

Rules Committee, UMass Amherst Faculty Senate
Minutes, October 12, 2012

Present: Joe Bartolomeo (Chair), Rick Adrion, Marilyn Billings, Tony Butterfield, Ernie May, Brian O'Connor, MJ Peterson, Amilcar Shabazz

Minutes of Sept 28, 2012 approved with revisions

Faculty Senate Agenda Items for November 15, 2012

A. Panel discussion: "Diversity at the UMass Amherst" Moderator, Amilcar Shabazz. Need to add panelist to include Latino. Possible follow-up panel in December with Staros and in spring with another panel in collaboration with MSP.

B-C. Annual reports from Gen Ed Council, Academic year 2010-11 and 2011-12

D. Approval of new courses by Academic Matters and Graduate Councils

Discussion items:

A: Program Revision: Changes to the structure of requirements in the Journalism program - AMC

B. From the Office of Academic Planning & Assessment:

1. Instructional support for large undergraduate courses: Discussion of IE, TAs, and the degree to which the TA support was implemented in conversion from 3 to 4 credit courses.
2. "Value-Added" UMA seniors' performance: College Learning Assessment (CLA) – voluntary system of accountability

We are being assessed for value added, need to measure students' performance from beginning then 4 years later measure again. With CLA and 100 students in a pilot study, we underperformed. This kind of test favors Community Colleges, not high achieving research institutions such as Yale. What's dragging down the score is the analytic writing component which comes out of small classes and discussion sections. See the General Education reports. The writing requirement is honored in HFA, not SBS, due to lack of TA support. Idea of value added in immersive college experience – writing is part of this. Need to look at how TAs are used in courses, in labs. Due to lack of TAs, the curriculum is changing. The minimum number of students for 1 course is 60 for 1 TA but it depends on course. Investigate best practices for TAs.

TA materials to Undergraduate and Graduate Councils

Topic for Administration meeting: TA allocation and more study of CLA, etc

C. Graduate Data FY 10-13 from CPE

Graduate Council saw this data on Wednesday. Need to clarify if this is just graduate or aggregate data. We need more context for this item.

Online enrollment has increased; face to face has decreased. The University of California started up UC online – it's struggling. There's a track record of failures with online education. UMass Online (UMO) and UMassULearn have been quite successful in comparison. It's all about marketing. UMass Online is heavily Lowell based because staff from Lowell established UMO. Further discussion needed. Need to look at: how does CPE help or hinder you with your online courses, need online components to many courses, look at financial part, need to maximize resources that we have for 21st Century university.

Topic for Administration meeting

Other topics:

Need to reset Faculty Senate University Computing and Communication Committee – Dubach

Board of Trustees committee on Energy and Efficiency – need to attend these meetings

Monday's meeting with Administration:

Article in Gazette regarding town-gown relations and student behavior – Dean of Students Office
John Kennedy's "campaign"

COIA representative from Faculty Senate – Ernie May

Athletic Council – Bekki Spencer, Nelson Lacey

Joint Task Force – Max Page, Nelson Lacey

Cost is one issue. Membership in COIA is tied to doing it well, how to make it work.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Billings