

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016

10:15 A.M.

HAMPSHIRE HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM #120

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

**1. GUEST: Pamela Marsh-Williams
“Credentials Overlap Policy”**

We have a policy which hasn't been publicized, and it's been suspended, which also hasn't been publicized. Many issues came up during discussions that need to be considered for students in a major, double majors, a minor, and non-matriculated students taking certificates through CPE. Students in a major and a minor are already completing requirements in independent departments. A certificate stands alone and isn't part of a major or minor. This policy does not cover second majors or dual degrees, each of which is addressed by another policy. It was suggested that we might need further discussion of exceptions in the future. The intent is to have clarity about credentials overlap during the advising process rather than later in a student's career. Currently no more than 2 courses used for one credential can be used to fulfill the requirements of another. More information needs to be gathered on what our peer institutions are doing, what is the standard policy, what specific programs or departments are impacted or have objections to the policy.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the June 10, 2016 Rules Committee meeting submitted by Susan K. Whitbourne were approved with minor revisions.

3. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate, approval of the Special Report of the Academic Matters and Academic Priorities Councils concerning a Revision of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 16-077 with Motion No. 34-16.

Approved.

- B. Acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate, approval of the Special Report of the Academic Matters, Academic Priorities and Program and Budget Councils concerning a Real Estate Series Certificate at Isenberg, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 16-078 with Motion No. 35-16.

Approved by a vote of 6 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review of Charges to Councils regarding content of their Annual Report to the Faculty Senate

This topic came up because of the Athletic Council's tardy submission of annual report. It was noted that other committees and councils' reports are delayed. The Secretary will review annual reports, compile a summary of the provision for annual reports in bylaws for each one and report back to Rules. The goal is to develop standards and guidelines across all councils and committees.

B. Faculty Senate Processes – 2015-2016: What Worked/What Didn't

Suggestions for Faculty Senate meetings included starting on time, and better managing the time during meeting. Suggestions for Rules Committee meetings focused on more effective structuring of conversations with guests.

C. Update on Revised Diversity Requirement

Rules Committee action will be needed because the General Education Council has been working on this topic over the summer, instituting a new D Gen Ed requirement for diversity, developed a new set of eLearning outcomes and course structure requirements. Lots of discussion ensued regarding possible restructuring of existing G or U courses to meet this requirement, what the potential process might be, timeline for implementation. Gen Ed will come to us early in fall with this topic.

D. Update on SBS Proposal to Replace Global Ed Requirement

There have been objections to the proposal from HFA.

E. Campus Implications of FY17 Budget

More conversation is needed about representation on CPARC.

F. Revised Meeting Schedule for Fall 2016

December 8th Faculty Senate meeting changed to December 15th and Rules Committee meeting on December 9th changed to December 16th because of BOT meetings on this campus December 8th-9th.

Submitted by

Marilyn Billings