



University of Massachusetts Lowell
Office of the Faculty Senate
Alumni Hall, Room 101, 84 University Avenue
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854
Faculty Senate Assoc Director: Kerry Patenaude
Telephone: 978-934-3413
E-mail: Kerry_Patenaude@uml.edu

Faculty Senate President: Kevin Petersen
Telephone: 978-934-4095
E-mail: Kevin_Petersen@uml.edu

MINUTES

Faculty Senate 2025-2026 Meeting #7

Monday March 2, 2026 at 3:30-5:00 PM • University Crossing 260

1. Updates

1.1. Board of Trustees Update (*Lisa Marchand*)

Lisa presented a variety of slides from the last Board of Trustees meeting on system reports and updates.

1.2. Library Resources (*Galadriel Chilton*)

Dean Chilton presented data comparing the UML Libraries' resources and staffing compared to other institutions.

1.3. DHE Approval of Three-Year Degrees (*Kevin Petersen & Julie Nash*)

Kevin offered a quick preview of the recent approval of 3-year degrees by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. We have not yet heard from the UMass President's Office on this ruling.

1.4. REMINDER: Department Elections for Senators due by March 20 (*Kerry*

Patenaude) – As guided by the Faculty Senate [by-laws](#), nominations of candidates for the Faculty Senate shall occur in writing to the chairperson of the departmental or academic personnel committee.

- The “Faculty Senate 2026-2027 Election Timeline” and “Faculty Senate 2026-2027 Calendar” documents have been emailed to all Department Chairs and are available here <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2958/form>.
- **Senators are elected by their departments for 2-year terms**
 - **Senate 2025-2026** will conclude on August 31, 2026.
 - See “**Senator List by College 2025-2026**” for the current list of senators: <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2958/form>

- [Senators](#) with a 2026 end of term may be re-elected or may conclude their service on August 31, 2026.
 - Senators with a 2027 end of term have been elected to serve until August 31, 2027.
 - **Senate 2026-2027** will begin on September 1, 2026 and conclude on August 31, 2027.
- **All Department Chairs should email the results of their department election to Kerry Patenaude before Friday March 20, 2026.**
 - The Executive Committee will review the members of Senate 2026-2027 on the last Monday of March.
 - Nominations for Officers will open on April 1 and will close on the third Monday in April.
 - Newly elected senators for Senate 2026-2027 are encouraged to attend the May Senate 2025-2026 meeting to onboard with the departing senators.
 - Election of Officers, committee members, and committee chairs will take place during the first Monday in May.

1.5. REMINDER: Curriculog Proposal Deadlines (*Kerry Patenaude*) – Reminder for departments to submit 2025-2026 proposals asap for updates to the Fall 2026 catalog.

- The “**Deadlines for Curriculum Proposals 2025-2026**” document is available here <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2959/form>.
 - **Curriculog 2025-2026 forms will close for new proposals on March 31.**
 - Proposals for UPC need to reach the UPC step by April 6.
 - Proposals for GPAC need to reach the GPAC step by April 13.
 - All final approvals for updates to the Fall 2026 catalog will conclude at Faculty Senate Meeting #9 on May 4, 2026.
 - **Curriculog 2026-2027 forms will open on August 1.**
2. **Minutes from Meeting #6 on February 2, 2026** (*Kevin Petersen*)
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3010/form> Vote to approve the minutes: Yes 80, 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 A VOTE: 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.

To reduce confusion, GPAC recommends adding a brief clarifying statement at the beginning of the Transfer Credit policy. Students will either transfer in single course, or transfer in an entire master's degree.

- **Faculty Senate** – Initial Discussion and vote to initiate the 2-month process was approved on 12/1/25
- **Call for Comment #7** – Announced on 12/5/25
- **UPC** – Approved on 2/9/26
- **GPAC** – Approved on 2/17/26
- **Faculty Senate** – Approved on 3/2/26.
 - Yes 82, No 0, Abstain 4. **Approved 95%**

- 3.2. **UML – Academic Integrity** (*Julie Nash*) – **Change Policy (University-Level)** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2901/form>. REMINDER AND UPDATE: This proposal updates the academic integrity policy to better match current teaching and learning conditions, especially the widespread availability of generative AI tools. The revisions clarify expectations for students and instructors, explicitly address unauthorized AI-assisted work as academic misconduct, and provide concrete examples to reduce ambiguity. The proposal also strengthens consistency and fairness in how cases are documented and handled by standardizing reporting and reinforcing the sanctions and appeal process, including circumstances when violations are discovered after a course ends.

- **Faculty Senate** – Initial Discussion and vote to initiate the 2-month process was approved on 2/2/26
- **Call for Comment #8** – Announced on 2/6/26
- **UPC** – Will review on 3/16/26
- **GPAC** – Will review on 3/23/26
- **Faculty Senate** – Will review & vote on 4/6/26

- 3.3. **UML – Policies Governing Undergraduate Certificates** (*Kevin Petersen*) – **Change Policy (University-Level)** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2947/form>. INITIAL DISCUSSION. **Tabled until a future meeting.**

- 3.4. **UML – Academic Calendar** (*Noah Van Dam*) – **Change Policy (University-Level)** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3009/form>. INITIAL DISCUSSION: This proposal establishes a standing framework for determining the University's academic calendar. Rather than generating the fall and spring calendars annually, the academic calendar for each year will be selected from a set of pre-approved calendars adopted as an appendix to this policy. Selection will be determined by (1) the weekday on which September 1

falls and (2) whether the academic year includes February 29. The proposal does not modify the existing definition of the semester length and does not alter the duration of fall or spring terms. Vote to initiate the 2-month review process: Yes 74, No 3, Abstain 5. [Approved 90%](#).

4. Undergraduate Policy Committee (*Mike Geiger*)

1. **Minor in Quantitative Economics** (*Shakil Quayes*) **New Plan**
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2886/form>. The Quantitative Economics minor is designed for students seeking a strong analytical foundation in economic theory and applied methods. The program integrates coursework in mathematics, statistics, and econometrics with core areas of microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students learn to model economic behavior, analyze data, and evaluate policy through a quantitative lens. By emphasizing both formal reasoning and empirical techniques, the minor prepares students to pursue graduate studies in economics or related disciplines, as well as careers requiring data-driven problem solving and rigorous economic analysis. Vote to approve the new minor: Yes 84, No 0, Abstain 0. [Approved 100%](#).
2. **B.A. Quantitative Economics** (*Shakil Quayes*) **Change Plan**
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2885/form>. Change sequence of courses: Move ECON.2120 Statistics II from second year Spring to third year Fall, and move ECON.4200 Advanced Software for Economics from third year Fall to second year Spring. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 80, No 0, Abstain 1. [Approved 99%](#).
3. **B.A. Economics** (*Shakil Quayes*) **Change Plan**
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2897/form>. Change sequence of courses: Move ECON.2120 Statistics II from second year Spring to third year Fall, and move AH requirement from third year Fall to second year Spring. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 74, No 0, Abstain 0. [Approved 100%](#).
4. **B.A. Other Curricula: World Ready Option** (*Daniel Arroyo-Rodriguez, Maria Matz*) **Pause Admission** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2895/form>. Pause the World-Ready Options for Chinese and Khmer, as these languages are not currently being offered in the World Languages and Cultures Department. Vote to pause admission: Yes 82, No 1, Abstain 2. [Approved 96%](#).

FYI: Approved unless there are objections

5. **B.A. Education - Elementary and Moderate Disabilities; Disability Studies for Educational and Community Organizations** (*Katherine King*) **Change Lists of Approved Electives** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2884/form>. Add 13 courses to the list of approved electives for the requirement ENGL.3/4xxx Literature Focus (R4571, L90).

6. **B.A. Education - Elementary and Moderate Disabilities; Disability Studies for Educational and Community Organizations** (*Katherine King*) **Change Lists of Approved Electives** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2883/form>. Add 6 courses to the list of approved electives for the requirement ENGL.xxxx language focus (R4571, L70) and ENGL.2/3/4xxx language focus (R4571, L80).

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

1. **ADMISSIONS: M.S. Computer Engineering** (*Paul Robinette*) – **Change Graduate Admission Requirements** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2889/form>. Remove the GRE requirement. Vote to approve the change: Yes 69, No 1, Abstain 7. **Approved 90%**.
2. **ADMISSIONS: M.S. Electrical Engineering** (*Paul Robinette*) – **Change Graduate Admission Requirements** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2888/form>. Remove the GRE requirement. Vote to approve the change: Yes 72, No 2, Abstain 6. **Approved 90%**.
3. **M.S. Computer Engineering** (*Paul Robinette*) – **Change Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2798/form>. Change required course in the plan: Add six courses, update course numbers on two courses, and remove three courses. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 75, No 0, Abstain 3. **Approved 96%**.
4. **M.S. Electrical Engineering** (*Paul Robinette*) – **Change Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2797/form>. Change required course in the plan: Add two courses, and update course numbers on two courses. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 77, No 0, Abstain 3. **Approved 96%**.
5. **M.S. Computer Science – all three subplans (General Option, Bio/Cheminformatics Option, Cybersecurity Option)** (*Tingjian Ge*) – **Change Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2882/form>. Add COMP.5900 Professional Experience in Computer Science to the list of approved electives and update the catalog description. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 74, No 0, Abstain 3. **Approved 96%**.
6. **Ph.D. Chemistry – no subplan** (*Matthew Gage*) – **Change Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2905/form>. Change required courses from specific courses to elective choices, and update the catalog description. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 76, No 0, Abstain 2. **Approved 97%**.
7. **Ph.D. Chemistry - Biochemistry** (*Matthew Gage*) – **Change Plan** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2906/form>. Change required courses from specific courses to elective choices, and update the catalog description. Vote to

approve the changes: Yes 75, No 0, Abstain 1. **Approved 99%**.

8. **Ph.D. Polymer Science – no subplan** (*Matthew Gage*) – **Change Plan**
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2908/form>. Change required courses from specific courses to elective choices, and update the catalog description. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 78, No 0, Abstain 2. **Approved 98%**.

9. **Ph.D. Criminology and Justice Studies – all subplans (General Option, Terrorism Studies Option)** (*Jason Rydberg*) – **Change Plan**
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2829/form>. Change one of the courses that is covered in the preliminary exam (i.e., removing a course that we cannot reliably offer every year); Add an oral presentation component to the comprehensive exam. Vote to approve the changes: Yes 76, No 0, Abstain 1. **Approved 99%**.

6. **Executive Session** – was not called for this meeting

Next: Faculty Senate Meeting #8 on Monday April 6, 2026 at 3:30-5:00 pm in University Crossing 260.