



## **Graduate Policy & Affairs Committee (GPAC)**

*Michael Ciuchta (absent)/Sub: Mark Yim, Ramanpreet Kaur, Saira Latif, Christine Leider, Lisa Marchand, Jeff Moore, Suzanne Moore, Nese Orbey, Neil Shortland, Noah Van Dam (absent)\**

*Kevin Petersen\*\*, Mai Nguyen (absent)<sup>1</sup>, Nancy Ludwig<sup>1</sup>, Deborah White<sup>1</sup>*

*\*\*Ex-officio, <sup>1</sup>non-voting*

## **MINUTES**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:192/form>

**Monday October 20, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 PM in Alumni Hall 102**

1. **Executive Session** (*Noah Van Dam*) Graduate Student Petitions in Alumni Hall 101
2. **Minutes from the September 22, 2025 Meeting** (*Noah Van Dam*)  
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2754/form> Motion to approve with an update to include the proposal voted on by email, by Jeff Moore, seconded by Suzanne Moore.  
[Approved: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)
3. **Policy Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*)
  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.

1. **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%.
2. **Call for Comment #5** was announced on Friday September 12.
3. **College Curriculum Committees** had the opportunity to add comments directly the proposal from September 12-19.
4. **College Deans** had the opportunity to add comments directly to the proposal from September 19-26.
5. **All campus community members are invited to provide further input at the upcoming senate and committee meetings:**
6. **UPC** discussed and voted to approve on October 14.
7. **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. Motion to approve this policy, contingent on the extra sentence, by Saira Latif, seconded by Neil Shortland. Approved: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0.
8. **Faculty Senate** will provide a final review and vote during Meeting #4 on November 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.

1. **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%
2. **Call for Comment #6** was announced on Friday September 12.

3. **College Curriculum Committees** had the opportunity to add comments directly the proposal from September 12-19.
  4. **College Deans** had the opportunity to add comments directly to the proposal from September 19-26.
  5. **All campus community members are invited to provide further input at the upcoming senate and committee meetings:**
  6. **UPC** discussed and voted to approve on October 14.
  7. **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. Motion to approve, contingent upon the updates, by Suzanne Moore, seconded by Mark Yim. [Approved: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)
  8. **Faculty Senate** will provide a final review and vote during Meeting #4 on November 3.
4. **Program Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*) – No program proposals reached the GPAC step for October.
  5. **Course Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*) - No course proposals appeared to reach the GPAC step for October, however, some courses were identified that should have reached the agenda. The issue is being resolved. The committee voted via email on the following course:
    1. **MIST.6180 Causality and Modern Methods for Analytics** (*Hongwei Zhu*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2694/form> The course focuses on modern analytics methods and causal inference techniques with applications in business and social sciences. Topics include model interpretation, model uncertainties, methods for causal inference, text analytics, deep learning, and recent development in artificial intelligence. Drawing from economics, statistics, and machine learning, this course will elevate students' ability in deriving business insights using various types of data and appropriate modern analytics methods. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 2.](#)
6. **Discussion**
    1. **Graduate Student Transfer Credit Policy** (*Noah Van Dam*) – Whether to move forward with a simple clarification with respect to Acceptance of Master's Degree Toward Doctoral Requirements or to do a deeper revision to either/both policies?

2. **Graduate Admission Requirements** (*Noah Van Dam*) –

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2706/form> Which changes require GPAC review? GPAC discussed the list of admissions requirements and at this point in time agree that GPAC approval will be required for changes 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). GPAC agrees that the following changes will not require GPAC approval, but will instead be an FYI to GPAC when changes are made to the following requirements: pre-requisite coursework required for admission, initial licensure, F1 student visa eligibility, number of letters of recommendation, statement of purpose and essays, resume, interviews, audition/portfolio requirements, application fees/fee waivers, enrollment deposit amounts, acceptable English language tests for students who studied in non-English-speaking countries, English language test scores (TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo), English language institutional minimum threshold (TOEFL minimum 79), and English language minimum threshold beyond the institutional minimum at the program-level.

3. **Graduate Student Petitions** (*Noah Van Dam*) –

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2700/form> What information should be included in a standardized template?

Meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

**Next GPAC Meeting:** Monday November 17, 2025 at 3:30-5:00pm in Alumni Hall 102.