

Rules, Procedures and Agenda (RP&A) Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 6, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 PM
Meramec/Gasconade Room, Havener Center

Present: S. N. Balakrishnan, Martin Bohner, Michael Davis, Mark Fitch, Steve Grant, Barbara Hale, K. M. Isaac, Melanie Mormile, Daniel Tauritz

1. Approval of Monday, May 6, 2013, RP&A Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of Monday, April 8, 2013, RP&A Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Course Renumbering (Tauritz)

Daniel Tauritz explained the history of the idea to renumber S&T's courses using four digit numbers rather than three digit numbers. The Provost's newly established course renumbering committee recently had its first meeting and realized that in order for the new numbering scheme to take effect Fall Semester 2014, the common course numbering scheme would have to be approved at the June 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting and the course mappings approved at the September 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting, or otherwise it will be delayed for another year. S.N. Balakrishnan stated that the usual approval process for such academically related matters is to submit them to RP&A which refers them as appropriate to one of its standing committees, in this case the Campus Curricula Committee; he was concerned that that was not the case with this issue. Daniel Tauritz explained that because of the aforementioned short time fuse, the renumbering proposal was submitted in parallel to the DSCCs, CCC, and RP&A; he agreed that it was unfortunate for this to happen so suddenly and in the final weeks of the semester after basically two years of "inactivity" in regard this issue. The "driver" for the renumbering is the Provost and some academic departments. The time constraint is coming from the Registrar's office. Mark Fitch said that he would prefer to have more time for such an important change so as to give Faculty Senate a chance to hear all the pros and cons for this project. Daniel Tauritz asked the RP&A committee how he should now proceed, besides possibly bringing it to the next Faculty Senate meeting, as Chair of the Campus Curricula Committee. K. M. Isaac suggested to push the project back by one year and design a clear timeline how progress should occur. Michael Davis asked whether System has anything to do with this project. Daniel Tauritz responded that while other UM System campuses have already made the switch to four digit course numbers, he is not aware of a UM System directive in this regard. S.N. Balakrishnan stated that it is up to the Campus Curricula Committee to decide whether to make a motion at the June 2013 Faculty Senate Meeting in regard the course renumbering.

4. Patent and Copyright Commercialization in Promotion (Davis)

Michael Davis explained that this matter of economic development came up at the last IFC meetings. This issue had been referred to the Faculty Tenure Committee. We will not hear back from the Faculty Tenure Committee before the May IFC meeting.

5. Student Academic Regulation Changes (Davis)

Michael Davis recalled the items that were discussed during the last RP&A meeting. Mark Fitch reported that he got some feedback from the Office of Counseling, Disability Support, and Student Wellness (Patty Fleck). Daniel Tauritz made the motion that Mark Fitch should investigate this issue further with the Undergraduate Office. The motion was seconded and approved. No further action was taken.

6. Sabbaticals and Committee Assignments (Davis)

Michael Davis raised the question how to arrange for substitutions for Committee Members (such as Faculty Senators) while they are on sabbatical. No further action was taken.

7. Committee Nominations / Officer Election (Balakrishnan/Davis)

Michael Davis gave a short report on the progress of these nominations. No further action was taken.

8. Faculty Accomplishment System (Davis)

Michael Davis reported on the plans to introduce a replacement of FAS. No further action was taken.

9. NTT Faculty (Davis)

Michael Davis reported that on IFC meetings concerns were expressed with respect to the usage of NTT Faculty in a way for which these positions were not designed for, namely, that NTT Faculty are hired in place of Tenure-Track Faculty. No action was taken.

10. IT Security Training (Davis)

Michael Davis reported about preliminary plans to send all Faculty regularly through IT security training. Some discussion concerning the pros and cons of such a training followed.

11. Grade Replacement Policy (Davis)

This item was skipped and will be brought up again in June.

12. New Business

The membership of RP&A's Ad Hoc Add Drop Procedure committee was announced, being Steve Grant, Daniel Tauritz, Deanne Jackson (Registrar), and Ilene Morgan. The committee was charged to study this issue and report back on its progress at the June RP&A meeting.

13. Scheduled RP&A Meeting Times and Locations for 2013

The remaining scheduled meeting time as shown in the following was reaffirmed.
2:30 – 4:30 PM, Monday, June 10, 2013 (Meramec/Gasconade)

14. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was entertained, seconded, and approved.