

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**AUGUST 28, 2015
HAMPSHIRE HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM #120
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

Attendance

MJ Peterson
A Yemisi Jimoh, Chair
Richard Bogartz
Steven D. Brewer
Susan K. Whitbourne
Nancy Cohen

Carol Booth, Guest

Jim Rinderle had announced he would be not present.

1. GUEST

Carol Booth, University Ombudsperson

Invited questions. Provided introduction to herself: Lawyer, UMass graduate, & from an academic background – Last 8 years, attorney for student legal services. Believes that mediation & discussion often more effective for resolving disputes than adversarial practices. Supports the plan to transform Ombuds role from faculty role to professional mediator. Has been meeting with many people. Many things will remain the same, but formal disciplinary procedures (hearings) moving from Ombuds into Provost's Office.

Question about standards and how to evaluate whether standards are “best standards:” international Ombuds Association can provide guidance and assurance. Code of ethics for Ombuds: impartiality, informality, independence & confidentiality.

Question about relationship between academic honesty & academic grievance: faculty are required to initiate an informal resolution if possible which the Ombuds can support; if there's an actual (formal) charge, those must go to the Provost's Office – not sure who.

Question about the nature of disputes brought to the Ombuds Office: There are many disputes beyond grades: roommates that can't get along, employees that have a dispute. There are grade disputes, especially among undergraduates.

Question about how resolutions will differ under the new model: There are no data to predict. Many people are uncomfortable with conflict and will decline to move forward if it means having a direct conversation. Providing an opportunity to present their case to an impartial party may help people understand their position better.

2. MINUTES

Minutes from the July 27, 2015 Rules Committee meeting

The minutes were approved as amended.

Discussion of policy for Rules Committee (RC) guests: suggestion to keep guests to half hour.

3. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For September 10, 2015)

- A. Welcome from Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy**
- B. Address by Stanley Rosenberg, President of the Massachusetts Senate (Questions and Discussion to follow)**
- C. Remarks by Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy (Questions and Discussion to follow)**
- D. 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Research Library Council, as presented in Sen. Doc. No.**
- E. Elections – One Associate Delegate to the Board of Trustees (Nominee: Marilyn Billings, Library); One At-Large Member of the Rules Committee; Chair of the Rules Committee**

Potential nominees were discussed for RC roles. Discussed implications for JTFRA and ex officio memberships.

The Secretary will send notes announcing the vacancies and the fact that all nominations will come from the floor.

- F. Action Taken by the Rules Committee, on Behalf of the Faculty Senate, over the summer 2015 – Special Report of the Academic Matters and Academic Priorities Councils concerning a Title Change from the Certificate in Native American Indian Studies to the Certificate in Native American and Indigenous Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 15-055 with Motion No. 42-15.**
- G. Old Business – Amendment to the Special Report of the Nominating Committee concerning Nominations to Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 15-050B with Motion No. 34-15.**

On the document for the 750th, the CHC annual report needs to be added under F and the motion listed under H needs to refer to Item H.

Move elections to before annual reports.

The agenda was approved as amended.

4. ACTION ITEM

Closing of Centers – Non-Controversial

The minutes don't reflect that the RC voted, so the motion to vote was made and seconded, and adopted unanimously. A motion to recommend closing the two centers and one institute was made and seconded, then adopted unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. The Emeritus Academy

The announcement that the Academy would be housed in the space occupied by the Teaching Commons was briefly noted.

- B. Policy on Centers and Institutes**
- C. Faculty Senate Meetings**
- D. Candidate(s) for Rules Committee**

As discussed above.

E. Name(s) for Police Chief Search Committee

Two names were raised and the characteristics of desirable candidates were discussed. Committee agreed to put forward one name with a second as an alternate.

F. Process for considering anticipated Proposals

Other items tabled in the interest of time.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Steven D. Brewer