

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RULES COMMITTEE
concerning
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON
ONLINE LEARNING

Presented at the
632nd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 23, 2004

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Richard Bogartz, Chair
Julie Brigham-Grette
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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ONLINE LEARNING

The growth and demand for online instruction, both through UMASS ONLINE and through technologically assisted enhancement of regular classes, has raised academic and administrative issues which merit sustained and focused attention from the campus community. (See the draft report *Ensuring Quality in Online Higher Education Courses* by Andrew Churchill [Center for Education Policy] dated April 27, 2004, presented to the Graduate Council.)

In response to a motion adopted by the Graduate Council, the Faculty Senate hereby establishes an AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ONLINE LEARNING for a maximum duration of three years. Its charge shall be to:

- **Oversee academic standards and issues of quality assurance with respect to all UMA undergraduate and graduate courses and programs taught online or in hybrid format.**
- **Research issues of comparative outcomes assessment with respect to traditional, hybrid, and online courses and programs.**
- **Recommend policy changes, as appropriate, to the Graduate Council and the Academic Matters Council.**
- **Advise the campus administration with respect to the optimal technological infrastructure appropriate to effective online and technologically assisted instruction, including the University Library.**
- **Advise the campus administration with respect to the provision of “how-to” materials and instructional design assistance for new online instructors.**
- **Advise the campus administration, the Graduate Council, the Academic Matters Council, the General Education Council, and the Undergraduate Education Council with respect to issues of online learning.**

Its membership shall consist of:

- a) **Twelve At-Large Faculty Members or Librarians (including one from each school and college), selected by the Committee on Committees;**
- b) **A Representative of the Graduate Council, selected by the Chair of the Graduate Council;**
- c) **A Representative of the Academic Matters Council, selected by the Chair of the Academic Matters Council;**
- d) **A Representative of the Undergraduate Education Council, selected by the Chair of the Undergraduate Education Council;**
- e) **A Representative of the General Education Council, selected by the Chair of the General Education Council;**
- f) **A Representative of the University Service, Public Service and Outreach Council, selected by the Chair of the University Service, Public Service and Outreach Council;**
- g) **A Representative from the Center for Teaching;**
- h) **The Five College Coordinator or a designee;**
- i) **The Secretary of the Faculty Senate or a designee;**
- j) **The Faculty Advisor to the Provost;**
- k) **The Vice Provost for Outreach and Director of Continuing Education;**
- l) **The Provost or a designee;**
- m) **The Director of the Office of Institutional Research or a designee;**
- n) **The Director of Assessment or a designee;**
- o) **The Director of Academic Computing or a designee;**
- p) **The Chief Information Officer or a designee; and**
- q) **One Undergraduate Student and One Graduate Student, selected by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate.**

The Ad Hoc Committee Chair shall be a faculty member elected from among its regular voting members.

A progress report is due at the Faculty Senate meeting of December 16, 2004. Subsequently, the Ad Hoc Committee should submit annual reports to the Faculty Senate.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate establish an AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ONLINE LEARNING for a term 50-04 of three years, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-044A.