

Faculty Senate Rules Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 26 April 2013

Present: Rick Adrion, Joe Bartolomeo, Steve Brewer, Tony Butterfield, Ernie May, Brian O'Connor, MJ Peterson, Ralph Whitehead

The minutes for the meeting of 16 April 2013 were approved.

Agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting 9 May 2013

Though there were proposals to add some routine business items to the agenda, the committee agreed to hold to its promise that the JTFSO Report of the Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight, Innovation and Impact: Renewing the Promise of the Public Research University would be the only substantive item on the agenda.

Thus the agenda will consist of

- A. Announcements
- B. Question Period
- C. Report of the Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight, Innovation and Impact: Renewing the Promise of the Public Research University

Discussion Items

The committee agreed on a wording for the motion to "receive" the JTFSO report, subject to revision of the wording of the goal statements regarding establishing UMass Amherst as "a destination of choice for the next generation of the Commonwealth's high school graduates" and "an investment of choice in the next generation of the Commonwealth's and nation's future" should those formulations be revised by the JTFSO at its forthcoming meeting.

The committee discussed the particulars of the proposed amendment to the By-Laws replacing the University Computer and Electronic Communication Committee with an Information and Communication Technology Council. The committee agreed that words "or Librarians" should be added after "Ten Faculty members" in the listing of at-large members, and that even though the proposed council was already large at 33 members, its membership should include the Registrar or designee and the Dean of Undergraduate Advising or designee.

The move to smaller districts in the proposed redistricting scheme that is on the agenda for the 2 May Senate meeting has kicked up problems because adoption would mean that a few districts are "overfilled" while others are "underfilled." Potential solutions – including a gradual phase-in of the new districts that would permit all Senators currently elected to serve out their current terms, a return to larger districts, or adoption of a system in which empty seats could be filled for a one-year term from a wider pool of nominees (either campuswide or from within the same deanery) – were discussed. While

there was considerable interest in proposals for filling empty seats, members agreed that any such scheme would be a significant change in Senate practice and should not be adopted as if it were a minor amendment to the current proposal to change to the By-Laws. It was agreed that there will be a motion to table the redistricting plan at the 2 May meeting. This will permit returning to the issue in the fall when there is more time for deliberation.

The resignation of Senator Eliot Moss creates a vacancy in District 8 (Computer Science). The Committee agreed that it should be filled by Jim Kurose, who has indicated willingness to serve.

Respectfully submitted

MJ Peterson