

Rules Committee Meeting
October 25, 2013
Minutes

Attendees: Ernest May, MJ Peterson, Chair, Richard Bogartz, Marilyn Billings, Ralph Whitehead, Steve Brewer, Nancy Cohen, Aura Ganz

GUESTS

Senators Max Page and Franks Hugus were invited to discuss their concerns about the handling of administration requests for advice from the Faculty Senate as well as the question of whether certain activities that had come to faculty attention recently should be regarded as hazing.

On the first issue, it was noted that the Athletic Council, unlike other Faculty Senate Councils and Committees, exists under a triple mandate: an NCAA requirement that participating schools have some such body, a decision by the Board of Trustees to create it dating from before creation of the Faculty Senate, and the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws.

That said, the possibility of referring some matter to other Councils or Committees remained open. This led to a discussion of the second issue, whether the behavior involved is actually covered by the state and campus prohibitions of hazing, or whether it is covered by other campus policies. A member of the Committee volunteered to consult some colleagues in her department to determine whether the provision of state law that defines "hazing" covers only activity occurring only in the course of initiation into a group (e.g., a fraternity or sorority) or has been interpreted by the courts to cover other occasions as well. The Rules Committee will refer the football incident to the Student Affairs and University Life Council.

We decided to ask Julie Buehler to present the OIT policies to the Rules Committee and discuss the email migration issues.

MINUTES

Approved the minutes from October 18th.

FACULTY SENATE AGENDA ITEMS (for November 14, 2013)

The committee accepted the Writing Committee's request to increase its membership, and will add that increase to the motions amending the Bylaws.

The committee decided to add the following sentence to 1-1-5 (Sen. Doc. No. 14-005B): "A motion to this effect is always in order during new business."

Discussion of adding a paragraph 1-1-6 on rights on non-voting members continued - MJ will draft a sentence to be added and circulate to the committee.

A question was raised about the Academic Matters Council (AMC) item on the draft agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting of November 14, 2013: AMC has approved the concentration in sustainable business practice but not the identically named certificate. We will check with AMC on the status of the certificate.

The rest of draft agenda was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The proposed revision of the MA in Comparative Literature Requirements was referred to the Graduate Council and PBC.

Discussion on reports presented by the five campuses to the Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday (October 23, 2013). It was agreed that selected slides from the presentations of strategic plans by the chancellors of the other UMass campuses should be presented at the November Faculty Senate meeting.

The committee agreed that a motion asking OIT to delay implementation of e-mail migration for faculty and staff until there is a better plan in place should be included on the agenda of the Nov. 14th meeting. The exact language will be developed in e-mail consultations.

The plan for redistricting to yield a Faculty Senate with 86 elected members was approved.

Discussion of the status of 394/494 IE courses was deferred to the next meeting.

Submitted by,

Aura Ganz