The 767th meeting of the Faculty Senate has an agenda featuring a presentation, adoption of the proposed revisions of the Bylaws, the annual report of the University Press Committee, approvals of some new courses, and approvals of new programs or revisions to existing programs.

Before providing the item-by-item notes for this month’s meeting, three other topics merit some attention.

Need to elect a new Faculty Delegate to the Board of Trustees

Senator Whitbourne, the current Faculty Delegate, will not be a candidate for re-election. Though there have been expressions of the view that all nominations should come from the floor of the Senate on the day of the election, section 3-6-1 of the Bylaws provide that the names of nominees for Faculty Senate Offices should be on the agenda. This does not preclude additional nominations from the floor at the time of election. Hence, any elected Senator interested in the position can indicate interest to the Faculty Senate Office ahead of time.

Annual election of the Presiding Officer

The Bylaws also provide for annual election of a Presiding Officer for the following year. The same provision regarding advance notice of nominees combines with opportunity to nominate from the floor applies to this election.

Revision of the General Education Diversity Requirement

The General Education Council approved a complete revision proposal at its meeting last Friday. It is still working on its report but I expect to have that soon and will distribute it widely to Councils, Senators, and other interested constituencies.

Notes on the meeting items.

Presentation by Deborah Gould, Chief of Academic Finance and Administration

The Board of Trustees has long shown interest in the effectiveness and efficiency of the University of Massachusetts, meaning both the system offices and each of the five campuses. It has an Efficiency and Effectiveness Task Force that meets periodically, and within that Task Force, a group focused on the efficiency and effectiveness of the academic endeavors. We will hear about the areas of Board concern and will have opportunities to ask questions.
Announcements and Question Period

Various things are happening so expect announcements. With or without announcements, Senators usually have questions.

Vote on Revisions to the Bylaws

This meeting will include the third and final reading of the proposed Bylaw revisions, after which we will vote on whether to adopt them.

Annual Report of the University Press Committee

University Press Committee co-chairs Maria Tymoczko and James Smethurst plus Press Director Mary Dougherty will be present to answer questions. The Press is currently undertaking significant changes to meet the challenges facing academic publishing today, so please read the report carefully.

New Courses: Consent Agenda

As always, any Senator may request that an item on a consent agenda be separated out for separate discussion and consideration. It would be helpful if anyone desiring a separate discussion of any course notifies the Senate Office before the meeting, but this is not required.

This consent agenda includes 1 course recommended by the Academic Matters Council, 1 recommended jointly by it and the Graduate Council because it is proposed as a 500-level course open to both undergraduate and graduate students, and 4 recommended by the Graduate Council.

New Business: Consent Agenda

As always, any Senator may request that an item on a consent agenda be separated out for separate discussion and consideration. It would be helpful if anyone seeking a separate discussion notifies the Senate Office before the meeting, but this is not required.

This consent agenda covers 8 proposals: 3 to revise existing undergraduate majors, 1 to revise an existing undergraduate minor, 2 to approve new graduate certificates, and 2 relating to revising concentrations within existing graduate degrees.

MJ Peterson
Secretary