

Rules, Procedures and Agenda (RP&A) Committee
Minutes
Tuesday October 8, 2013

Members present: Levent Acar, Mohammad Alkazimi, S.N. Balakrishnan, Mark Fitch, Steven Grant, Melanie Mormile, and Daniel Tauritz

Approval of October 8, 2013 RP&A Agenda

Approved. Motion was made and approved to suspend rules to take agenda items out of order.

Approval of Monday September 3, 2013 RP&A Meeting Minutes

Approved.

Virtual attendance of faculty senate meetings (Fitch)

Mark Fitch reported that he received an e-mail from a Faculty Senate member inquiring if attendance can be virtual during Faculty Senate meetings. Steven Grant consulted an updated copy of Robert's Rules and reported that it can be allowed if the technology is in place so that each individual could be heard and able to respond throughout the meeting, and additionally, if the organization's by-laws allow it. Mark Fitch reported that Faculty Senate by-laws do not explicitly allow this. It was also noted that the classrooms where Faculty Senate meetings are held do not possess the technology to enable all to be clearly heard and to be responsive.

Further discussion ensued in regards to the use of substitutes if a Faculty Senate member cannot attend a faculty senate meeting. Customarily, substitutes have been allowed to attend the meetings and to vote. A question was raised in regards to the voting rights of substitutes. Mark Fitch asked Steve Grant to look through the by-laws to determine if substitutes can vote during Faculty Senate meetings.

Proposed changes in CRR related to names of partnering institutions on diplomas (Fitch)

Mark Fitch reported that Christa Weisbrook (Director of Academic Programs at the University of Missouri System Level) requested input from the IFC in regards procedures on adding another university's name to a University of Missouri diploma. The background on this request is that Missouri S&T offers an MS in Engineering Management in cooperation with King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. This collaboration has been in place since 2009. It has been suggested that the words "in cooperation with Kind Saud University" be included on the UM diploma. This has raised a number of questions. This will require a change in the Collected Rules and Regulations (CRRs). The most pressing question is how much input will the faculty have in the decisions on which universities and programs will be included. For example, it is currently proposed that:

“Using the standard format and procedures for awarding of diplomas as indicated in Section A, diplomas for collaborative undergraduate and graduate degree programs awarded pursuant to a cooperative agreement between the University of Missouri and other four-year institutions of higher education located within and outside of Missouri, including international institutions, may include the words, “in cooperation with” followed by the name of the partner institution. Such agreements shall be made only with institutions that have been screened by a campus committee, reviewed by the provost, and approved by the President or designee. The campus screening committee shall consist of, as applicable to the campus, representatives from the office of the vice provost for undergraduate studies, the graduate school, the faculty senate, the graduate faculty council, the assessment office, and in the case of international institutions, the international office. The screening process shall be established by the President.”

Steve Grant suggested that the phrase “and by the Faculty Senate of the campus” to “The campus screening committee shall consist of, as applicable to the campus, representatives from the office of the vice provost for undergraduate studies, the graduate school, the faculty senate, the graduate faculty council, the assessment office, and in the case of international institutions, the international office”. Furthermore, if the phrase “and by the Faculty Senate of the campus” is added, then the Campus Curriculum Committee (CCC) can also screen these requests.

Of concern is the proposed make-up of the campus screening committee as four representatives would be administrators and two would be representative of the faculty. It was recognized that it is the faculty’s responsibility to uphold and maintain academic standards (CRR 300).

The question of accreditation was also raised during the discussion. However, it was also acknowledged that accreditation is the responsibility of the higher education governing boards of the foreign countries and not the University of Missouri’s responsibility.

Mark Fitch noted that these issues will be discussed during the next IFC meeting and that he will present on this during his President’s report during the next Faculty Senate meeting (October 24, 2013).

Course Renumbering Initiative Update (Tauritz)

Daniel Tauritz reported that things are progressing well and that the DC forms will be reviewed soon. However, of concern, there has been no communication yet from the Graduate Faculty (GF) in regard changes under the GF’s purview, such as graduate rules & regulations, necessitated by the course renumbering. Graduate Council did for the first time in a number of years elect a representative to the CCC which hopefully will improve communications between these two bodies.

On-Campus versus Off-Campus Degree Requirements (Tauritz)

The CCC received a DC form from a department requesting different requirements for on-campus versus distance students in the same degree program (in this case the distance students would be exempted from a one-credit hour seminar required for the on-campus students which would also result in the distance students needing one credit hour less to graduate). The CCC expresses concern about the lack of a campus policy addressing the issue whether graduation requirements should be allowed to differ for on-campus and distance students in the same degree program and requests that RP&A discuss this and refer it as appropriate.

Fleshing out the BS Requirements in the Undergraduate Catalog (Tauritz)

The CCC expresses concern about the lack of minimum requirements detailed in Missouri S&T's Undergraduate Catalog for the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree as compared to the Bachelor of Arts degree. The question was raised if the requirements for the BS should be presented in more detail and, if so, which RP&A committee(s) will be charged to draft them.

NTT guidelines (Under Referrals Ongoing)

Levent Acar stated that the Personnel Committee has nothing to report on this yet.

Class Conflicts (Under Referrals Ongoing)

Steve Grant reported that the Student Affairs Committee will meet and discuss this issue. He will present on the meetings outcome at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

New Business

Levent Acar stated that a "second" should be requested when motions are brought to Faculty Senate from committees. The reason for this request is that the committees might not be composed of individuals that are members of the Faculty Senate. In other words, the implicit second might not truly come from Faculty Senate. Mark Fitch requested that Steve Grant look into this, given that standing committees report to, but are not of, the Faculty Senate.

Approval of FS meeting agenda for October 24, 2013

The Faculty Senate meeting agenda for October 24, 2013, was approved. Thomas (Tom) Richards, Interim Vice President for Finance and Treasurer for the UM System is scheduled to present during this meeting.

Adjourn

Approved.

Ongoing Monitoring (Review as necessary)

1. Archiving FS data (Isaac)
This was not reviewed.