

**University of Massachusetts Amherst
Rules Committee
Minutes
May 1, 2015**

Present: Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, Steven Brewer, Nancy Cohen, Yemisi Jimoh, Ernest May, MJ Peterson, James Rinderle, Susan Whitbourne

1. Guest

**Claire Hamilton, Chair of the General Education Council
Revisions in the analytic reasoning requirements (R1/R2)**

In 1985, the Legislature established a university requirement for mathematics and analytical reasoning. The requirements have not changed substantially since that time, but the types of reasoning expected of college graduates have changed. A new environment requires a new approach to analytical reasoning. The General Education Council is concerned with the following R1/R2 issues: 1) math placement examination is not proctored (how to provide secure exemption test), 2) language for analytical reasoning (R/2) is unclear (critical thinking does not fulfill this requirement), 3) guidelines for combined R1/R2 courses (established in 2005) need revision, and 4) transfer compact exemption test needs refinement

The General Education Council would like to suspend requests for R1/R2 courses so that the guidelines can be updated. The Rules Committee supports suspending proposals for new R1/R2 courses until the General Education Council can update the requirements. New proposals will be delayed for at least one academic year. Claire Hamilton will report on progress at the end of fall 2015.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the April 22, 2015 Rules Committee meeting, submitted by Nancy Cohen, were approved as revised.

3. Faculty Senate Agenda Items for May 7, 2015

The Committee agreed to add the following Faculty Senate agenda items for May 7, 2015:

Report on the School of Public Policy

Report on the Berthiaume Center for Entrepreneurship

4. Discussion Items

A. Faculty Senate Schedule, Location, and Agenda Items

The revised academic calendar and the postponed Rules-Administration meetings resulted in shifts in the schedules for the Rules Committee and Faculty Senate. The Committee had already set the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on April 30, 2015, which will be held in the Integrative Learning Center (ILC), Room S331.

B. Open Access Policy Proposal

The policy proposal is pending at the Board of Trustees. There was a misunderstanding of peer-review. The board had concerns about payments for peer-review, so the board review is ongoing.

C. Review of Centers and Institutes

The initial response to the reviews of centers and institutes was slow. Many center directors did not respond to the review documents. The Faculty Senate and the administration will continue to work on a process for effective review. The fast-track reviews produced problems and need re-examination.

D. International Admissions and Federal Compliance Report

The Rules Committee endorses the report from the Committee on International Admissions and Federal Compliance. There were concerns on the Research Council about impediments to grant writing with the annual email directing faculty to the public export control website. The report does not require that faculty who are not currently principal investigators take the online training, only that they must be informed about the training and about compliance. The Rules Committee will draft a statement and will take comments for the statement through email.

E. Other

The Committee briefly discussed these issues: 1) suggestion to add chairs of Faculty Senate committees and councils to the Senate as ex officio members with votes, 2) the questions being raised in Senate meetings about administration costs (IT, facilities, and human resources are the primary costs), and 3) the issue of tenure cases that was presented on April 30, 2015 at the Faculty Senate meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
A Yemisi Jimoh