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MINUTES

Faculty Senate 2025-2026 Meeting #4

Monday November 3, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 PM • Coburn 255

1. Updates

1.1. Change in Practice (not Policy) re: Academic Dishonesty Reporting (*Julie Nash*) -

Vice Provost Nash presented a long-standing process with cases of academic dishonesty that may not be aligned with our current policy, and she solicited Senate's feedback to make sure practice is aligned with policy. Students with a conduct record of dishonesty are told that the record is removed upon graduation. But this has led students to believe that when applying for graduate programs, they can answer "no" when asked if they have prior violations. Senators agreed that records should not be removed and that there was nothing in our policies that would require that action. In addition, the Senate agreed to work with Julie and her office to review the academic sanctions process to see how it might be improved and less burdensome for faculty. Kevin will coordinate with Julie and find volunteers to work on this process next semester.

1.2. Core Curriculum SCL Courses & Advising (*Ryan McPherson*) - The Core

Curriculum Coordinator presented an issue with exceptions for Breadth of Knowledge exceptions for science with labs. Several students enroll in the lecture component of the class, but fail to simultaneously register for the lab component, which means they have not completed the BOK requirement. Ryan would like to stop approving these exceptions and is looking for ways to make sure it is clear that students need to either enroll in both components, or find a different class to satisfy the SCL requirement. He is working with departments, particularly Biology, to update prerequisite language and will work with advisors across the university to make sure students are enrolling in appropriate courses that will satisfy the Core BOK requirements.

2. Minutes from Meeting #3 on October 6, 2025 (*Kevin Petersen*)

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2778/form> Vote to approve the Minutes of October 6, 2025:
Yes 89, No 0, Abstain 2. [Approved 98%](#)

3. University-Level Policy Proposals

3.1. **UML: Allow transfer credit from approved international universities through established partnership agreements** (*Sukesh Aghara*) **Change University-Level Policy** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2685/form> Partha Chowdhury presented both university-level policy proposals at Faculty Senate Meeting #2 on September 8, 2025. This first request proposes an amendment to the existing transfer credit policy to allow graduate students to transfer credits from targeted international universities that are vetted and approved through established partnership agreements. Transfer credits from these institutions would require institutional and departmental approval to ensure alignment with program objectives and academic standards. Main questions or concerns from the senators included how the process would be implemented, as there were unanswered questions in the proposal. Dr. Chowdhury stated that the process would start with MOU and there is nothing that says the agreement would have to be reciprocal. A question was raised about WES evaluations and the Registrar confirmed that all courses would require a WES evaluation.

- **Faculty Senate** voted during Meeting #2 on September 8 to launch the request into the 2-month review cycle: Yes 75, No 7, Abstain 7. Approved 84%.
- **Call for Comment #5** was **announced** on Friday September 12.
- **College Curriculum Committees** had the opportunity to add comments directly the proposal from September 12-19.
- **College Deans** had the opportunity to add comments directly to the proposal from September 19-26.
- **All campus community members are invited to provide further input at the upcoming senate and committee meetings:**
- **UPC** discussed and voted to approve on October 14.
- **GPAC** discussed and voted to approve on October 20. The committee asked for clarification to the policy proposal to clarify that the transferred classes not be used for more than two Masters programs (as is our university policy) to avoid the potential for triple counting. The proposers will update the language and upload a new file to reflect those changes.
- **Faculty Senate** discussed and voted to approve at Meeting #4 on November 3: Yes 89, No 2, Abstain 3. **Approved 95%**

3.2. **UML - Change UMass Lowell Graduate Non-Degree Policy** (*Partha Chowdhury*) **Change University-Level Policy** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2678/form> This proposal seeks to change the existing UMass Lowell policy on non-degree graduate student enrollment to expand access to graduate-level coursework. Specifically, it recommends: Allowing undergraduate students in the latter stages of their academic programs (junior/senior year) to enroll in graduate-level classes with approval.

Permitting international students to enroll in non-degree graduate courses. These changes aim to support UMass Lowell's global engagement strategy and enhance graduate recruitment by offering greater flexibility and academic opportunities to both domestic and international students. Main questions and concerns from the senators focused on what level of graduate courses might be considered. Vice-Provost Julie Nash noted that undergraduate students can do this, but for some reason graduate students cannot, as of yet.

- **Faculty Senate** voted during Meeting #2 on September 8 to launch the request into the 2-month review cycle: Yes 76, No 2, Abstain 10. Approved 86%
- **Call for Comment #6** was **announced** on Friday September 12.
- **College Curriculum Committees** had the opportunity to add comments directly the proposal from September 12-19.
- **College Deans** had the opportunity to add comments directly to the proposal from September 19-26.
- **All campus community members are invited to provide further input at the upcoming senate and committee meetings:**
- **UPC** discussed and voted to approve on October 14.
- **GPAC** discussed and voted to approve on October 20. After discussion about the potential confusing differences between "international" students and their status, the committee requested that they remove the term "international" from the policy to open up the approval for any non-degree students to take graduate classes. The proposers will update the language and upload the new version before the final Senate vote.
- **Faculty Senate** discussed and voted to approve at Meeting #4 on November 3: Yes 87, No 2, Abstain 5. **Approved 93%**

4. Undergraduate Policy Committee (*Mike Geiger*)

4.1. FOR INFORMATION ONLY: B.S. Biological Sciences – All Subplans (*Sarah Rozelle*) – **Change List of Approved Electives**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2669/form>. Add BIOL.2150 Introduction to Marine Biology to the list of approved 'Organisms Evolution and Environment' electives, for all subplans: General; Biotechnology; Bioinformatics; Evolution Ecology and Conservation Biology; and, Pre-Med/Pre-Health.

5. Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee (*Noah Van Dam*)

5.1. FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Graduate Admissions Requirements – For Approval or FYI (*Noah Van Dam*) **Documents for GPAC**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2706/form> GPAC discussed the list of admissions

requirements and at this point in time agree that GPAC approval will be required for changes related to: prior degree/qualification, prior GPA, official transcripts, transcript evaluations for international transcripts, academic tests (GRE, GMAT, etc.), technical requirements, admission deadlines, readmission/deferral policy, Bachelor's to Master's threshold, Bachelor's to Master's specific requirements beyond the institutional requirements, other custom admissions requirements, pausing admissions (temporarily), and suspending/discontinuing admissions (permanently).

6. **Core Curriculum Committee & UPC Discussion** (*Ryan McPherson & Paula Haines*) Our Essential Learning Outcomes were developed 10 years ago. The Provost has asked for a review of the undergraduate [core curriculum](#) to determine current possibilities for serving our students. The Core Curriculum Committee and UPC will meet during the latter part of the Senate meeting in private session to discuss preliminary planning for the developing project to revise the university's [Core Curriculum](#).
 - 6.1. A conversation between Core and UPC discussed the initiative to update the Core Curriculum and explore ways to make general education more effective and impactful. The conversation looked at possible goals and shared a logic model that might coordinate action this year.

Next: Faculty Senate Meeting #5 on Monday December 1, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 pm in University Crossing 260.