

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
RULES COMMITTEE**

Minutes - October 10, 2014

Present were: Richard Bogartz, James Kurose, Ernest May, MJ Peterson, Steven D. Brewer, Nancy Cohen, Marilyn Billings, Anurag Sharma, Susan Whitbourne

Guest: John McCarthy

**1. DISCUSSION WITH JOHN MCCARTHY:**

Dean McCarthy presented plans to develop a new freshman seminar program taught by advanced doctoral students and post-doctorates. The goal is to provide significant curricular enrichment and small classes in the academic disciplines through a 1-credit seminar which will be required of freshmen. We discussed potential course content, training required, course proposal approval mechanism, assessment, budget, mentorship, grading, space, and timing to begin the program. Dean McCarthy noted that 1 seminar would be equivalent to a 3.33 hour/week Teaching Associateship. We noted that it would be useful to begin as a pilot to identify any issues before it is released campus wide.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 26, 2014 meeting were approved. Approval of the minutes of the September 12th meeting was deferred to the next Rules Committee meeting. We noted the preference for using full sentences and avoiding acronyms in minutes if possible.

**3. FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (For November 13, 2014)**

We discussed having a presentation on the Capital Budget at the next Faculty Senate meeting, and inviting James Sheehan, Shane Conklin, and/or Juanita Holler to provide remarks. We noted that there will be one more Rules Committee meeting before the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, so we will revisit this agenda.

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Certificate in Climate Change and Green Infrastructure:  
This proposal will be able to be reviewed without going through the online curriculum management system.
- B. We will need to replace Jim Kurose as Delegate to the Board of Trustees.
- C. We began to suggest names for Research Administration Advisory Board and need to solicit others.
- D. We need to solicit names for the Ombudsman Search Committee.
- E. We will set up a Rules Committee lunch to prepare for a Next Steps meeting on October 20 between the Rules Committee and Deans/Provost concerning College Budget Councils.

Submitted by,

Nancy Cohen