

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Rules Committee
Minutes
January 30, 2015**

Present: Richard Bogartz, Steven D. Brewer, Nancy Cohen, Yemisi Jimoh, Ernest May, MJ Peterson, James Rinderle, Susan Krauss Whitbourne

1. Minutes

Minutes of the January 16, 2015 Rules Committee meeting were approved as submitted by James Rinderle.

2. Faculty Senate Agenda Items for February 19, 2015

The committee agreed to invite the following presenters (Q&A to follow each presentation):

Diversity Council members (10 minutes)

Vice Chancellor James Sheehan on the Amazon Bookstore transition (10 min)

3. Discussion Items

A. Faculty Senate Guidelines for Presentations to the Senate.

The discussion centered on bringing a basic structure to Faculty Senate meetings. We might facilitate this by providing invited speakers with general guidelines for their presentations and by noting on the agenda that the meetings will start promptly at 3:30pm (at which time the day's selected reading will begin).

B. Draft Diversity Strategic Plan Document

A broad-ranging discussion of the Draft Diversity Strategic Plan document occurred. The plan does an effective job addressing the issues it presents. Someone from the Diversity Council will be invited to present at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

C. Open Access Document

Send to Research Council and Graduate Council

D. Special Report: Application of Courses towards Multiple Credentials (Sen. Doc. No. unassigned)

The committee discussed the most recent version of the report from the Academic Matters Council on overlap of courses toward multiple credentials and concluded that it should be submitted for Senate approval in February.

E. APC and PBC Reports on Budget Councils

The committee's discussion of these reports on college budget councils resulted in the suggestion that the Senate would benefit from seeing a wider set of views than would be available through the report of a lead council. The committee recommended that each council report separately and that the Rules Committee will produce an overall report.

F. Undeclared Students

This issue was left open on the question of whether there will be a separate meeting or whether to make it part of a future monthly Rules-Administration meeting.

G. Consent Agenda for Senate Votes

A proposal to present motions for Senate votes in a consent agenda received support. While the Rules Committee will determine which motions will be placed on the consent agenda, any Senator can request that a motion on the consent agenda be considered separately. The committee agreed that agendas for future Senate meetings distributed in advance will include a list of motions selected for the consent agenda. The RC also agreed that some items are sufficiently important that they merit separate consideration and a separate vote so will not be included in a consent agenda. At the next Faculty Senate meeting, all motions except the motion on the new College of Information and Computer Science will be presented as a consent agenda.

H. Other

The committee briefly discussed issues related to the JTFRA document on the current SBAS model; the process that will be followed for evaluation of the Chancellor; and the search for the UMass system President.

Respectfully submitted,
A Yemisi Jimoh