SPECIAL REPORT

of the

RULES COMMITTEE

concerning

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE
TO BE NAMED
JOINT TASK FORCE ON ACCOUNTABILITY (JTFA)

Adopted unanimously by the Rules Committee,
acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate,
August 2, 2010

Presented at the
696th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 16, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

William Richards Adrion
Marilyn Billings
Alexandrina Deschamps
Ernest May
John McCarthy (Chair)
W. Brian O’Connor
Ralph Whitehead
Donna Zucker
1. Introduction

In recent years, there have been increasing demands on colleges and universities to demonstrate that they are achieving their educational goals. Standardized testing is perhaps the most obvious manifestation of this accountability movement, but there are other issues as well. The University of Massachusetts Amherst desires to develop an appropriate and well-reasoned response to these demands.

2. Charge

The Joint Task Force on Accountability (JTFA) shall make recommendations to the administration and the Faculty Senate about how best to respond to demands that the University of Massachusetts Amherst demonstrate how it is meeting its educational goals. The Task Force will deal with questions from the administration or the Senate, study practices at other institutions, and track the development of the accountability movement in the nation, the Commonwealth, and the UMass System.

3. Membership

The JTFA shall be composed of three members of the central administration, to be appointed by the Provost, and seven members of the faculty and/or librarians, to be appointed by the Rules Committee, plus the Secretary of the Faculty Senate (or a designee), serving ex officio.

4. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall be appointed by the Provost.

5. Reporting and Sunset

Unless extended by mutual agreement of the administration and the Rules Committee, the JTFA will issue its final report and cease to exist on August 31, 2012.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to be named Joint Task Force on Accountability (JTFA), as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 11-003.