research effort reporting rules.
- 13 November 2017: Anna Branch, Associate Chancellor for Diversity, and Tricia Serio, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, attended the meeting to facilitate a discussion about the impact of sexual harassment on teaching, research, and the University's public reputation.
- 11 December 2017: faculty hiring under a new diversity program; current status of the Shorelight program; deferred maintenance on campus buildings and the determinants that control costs of construction work.
- 12 January 2018: The Provost introduced Michelle Budig and Claire Hamilton who are working with the Administration on separate special projects (faculty career progress and assessment, respectively); the Provost announced that the Chancellor has created a special committee to work on reorganization of online course offerings; Deputy Chancellor Goodwin described his purview; more information on student retention; Associate Provost Martha Stassen described the status of online SRTI course evaluations.
- 5 March 2018: Update on the state bonding bill for higher education; Provost office initiatives; report on internationalization efforts and results of the Chancellor's visit to India.

- 2 April 2018: Potential purchase of a private college in the Boston metro area; plans for renovation of the University's athletic facilities; planning for a visit by the chair of the upcoming NEASC accreditation team; description of a planned use of software to collate faculty activity into one site; Anna Branch, Associate Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion, reports on data from the Campus Climate Survey.
- 23 April 2018: Report on the undergraduate mood and impact of the "Hate has No Home at UMass" campaign; discussion of the teach-out transition for current Mount Ida students; visit by Susan Hunter, President of the University of Maine and Chair of the NEASC Site Visit Committee, to discuss plans for the site visit in October 2018.
- 14 May 2018: Update on the Mount Ida purchase; discussion of the processes by which Associate Deans are appointed and reviewed; more on the Campus Climate Survey results.
- 23 July 2018: Update on condition and planned utilization of Mount Ida campus; reorganization of the Office of Research and Engagement; undergraduate admissions yield in a historical context.
- 20 August 2018: update on potential public-private partnerships for possible new construction on campus; update on the TEFD/faculty development transition; projections of the FY 2019 budget; potential restructuring of University Without Walls as related to the online education initiative.

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 fourteen individual guests to discuss campus-wide issues during seventeen different Rules Committee meetings. An additional special meeting with UMass President Marty Meehan was also held.

- 8 September 2017: The Rules Committee provided comments on finalists for the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs position to which Farshid Hajir was later appointed. It also discussed the items likely to appear on fall term Faculty Senate meetings.
- 13 October 2017: Ruth Yanka, Executive Director, A & F Operations, and Alyson Gill, Associate Provost for Instructional Innovation, discussed the Amazon textbook contract and the fact that Amazon is transitioning away from the textbook business; the Rules Committee discussed the need for a replacement Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees because of Farshid Hajir's appointment as a Senior Vice Provost, and the need to revise the Faculty Senate Practicum.
- 3 November 2017: Michelle Goncalves and Anna Branch described the effort to include student self-selected personal pronouns in SPIRE starting in academic year 2018-19; further work on the Senate Practicum proposal; discussion of a Faculty Senate member of the textbook vendor selection committee.

- 17 November 2017: A tenured faculty member raised concerns regarding the Academic Grievance Procedures (Sen. Doc. 17-011); discussion about the Academic Calendar.
- 1 December 2017: The Rules Committee discussed the creation of an ad hoc committee on language proficiency in response to the Senate Committee of the Whole discussion of the Global Education change in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences curriculum requirements; the Rules Committee discussed the Administration's proposed consensual relationships policy.
- 15 December 2017: The Rules Committee luncheon meeting included a review of the Fall semester, a look forward to the Spring semester and a discussion of the Special Nominating Committee to vet candidates for Secretary.
- 12 January 2018: Patrick Sullivan, University Registrar, discussed with the Rules Committee the change of the withdraw date on the Academic Calendar to later in the semester as well as reasons for the week-long Thanksgiving break; the Rules Committee discussed rotation of CPARC membership and possible nominees for the ad hoc committee on language proficiency.
- 26 January 2018: The Rules Committee conducted routine business and discussed potential topics for a meeting between UMass President Marty Meehan and the Rules Committee.
- 31 January 2018: The Rules Committee met with UMass President Marty Meehan. We discussed the move toward online courses; strategies to get campus capital spending funded by the state rather than by campuses; campus enrollment targets; public-private partnerships; and the Fair Share amendment.
- 16 February 2018: The Rules Committee conducted routine business and discussed ways to improve attendance at Senate meetings.
- 9 March 2018: The Rules Committee discussed the need to engage the new Online Education group to assure alignment of best practices pedagogy and course creation for online courses with Senate rules.
- 23 March 2018: Joya Misra, Professor in the Department of Sociology, discussed her consultation with UMass Boston faculty about work-life balance and faculty service, a topic that was also discussed at the Intercampus Faculty Council.
- 13 April 2018: The Rules Committee conducted routine business and met with John Wells to discuss issues related to the Online Education effort to expand online course offerings.
- 20 April 2018: The Rules Committee met with university staff members at their request to discuss ongoing staff issues at UMass Information Technology and possible next steps in their ongoing discussion with the administration. The Rules Committee also discussed the Mount Ida Veterinary Technician program and its possible teach-out by UMass Amherst.
- 27 April 2018: Matthew Dalton, UMass IT, presented proposed changes to university policy surrounding information security; Gabriela Weaver, Director of the Institute for Teaching

Excellence and Faculty Development, discussed potential changes to the methods by which teaching is evaluated for merit and personnel actions.

- 25 May 2018: At a lunch meeting, the Rules Committee discussed potential new at-large members of the Rules Committee, the year in review, and a look forward to next year.
- 15 June 2018: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, and discussed the progress of needed approvals for the Veterinary Technology teach-out at Mount Ida, the Chancellor's likely plans regarding the Provost search, the progress of Dean of Isenberg search, and the matters on the agenda for the special Board of Trustees meeting in July.
- 23 July 2018: Chris Misra, Interim Vice Chancellor for Information Services and Strategy discussed his plan to oversee UMass IT. The Rules Committee discussed the outcomes of the July special meeting of the Board of Trustees and potential candidates for at-large members, Rules Committee chair, and Associate Delegate to the Board of Trustees.
- 20 August 2018: The Rules Committee conducted routine business, discussed nominees for Chair of the Rules Committee, discussed departmental climate surveys, and projected what Senate business is anticipated for the upcoming academic year.

Rules Committee Policy and Governance Major Discussions

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

Proposal to purchase the Mount Ida College campus

Move to a more integrated curriculum including online course offerings

Change in the structure of TEFD to separate teaching excellence and faculty development

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

Ad Hoc Committee on Language Proficiency

Changes to the academic calendar to move the W withdraw date to later in the semester

Appointment of a Faculty Senate member to the textbook vendor selection committee

Meeting with UMass President Marty Meehan during his visit to campus