

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
RULES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2015**

Present: MJ Peterson, R Bogartz, J Rinderle, Y Jimoh, S Brewer, N Cohen, S Whitbourne, D Gross, M Billings

Guests: Ruth Yanka, Alyson Gill, Betsy Dumont, Barbara Partee

1. The minutes of the September 11, 2015 Rules Committee meeting were approved as amended.
2. Ruth Yanka, Executive Director of A&F Operations, and Alyson Gill, Associate Provost for Instructional Innovation, discussed the status and issues with ordering class materials from Amazon. Approximately 1300 people (3000 sections) used the adoption tool. Most were eligible for free 1-day shipping filled by Amazon. We need to clarify for students in the future which books are fulfilled by Amazon and thus eligible for free 1-day shipping and which are not. There were some high-profile items out of stock, such as books for the English Writing program. There were also delivery issues with the US Postal Service, as some students did not receive books in 1 day as expected. Amazon is working on forecasting books better. They need to improve communication with faculty and order books on time. Thirty-three faculty members had problems with adoption of books. Amazon will be reaching out to them personally. For those students who received books late or had a glitch with the 1-day free, they will receive a coupon from Amazon. In the future, we will discuss with Amazon the need for desk copies and increase use of used books. The system for picking up books was very easy for students and much improved from the past system. If there are any other issues, faculty should notify Ruth Yanka at [ryanka@admin.umass.edu](mailto:ryanka@admin.umass.edu) and cc. Alyson Gill.
3. Senior Vice Provost Betsy Dumont and Professor Emerita Barbara Partee discussed the proposal for the Emeritus Academy. The goal is to provide an intellectual and physical home for retired faculty and exposure to the wider campus (e.g., a place in the Library). Accessibility issues were discussed. Anticipated membership is estimated at 30 up to 100 faculty members. Future plans include integrated programs with the Five College Learning in Retirement Program. The budget includes 10-15 fellowships/year of \$2000, a seminar and social event budget, staffing of the desk in the Library by the Library undergraduate student, and organizational help provided by the Provost's Office. We discussed seeking external funding, such as through the Retirement Research Foundation. It would be useful to flesh out the budget, criteria for entry into the Academy, and how this proposal contributes to the campus priorities vis-à-vis the destination of choice/investment of choice, student benefits, etc. Potential benefits include mentoring junior faculty, mentoring students, serving on committees, etc. Betsy and Barbara plan to redraft the proposal in light of the discussion.
4. The Faculty Senate agenda items for October 9, 2015 were approved. Keeping time limits will be important. We will use a consent agenda for receiving reports and approving reports unless we anticipate a desire for discussion (e.g., the Centers and Institutes revision).
5. Discussion of the Intercampus Faculty Council and FIRE request were moved to the next Rules Committee meeting.

Submitted by,  
Nancy Cohen