

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2015

In attendance: Ernest May, James Rinderle, MJ Peterson, Marilyn Billings, Steven D. Brewer, A Yemisi Jimoh, Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Richard Bogartz, Nancy Cohen

The minutes of 1/30/15 were approved.

1. GUEST

Martha Stassen, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning and Assessment presented the proposal to move to online SRTIs. The benefits include saving paper, class time, more complete participation of courses, and students' written feedback is included as part of instructor reports. The challenges are achieving acceptable response rates, some instructor concerns, and that it may be harder for instructors to add questions to SRTI. While these changes are being considered, as are changes in the questions themselves to make them more appropriate for large classes. Other possible changes to the SRTIs were also discussed. Students do provide more open-ended responses to the online than the written surveys. This might also allow for analysis of the written responses as well. As of now, the plan is to have SRTI fully online by Fall 2016 though individual departments have currently been using it. They would like departments to pilot test these prior to that time.

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

- A. Presentation from the Joint Task Force on Resource Allocation (JTFRA)
Elizabeth Chilton and Timothy Anderson, Co-Chairs
Discussion: A draft report has been written but College Program and Budget Councils are not written into it. JFTRA is meeting on 2/25. They are not asking for a vote until the April meeting. They will be asking for a vote to test the model in FY 16. As the model is being tested the specifics will be vetted. There is most likely to be a soft launch with the model eventually solidifying over 5 to 10 years. The graduate waiver is one of the more significant problems in the current proposal. Departments could be faced with a waiver bill in the middle of the semester with no advance warning.
- B. Approval of a new course by the Academic Matters Council

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Alyson Gill, Associate Provost for Instructional Innovation, guest at the February 27th Rules Committee meeting. The purpose of this meeting would be to gain a briefing on plans in this area with the potential goal of having a presentation to the full Senate.
- B. Prompts for (Draft) Review of Certificates. There will be changes to this coming out of AMC. Problems with this draft were discussed.

- C. Topics for the February 23rd Rules Committee/Administration meeting:
 - 1. Status of Faculty Search Procedures (Bryan, Newman)
 - 2. Digital Signatures Policy (Buehler)
 - 3. UMakeUMass (Gelaye, Shaw, Soles, Seifert, Hull)
 - 4. Status of Text for Open Access Policy (Malone, Schafer)
 - 5. Status of Phase III Strategic Planning (Harvey, Newman, Swamy)
 - 6. Status of Graduate Admissions Policy (McCarthy, Malone)
 - 7. Status of JTFRA Report (Chilton)
- D. Chancellor Evaluation on Tuesday, March 3 (11:15 a.m., Campus Center 811)
The Rules Committee and MSP will be meeting with the evaluation team; there will be a public meeting at 4 pm CC 804. There was a discussion of how this process should be conducted. MJ will draft a Rules Committee statement for the Chancellor review.
- E. Faculty Senate Meeting Schedule
- F. Other- MJ will draft a memo regarding the composition of the study committee that will be formed in response to the Iranian student graduate admission issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Krauss Whitbourne