

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Friday, October 30, 2015**

Present: Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, Steven D. Brewer, Nancy Cohen, David Gross, A Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, and Jim Rinderle

1. GUESTS

Leykia Brill, Assistant Provost for Diversity

Assistant Provost Brill briefed the RC on initiatives directed toward increasing applications from, and improving retention of, those who increase student diversity.

Randall Phillis, President, Massachusetts Society of Professors

Professor Phillis updated the RC on the funding of faculty collective bargaining agreements. He also reviewed historical and recent events relating to the *Boston Globe* article on issues within the Chemical Engineering Department. He believes the MSP and the administration have worked cooperatively to resolve issues in that department.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the October 23, 2015 Rules Committee meeting were approved as revised.

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

President Meehan's inauguration ceremony will be held on November 12th and many among the campus leadership team will be in Boston for the ceremonies. As such, it is anticipated that the Senate meeting attendance will be light.

Pending the results of an electronic vote by the PBC, a motion to approve revisions to the BFA in Studio Arts will be added to the consent agenda for the November 12th meeting.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. Perspective on recent *Boston Globe* Story

This article was discussed with our guest, Professor Phillis, as recorded previously.

C. Likely Joint Task Force on Outcomes in General Education

MJ reported that a new task force was likely to be formed which would broadly address issues of assessments of learning outcomes. A likely first stage of that activity will address General Education including the Integrative Experience requirement. The new task force will assume some functions of the now expired Joint Task Force on Student Learning Outcomes Assessment.

Dick suggested that the new task force might want to examine the effectiveness of the new 1st year seminars and the possibility of including in those seminars or elsewhere topics related to teaching students how to study.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Rinderle