

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST  
RULES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 23, 2015**

**Present: MJ Peterson, R Bogartz, S Brewer, N Cohen, S Whitbourne, D Gross**

**1. MINUTES**

Minutes from the October 9, 2015 Rules Committee meeting submitted by David Gross were approved as amended.

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

The agenda was discussed but it was noted that this is the day of President Meehan's inauguration in Boston, and therefore many of the upper administration will most likely not be present. The agenda was approved.

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Special Report of the Provost concerning a New Distance Learning Program**

Discussion of what the experience will be like for the students who are part of this program occurred. The proposal was assigned to the following Councils: Academic Priorities, International Studies, Program and Budget, Graduate, Student Affairs and Residential Life, and Information and Communication Technology.

**B. Allocation of Draft Internationalization Report to Councils**

The proposal was assigned to the following Councils: Program and Budget, Academic Priorities, Academic Matters, Graduate, Research, Commonwealth Honors, and International Studies. In particular, Commonwealth Honors and International Studies Councils might consider the addition of the Fulbright Scholar and Fulbright Student Programs to the Internationalization Plan.

**C. Electronic File Sharing for Rules Committee**

The Rules Committee has tested a variety of methods for file sharing. The advantages and disadvantages of various sharing methods were discussed with the goal of simplifying the process of sending attachments that are now being emailed. We agreed to experiment with this method for agendas and minutes. If this works, we could suggest to councils who do heavy editing work that they store their documents in this manner as well. The Google drive we use will be based on the Apps at UMass.

We also discussed the listserv for the Rules Committee. Currently, anyone can post a message to it and if you "reply all," it will go to the listserv members plus the person who wrote the original email. When the list starts getting spam we will test out using a moderator by the Faculty Senate office and the Secretary of the Faculty Senate. All messages from an @umass.edu address will be admitted as long as it doesn't look like the account has been hacked.

**D. November 12<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting**

The agenda was already discussed and approved.

**E. FIRE Request**

MJ Peterson reported that she reviewed the request for a response and will respond to this request on behalf of the Rules Committee.

**F. Bylaws: APC Mandate**

After a discussion, we decided to leave the Bylaw Change as is.

**G. Revised Emeritus Academy Report (*previously sent*)**

Concerns were raised about this proposal around several issues including the funding, how the members are selected, the physical location and its accessibility (which may raise ADEA concerns), and its relationship to the Retired Faculty Administration. One suggestion is that the Academy would be open to any retired faculty but funding would be decided upon by, for example, the Board of the Retired Faculty Association. The proposal will be assigned to the Academic Priorities Council. MJ Peterson will send them the proposal and invite them to send us their comments.

**H. Possibility of an invitation to the President of the MSP**

We agreed to invite Randy Phillis, President of the MSP to the next meeting of the Rules Committee. If Randy is unable to attend, David Gross will present.

**Submitted by  
Susan Whitbourne**