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## MINUTES

### Faculty Senate 2025-2026 Meeting #5

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:202/form>

Monday December 1, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 PM • University Crossing 260

#### 1. Updates

**1.1. Transition Away from 10-Week Terms** (*Nancy Ludwig*) Executive Dean of Graduate, Online, and Professional Studies Nancy Ludwig provided an update on the status of 10-week courses. The 10-week sessions were created 10 years ago as part of the MOU for NAVITAS and from there GPS started offering more courses in the 10-week format. However, the 10-week sessions only allow for 20 class meetings which creates a gap for students and a lot of work for the Registrar's Office. The Manning School of Business and the Zuckerberg College of Health Sciences are almost off 10-week sessions. The College of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (FAHSS) and the Kennedy College of Sciences have transitioned almost all of their classes from 10 weeks. GPS is currently working with the Francis College of Engineering on the transition away from 10-week terms. Patrick Connell works 1:1 with faculty as they transition their courses, and by Spring 2027 they hope all courses will be either full-term, or 8-week sessions, which allow for continuous enrollment back-to-back. Michelle Scribner asked for confirmation of her 10-week format for the summer, and Dean Ludwig confirmed this is only for Education. Arie Perliger asked if there is a plan to condense graduate classes which are structured for 14 or 15 weeks. Dean Ludwig confirmed there is not, and shared that when GPS talks with faculty they discuss what is best for their course. There is no intent to force anyone to take a 10-week course and make it an 8-week course.

**1.2. Class Scheduling Task Force** (*Joseph Gonzales*) CSTF Chair Joseph Gonzales presented a debrief of the work completed by the task force, a joint effort of Faculty Senate, Administration, and MSP; see the "Scheduling Task Force Summary" PPT. The data collected from the campus community suggests that faculty and students are open to teaching throughout the week, would like the options of either twice or three times a week meeting patterns, and prefer times between 9am and 2pm. While the data is limited

in scope, it does offer a good place to start should the campus decide to engage in significant revisions to how classes are scheduled. The raw data will be shared with Faculty Senate and members of the task force for future uses.

2. **Minutes from Meeting #4 on November 3, 2025** (*Kevin Petersen*)

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2850/form> Concern was raised about academic dishonesty and destroying records after a student graduates, per the discussion by Vice Provost Julie Nash at the beginning of the November meeting. The faculty are concerned about repeat offenses and want a clear way to see if there is a pattern. A request was made for Senate to arrange for a motion around the academic integrity policy. The faculty would first like clarification about the omission of a sentence in the November version of the sanction letter that goes to the student, information about what offenses occur and the implications for students, and whether records are deleted. Faculty expressed the importance of keeping records, particularly since we are no longer paper-based. Senate will invite Vice Provost Julie Nash back in February. Vote to approve the minutes: Yes 76, No 0, Abstain 3. **Approved 96%**.

3. **Policy Proposals** (*Kevin Petersen*)

3.1. **UML – Clarify the Policy on Graduate Student Transfer Credit** (*Noah Van Dam*) –

**Change Policy (University-Level)** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2859/form>.

FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION: UMass Lowell currently maintains two related policies governing graduate credit applied toward doctoral programs:

1. [Graduate Student Transfer Credit policy](#) – This applies when individual graduate courses are transferred into a program
2. [Acceptance of Master’s Degree Toward Doctoral Requirements policy](#) – This applies when a student’s entire earned master’s degree is accepted toward a doctoral program.

Because the Graduate Student Transfer Credit policy is more likely to appear first in online searches for “graduate transfer policy,” and because it contains additional restrictions on timing and eligible institutions, students and graduate coordinators have sometimes been uncertain about which of the two policies applies in specific cases. To reduce this confusion, GPAC recommends adding a brief clarifying statement at the beginning of the Transfer Credit policy. Vote to initiate the 2-month review process: Yes 75, No 1, Abstain 1. **Approved 97%**.

4. **Undergraduate Policy Committee** (*Mike Geiger*)

4.1. **B.A. English – Creative Writing** (*Natalie Houston*) – **Change Subplan**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2770/form>. Change required courses in the subplan: Remove ENGL.2380/2381 Introduction to Creative Writing. Change the list of approved

electives - Add to the Capstone choices: ENGL.4350 Literary Journalism; Remove Creating Writing Electives: ENGL.3040 Creative Writing: Playwriting, ENGL.4900 Directed Studies in Writing, ENGL.4930 Directed Studies in Creative Writing; Remove from the Capstone choices: ENGL.4010 Selected Authors, and ENGL.4930 Directed Study in Creative Writing. These changes will require students to take courses in all three of the genres covered, facilitating the development of depth. Vote to approve: Yes 75, No 1, Abstain 1. [Approved 97%](#).

**4.2. B.S. Nursing – RN to BS Degree Completion Option** (*Nicole Champagne*) – **Change Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2788/form>. Change required courses in the plan: Add 9-credits SCL, 3-credits MATH, 3-credits SS-1, and x-credits of Free Electives; Remove HSCI.1020 Human Anatomy and Physiology II [SCL] 3-credits, HSCI.1040 Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab [SCL] 1-credit, HSCI.2110 Basic Clinical Microbiology and Pathology [STEM] 3-credits, HSCI.2130 Basic Clinical Microbiology and Pathology Lab [STEM] 1-credit, MATH.2830 Introduction to Statistics [MATH] 3-credits, PSYC.1010 Introduction to Psychological Sciences [SS-1] 3-credits. This change is to generalize the core requirements to reflect that the students are already licensed nurses. Vote to approve: Yes 74, No 3, Abstain 1. [Approved 95%](#).

**4.3. B.A. English (3 of 6 subplans) (1) Literature, (2) Journalism and Professional Writing, (3) English Studies (online)** (*Natalie Houston*) – **Change List of Approved Electives** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2735/form>. Update the Theory/Composition/Language/Methods requirement: Add ENGL.3693 Reading and Writing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. Vote to approve: Yes 75, No 1, Abstain 2. [Approved 96%](#).

**4.4. B.S. Applied Biomedical Sciences – Clinical Science** (*Javier Horta*) – **Change List of Approved Electives** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2746/form>. Change the list of approved BNS Technical Electives. The department is now including all 3000-level with the prefix BMSC, EXER, HSCI, MLSC, NUTR, PHIT, PHRM, and PUBH, as well as several BIOL, CHEM, and other courses. Vote to approve: Yes 75, No 0, Abstain 1. [Approved 99%](#).

**4.5. B.S. Applied Biomedical Sciences – Pre-Medical/Pre-Health** (*Javier Horta*) – **Change List of Approved Electives** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2747/form>. Change the list of approved BNS Technical Electives. Vote to approve: Yes 75, No 0, Abstain 1. [Approved 99%](#).

#### **FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

**4.6. B.S. Criminal Justice - three on-campus subplans - SP27** (*Ryan Shields*) – **Stop Admitting New Students & Initiate the Phase-Out Process** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2753/form>. Stop admitting students to and phase-out

three subplans: (1) Crime & Mental Health concentration, (2) Police option, (3) Homeland Security option.

**4.7. B.S. Criminal Justice – online Paralegal Studies Option - SP27** (*Ryan Shields*) – **Stop Admitting New Students & Initiate the Phase-Out Process**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2762/form>. Stop admitting students to and phase-out the online Paralegal Studies Option.

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

**5.1. Ph.D. Applied Biology – all 4 subplans** (*Jennifer Fish*) – **Change Plan**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2757/form>. Change required courses in the plan; Remove: BIOL.6040 Professional Communications; Add: "Each PhD student will work with their dissertation supervisor and committee to select two core competency courses". Add all Biology graduate-level courses to the approved list of core competency courses. The four subplans are: Biomedical Science (BMS), Cellular & Molecular Biology (CMB), Developmental & Evolutionary Biology (DEB), and, Quantitative Biology & Biophysics (QBB). The goal is to make requirements more flexible and to meet the needs of their new and growing faculty. Vote to approve: Yes 71, No 1, Abstain 1. **Approved 97%.**

**5.2. DNP Nursing – all 3 subplans** (*Lisa Marchand*) – **Change Plan**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2794/form>. Update required courses; Add: PUBH.5060 Quantitative Methods in Health Management. Remove: PUBH.5770 Biostatistics for Health Data. The department is reverting a change they made several years ago, as 5060 is more aligned with the needs of the students. Vote to approve: Yes 73, No 0, Abstain 1. **Approved 99%.**

**5.3. ADMISSIONS: DNP Nursing** (*Lisa Marchand*) – **Change Admission Requirements**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2793/form>. Change the prerequisite courses and direct patient care hours earned with MS degree. The requirements are required by the accreditors; formally making the change. Vote to approve: Yes 75, No 0, Abstain 0. **Approved 100%.**

**5.4. ADMISSIONS: M.S. Computer Science** (*Tinghian Je*) – **Change Admission Requirements**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2771/form>. Remove the GRE requirement. Most master's programs aren't requiring the GRE at this point; requiring it would put us at a competitive disadvantage. The department will focus on other factors. Vote to approve: Yes 71, No 2, Abstain 3. **Approved 93%.**

**5.5. ADMISSIONS: Ph.D. Computer Science** (*Benyuan Liu*) – **Change Admission Requirements** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2772/form>. Remove the GRE requirement. All PhD students are required to have an advisor, so the need for the exam is no longer relevant as the faculty screen applicants. Vote to approve: Yes 60, No 9, Abstain 3. **Approved 83%**.

Faculty Senate President Kevin Petersen acknowledged a change in our campus leadership. Provost Joseph Hartman is transitioning to a new role at the end of calendar year. Dean Noureddine Melikechi will be serving as interim Provost during the spring semester and working with Senate in that capacity. The search committee for the provost position has been formed and we hope to have a new person in that role by July 1, 2026.

**6. Executive Session** – Planning for Spring 2026

[Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.](#)

**Next: Faculty Senate Meeting #6** on Monday February 2, 2026 at 3:30-5:00 pm in University Crossing 260.