

Rules Committee: Minutes of Meeting held on 26 October 2012

Present: Joseph Bartolomeo, Marilyn Billings, Tony Butterfield, Ernie May, Brian O'Connor, MJ Peterson, Amilcar Shabazz, Ralph Whitehead

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the October 12th were not yet available, so item was tabled.

2. Discussion of Information Technology-Related Issues

Guest: John Dubach, Campus Chief Information Officer and Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Dubach explained that he has convened three advisory committees to help with planning on IT issues:

1. Administrative IT Coordinating Council, composed of relevant administrators, which has met 5 or 6 times and deals with the administrative IT systems
2. Research IT Coordinating Council which deals with research needs and includes members of the Research Council
3. Academic IT Coordinating Council, which includes faculty nominated by each Dean and a librarian nominated by the Director of Libraries, which has met once and has indicated two areas of interest: faculty enthusiasm for adoption of lecture capture software and need for a more thorough survey of faculty interests and needs as the new construction proceeds. Dubach noted that the survey has been folded into a larger survey regarding teaching and learning needs being organized by the Chancellor's Office.

He also indicated that these advisory groups were not intended to replace the Faculty Senate's existing University Computer and Electronic Communications Committee (UCECC), and indicated a desire to see it reinvigorated. Some members noted that the UCECC had been very reactive; responding to issues brought to it rather than operating as a forward-looking group. After some discussion there was consensus among the Rules Committee that a new, more appropriately named committee with a forward-looking mandate, should be established instead. It was noted that there is already a joint technology subcommittee of the Academic Matters and Undergraduate Education Councils. It was felt that there also needs to be a separate body with a wider remit.

Dubach also discussed IT-related initiatives at the system level. President Caret has established an IT Steering Committee as part of response to the Board of Trustees' Task Force on Efficiency and Effectiveness. The IT steering committee has identified 10 issues for the campuses to work on: particularly cybersecurity, IT procurement generally, a systemwide cell phone plan, data center optimization, networking, identify management, and virtual computing labs.

3. Agenda for November 15th Faculty Senate Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting would begin with the report from the Athletic Director.

Amilcar Shabazz indicated that he had also recruited Debora Ferreira to participate in the panel on Diversity on campus. This would now become the second item on the agenda.

The Committee approved the agenda as revised.

4. Discussion items

a. Proposals for program changes were referred to Councils as follows:

Microbiology Undergraduate Major: Academic Matters

Five College Queer and Sexuality Studies Certificate: Academic Matters, Academic Priorities,
and Program & Budget

Afro-American Studies Undergraduate Major: Academic Matters

English Undergraduate Major: Academic Matters

iCons Undergraduate Certificate: Academic Matters, Academic Priorities, and Program &
Budget

b. Status of the University Service, Public Service, and Outreach Council.

The Council has not been active, largely because the administrative responsibility for these activities has been shifted several times in recent years and there is no clear leadership in the area.

c. Pet Policy

The Health Council was considering revisions. The revisions involve changes to the enforcement provisions, and there was considerable sentiment among the Committee that while it refers to a Faculty Senate policy, the Senate as a whole should not be involved in determining the details of enforcement.

d. Update on FBS Football. Attendance figures were lower than hoped, but this year's financial guarantees were twice the amount of last year's. The Committee expects further discussion at the Nov. 15th Senate Meeting.

e. Joint Task Force on Strategic Oversight (JTFSO): Its various committees are being filled and beginning work, though it was unlikely that the undergraduate student representatives would be appointed before the end of Fall Term. It is becoming clear that a major task will be addressing how to deal with the projected finance gap, which is estimated to rise from \$0 to \$79 million in FY 2017 if no adjustments are made to current revenue and expenditure patterns. One member noted that discussions of the finance gap have revealed a "serious disconnect" in perceptions of research. While some people on campus believe it brings in money, the fact is that overhead falls short of actual costs of running research facilities. This member recommended Christopher Newfield's writings on research budgets for information about similar situations on other campuses. Another member noted that the administration has calculated the costs of instruction in every major.

f. UMass Amherst 2008-12 Progress and Short Term Projections. The Committee was given copies of the slides used in a campus presentation to the Board of Trustees on October 16th. It includes the budget projections of a serious shortfall in FY 2017 noted above.

g. MSP Chronicle article on Madeloni situation. This was an informational item. The article reports an interview with Dr. Madeloni by Art Keene of the Anthropology Department and notes at the end that the MSP has filed a grievance regarding non-renewal of her contract.

Respectfully submitted

MJ Peterson

Scribe of the Day