

Minutes, Rules Committee Meeting, Friday, April 5, 2013; 8:15-9:45am. U Club

Present: Steve Brewer, Ralph Whitehead, Brian O'Connor, Ernie May, Tony Butterfield

- 1) Minutes of the March 15, 2013 meeting were approved.
- 2) Faculty Senate Agenda New Business Items for April 18 were discussed and approved; specifically, A) Presentation by Enku Gelaye and Harry Rockland-Miller on "UMATTER@UMASS;" B) Annual Report of Research Library Council; C) Special Report of Rules Committee re. Bylaw Changes re. new Senate districts and number of senators; D) New courses from AMC and GC; E) Special Report (SR) of AMC re. Requirements for Minor in Nutrition; F) SR of RC re. Day of Religious Observance during first week of classes; G) SR of GC re. Educational Assessment and Policy Studies Master's Concentration; H) SR of APC, GC and PBC re. iCons Undergraduate Certificate; I) SR of APC, GC and PBC re. Certificate in Sport Management; J) SR of APC, GC and PBC re. Certificate in Cultural Landscape Management.
- 3) Additional New Business items for the April 18 Senate meeting were also approved: A) SR of AMC re. Requirements for the Undergraduate Major and Minor in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies; B) SR of AMC re. RN to BS Online Program; C) SR of AMC re. Requirements for BA in Astronomy; D) SR of AMC re. Requirements for BS (Space Science Track) Degree in Astronomy.
- 4) Under Old Business for the April 18 Senate meeting, there is a SR from AMC re. the Academic Calendar for 2015-2016.
- 5) Discussion Items
 - A) There was extensive discussion of the Strategic Plan draft document and process, stimulated by Steve Brewer's written comments and the public forum on April 4, which had a good turnout. The forums will continue.
 - B) The two new appointees to the Board of Trustees were noted with pleasure; along with the open process for selecting a new campus athletic representative to the NCAA, now that Glenn Wong is stepping down.
 - C) Need for a new Student Union Building was noted, along with problems finding rooms in which student groups could meet.
 - D) A proposal for an MA in Italian Studies was referred to GC, PBC, and APC.
 - E) Proposals for revisions to the Political Science minor requirements, revisions to the Legal Studies major, and revisions to iCons Concentration sub-plans in various majors were referred to AMC.

- F) An email from recent alum Aaron Karp to Secretary May suggesting that UMass divest its investments in fossil fuel companies was received. Along with VC Kim, both undergraduate and graduate UMASS student government associations have endorsed divestment resolutions. The possibility of inviting Karp to a RC meeting was discussed, even though the Faculty Senate does not have primary responsibility for university investments.
- G) A report from Fred Zinn on Moodle will be forwarded to UCECC.
- H) Survey data from OGCA on PI satisfaction were discussed briefly; unfortunately, the response rate was quite low (20%) making conclusions difficult.
- I) An editorial from the *Boston Globe* calling for more state support for public universities but also cost-saving reforms was discussed briefly.

Next meeting of the RC is with the Administration on April 8 at 8:30am. There is a special meeting of the RC with members of the Ad Hoc Committee on FBS Football at 8:15am on April 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Butterfield