

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

OCTOBER 9, 2015

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

1. MINUTES

Minutes from the September 25, 2015 Rules Committee meeting submitted by Nancy Cohen. David Gross is responsible for the minutes of this meeting. (If he cannot attend, Susan Whitbourne is responsible.)

Amendments were made to the minutes, which were moved, seconded and approved as amended.

2. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For November 12, 2015)

See Agenda.

Repair typo (QUESTONS). This seems to be a short agenda. Dick B. will keep the timing of reports tight. Change the "Report" from Dan Gerber to a "Presentation" - 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Senate Leadership Retreat: Oct. 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the Bernie Dallas Room, Goodell
Meeting with Marty Meehan: Oct. 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Whitmore Board Room**

A. Intercampus Faculty Council

A typical Intercampus Faculty Council (IFC) meeting involves reports from campuses and a topic for discussion. It's a good place to "vent." One member was wondering what we're doing there. Students are at the table as are chancellors. Faculty are relegated to subsidiary seating away from the table. The faculty delegates feel that they are not "at the table."

One useful aspect of the IFC is that we can hear the issues from the other campuses. An example is the effort of the students on the IFC about fossil fuel divestment. The students realized that the decision would be made centrally, so they organized to apply pressure there rather than at individual campuses.

What is the linkage between the IFC and the Board of Trustees (BOT)? The BOT treats faculty as second class. An example is the reservation of rooms at the hotel for the next meeting. Faculty aren't included and may have a chance to get rooms at the secondary site. This suggests that the BOT does not think that faculty delegates are worthy of equal participation.

We need to clarify the following: Are these meetings fully open or are parts closed? Are these meetings covered by the Open Meetings Law? Does the FSU president actually have a voting role at these meetings? (The Secretary will ask the IFC president to find out the answers.)

B. Communication from Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)

FIRE is very concerned with first amendment rights. FIRE is equally concerned with faculty and student rights. There are some concerns about the U Chicago statement as it describes both academic freedom and academic responsibility. The case of the U of Illinois faculty member who was "unhired" after blogging about Israel was mentioned.

There was general agreement that we should support academic freedom and freedom of speech. The boundaries of a general policy are where the problems occur. Examples include triggering traumatic recollections of bystanders by particular speech, continuing hateful “free” speech that becomes harassment of others, the limitations on release of information for contract-funded research.

What is in the Redbook and in the MSP contract that relates to academic freedom? Dave G. will get current contract language and circulate it. The Redbook refers to the AAU 1940 statement in Article II.

C. Gen Ed and IE courses

In HFA, there is a great concern about enrollments. Julie Hayes, Dean of HFA, and Assoc. Dean Joe Bartolomeo, both are concerned about the IE, which removes one Gen Ed course requirement. Is IE really working? Should we have a presentation from Martha Stassen about the efficacy of IEs? Should we have Claire Hamilton (chair of Gen Ed Council) in to discuss this? The IE program was supposed to be funded, but wasn't. It was a bad idea, and remains a bad idea. The IE program was a top-down creation, and is not liked by students and faculty. We need to think more about it.

D. Proposal for a School of Earth and Sustainability – CMS Proposal #2176 **<https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/show/2176>**

Visit by Curt Griffin and Craig Nicholson to answer questions about the proposal. There was discussion about the name (particularly “Earth”) and names of comparable units at other institutions. CNS Deans support for the main cost of the program will be ongoing, not one-time.

E. Possible Agenda Items for November and December

Already done.

F. Agenda Items for the October 19th Rules Committee/Administration meeting

Follow-up on Meehan visit.

Report on innovations that the Provost has introduced.

Discussion about JSACS (Joint Subcommittee on Administrative Costs and Services) (probably hold this to a later meeting).

LuvoLearn use by Disability Services.

SPIRE/Amazon book ordering issues.

How is UMass Rising campaign going?

UTAC (University Town of Amherst Collaborative) (Univ. and Amherst interactions)

G. Whitmore changing a departmental website without notification

The Secretary reported on the problem that happened to Biology that their course requirement in the online University Course Catalog was changed without their knowledge. It was reported that the change would be reversed. This appeared to be a result of lost communication in the change of department chair from Rolf Karlstrom to Elizabeth Connor. These sorts of changes need to proceed through the appropriate Faculty Senate committees prior to implementation.

Submitted by David Gross