

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MARCH 11, 2016
HAMPSHIRE HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM #120**

Present: Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, Steven Brewer, Nancy Cohen, David Gross, Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, Jim Rinderle, Susan K. Whitbourne

**1. GUEST
Nelson Lacey, COIA Representative**

Lacey attended COIA meeting in Indianapolis in late February, brought a copy of the minutes, and shared impressions.

**2. MINUTES
Minutes of the February 5, 2016 Rules Committee meeting submitted by Jim Rinderle.**
Minutes from Feb 5 were not available. Rinderle provided notes that were amended by the committee from memory that will be available for approval at a subsequent meeting.

Minutes of the February 26, 2016 Rules Committee meeting submitted by Susan Whitbourne.
Minutes approved as amended.

3. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For April 7, 2016)
The committee noted that the Master's Degree item tabled from the March 10 meeting should be added to this agenda. It was also questioned which Faculty Senate document requires CPE instructors to be approved by department personnel committees.

It was suggested the agenda might include a "committee of the whole" discussion about the proposed "course cancellation policy" with a notation that the Rules Committee will act in the interest of the will of the Senate.

As the Shorelight proposal completes the council review, it has been suggested to create a standing review committee, including the chairs of APC, Grad Council, ICTC, and PBC as an amendment to the approval of the program.

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Cluster Hires**

There was a discussion of the causes and implications of the current trend toward non-department-centered hiring.

B. How are First-Year Seminars going?
The committee raised concerns and questions about the evaluation presented of the first-year seminars at the recent Rules Committee/Administration meeting.

C. Course Size Policy
This topic was discussed in the context of the Faculty Senate Agenda (see above).

D. Rules Committee/Administration Meeting Topics for April 4, 2016
This topic was tabled until next Rules Committee meeting, with the exception that it was suggested to invite the new police chief to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Steven D. Brewer