

Rules, Procedures and Agenda (RP&A) Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, 10 December 2009  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Silver and Gold Room

Those whose names appear were present at the meeting.

Greg Gelles, Michael Schulz, K. M. Isaac, Neil Book, Michael Davis, Lance Haynes, Barbara Hale, Paul Voss, Keith Nisbett, Dave Westenberg

1. Approval of 10 December 2009 RP&A agenda

Approved

2. Approval of minutes from 5 November 2009 RP&A meeting

Approved

3. Discussion concerning options for potential budget cuts

Professor Isaac reported that President Forsee had requested opinions of the representatives at the Intercampus Faculty Council meeting with regard to options for potential budget cuts. President Forsee requested preferences for “across the board” or “program” cuts, options that were indicated to be under consideration at the Town Hall meeting. The discussion identified two separate issues. One issue was the differentiation between the individual opinions of representatives and the representation of collective views of the faculty. Professor Haynes will draft a resolution to address this issue.

The issue of across the board versus targeted budget cuts was referred to the Budgetary Affairs Committee. Since budget drafts are currently being prepared, the committee was requested to expedite its deliberations and present a report at the January Faculty Senate meeting. Additionally, Professor Schulz will communicate with all Faculty Senate representatives to announce the forthcoming report and request that the representatives prepare for the meeting by determining the consensus opinion within their departments.

4. Discussion concerning attendance at Faculty Senate meetings

Professor Schulz will draft a memorandum to Faculty Senate representatives to request that representatives attend the meetings or identify a substitute to attend in their stead.

5. Discussion concerning the effects of increased enrollments on teaching and learning

Professor Book noted that the Capacity Task Force is studying the adequacy of facilities to handle the record undergraduate enrollments. However, there is no investigation of the effects of enrollment on teaching and learning. The discussion resulted in a referral to the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee in which it is requested to consult with Student Council to study the issues surrounding the relationship between class size and academic quality on the S&T campus and to formulate and recommend to the Senate a statement of policy.

6. Open House dates for the 2010-2011 academic calendar

Professor Westenberg, on behalf of the Public Occasions Committee, requested that a committee report be added to the agenda of the 21 January Faculty Senate meeting. The report will request approval of 9 October and 13 November 2010 and 21 February and 22 April 2011 as Open House dates for the 2010-2011 academic calendar.

7. Discussion of UM Benefits Committee

The decision was made to discuss the appointment of representatives with the Chancellor and Provost before setting a course of action.

8. Discussion concerning standing committee reports to RP&A

The decision was reached to add a report from each standing committee to the agenda of each RP&A meeting. Professor Gelles will communicate with the chairs of the committees to advise them as to the expectations for the reports.

9. Adjourn