University of Massachusetts Lowell

Graduate Policy & Affairs Committee (GPAC)

*Michael Ciuchta, Ramanpreet Kaur, Saira Latif, Eleanor Abrams, Lisa Marchand, Jeff Moore, Suzanne Moore, Nese Orbey (absent), Neil Shortland (absent), Noah Van Dam**

*Kevin Petersen**, Mai Nguyen[1], Nancy Ludwig[1], Deborah White[1]*

**Ex-officio, [1]non-voting

MINUTES

https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:216/form

Monday March 23, 2026 at 3:30-5:00 PM in Alumni Hall 102

1. **REMINDER: Committee Member Intentions for 2026-2027** *(Noah Van Dam or Kerry Patenaude)*

    1. Please communicate your intention to remain on or leave the Graduate Policy Affairs Committee for the 2026-2027 academic year by written communication to Kerry Patenaude **before Friday March 20**.

    2. During April nominations for Officers, please also send nominations for Chair by written communication to Kerry Patenaude **before Friday April 17**.

    3. At the May 4 Senate meeting, Senate will elect Officers, Colleges will elect committee members, and Committees will elect Chairs.

2. **Minutes from the February 17, 2025 Meeting** *(Noah Van Dam)* https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3091/form Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, seconded by Jeff Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 1.

3. Policy Proposals

    1. **UML – Academic Integrity Policy & Practice** *(Julie Nash)* – **Change Policy (University-Level)** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2901/form. 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 – Approved on 3/16/26
- GPAC – Will review on 3/23/26.

GPAC requested the following changes for approval:
1. Change phones to devices in the second bullet under Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct Subject to Disciplinary Action
2. Add a comma between devices and social media, and as necessary after artificial intelligence in the same bullet
3. Remove "or required reflection and ethics education" from the final bullet in the same section.

Motion to approve with specified changes by Eleanor Abrams, seconded by Ramanpreet Kaur. Approved: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0.

- Faculty Senate – Will review & vote on 4/6/26

Lisa Marchand left the meeting due to pre-existing conflict.

2. **Department Policy – Nursing – Grading Policy DNP Students** *(Lisa Marchand)* – **Change Policy (Department-Level)**
   https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2989/form. *(Unresolved issue: The updated text provided needs to include a placement location on the DNP catalog page.)*
   Change/add the grading and progression requirements for the Nursing DNP Program to be more stringent than the university policy. Placement location was provided by originator prior to the meeting. Motion to approve by Jeff Moore, seconded by Saira Latif. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

3. **Department Policy – Nursing – Nursing PhD Program Progression** *(Ainat Koren* – **Change Policy (Department-Level)**
   https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3074/form. Change/add the grading and progression requirements for the Nursing PhD Program to be more stringent than the university policy. Motion to approve by Jeff Moore, seconded by Saira Latif. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

4. **Program Proposals** *(Noah Van Dam)*

1. **DPT Doctor of Physical Therapy** *(David Cornell)* – **Change Plan** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3090/form. Change required courses, sequence of courses, and course titles. Change the number of credits from 95 to 104. Motion to approve by Michael Ciuchta, seconded by Suzanne Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

5. **Course Proposals** *(Noah Van Dam)*

New Courses

1. **BMSC.5120 Clinical Cell Biology** *(Suzanne Moore)* – **New Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2996/form. This graduate-level course examines mammalian cell biology as an integrated, dynamic system underlying human health and disease. Emphasis is placed on the molecular and cellular mechanisms that govern protein trafficking, signal transduction, cell cycle regulation, cell death, and oncogenic transformation. Students will critically engage with primary literature, evaluate experimental approaches, and apply mechanistic reasoning to interpret how perturbations in cellular systems contribute to disease states. The course is discussion-driven and case-based, with in-class analysis designed to mirror the intellectual practices of research laboratories and translational science teams with a focus on human disease. Motion to approve by Eleanor Abrams, seconded by Jeff Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

2. **BMSC.5140 Cell Models & Translational Applications Lab** *(Suzanne Moore)* – **New Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2991/form. Advanced applications in mammalian cell culture. Students with a mastery in BSL-2 safety and aseptic technique will develop proficiency in advanced techniques such as viability and dose–response assays, plasmid prep and transient transfection, protein, RNA, and DNA isolation and analysis techniques, and fluorescent imaging. Emphasis on industry- and research lab-relevant skills, problem-solving, and critical thinking culminating in an independent capstone project. Motion to approve by Eleanor Abrams, seconded by Jeff Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

3. **BMSC.5530 Advanced Histology Laboratory** *(Suzanne Moore)* – **New Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3065/form. This senior- and graduate-level laboratory course emphasizes mastery of histological techniques and thematic tissue analysis. Students develop professional competence in fixation, embedding, microtomy, cryosectioning, routine and special staining, and digital microscopy. Following foundational training, students apply these techniques within a structured 12-week block model organized around shared histological architecture and

functional similarities. Selected histopathologic examples are integrated to reinforce recognition of normal tissue morphology and enhance clinical relevance while maintaining primary emphasis on technical skill development. The course integrates technical precision, troubleshooting, comparative tissue analysis, and professional scientific communication. Motion to approve by Eleanor Abrams, seconded by Jeff Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

4. **EECE.5862 Embedded Artificial Intelligence** *(Mike Geiger)* – **New Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2961/form. This course explores the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) algorithms into embedded systems. Students will learn both the theoretical foundations of AI models and the practical challenges of deploying them on resource-constrained hardware platforms. Topics include ML and deep learning fundamentals, embedded hardware and software architectures, optimization techniques for computation, memory and energy efficiency, and real-world embedded AI application examples in computer vision, robotics, and IoT. Through homework, hands-on labs and a project, students will design, implement, and evaluate embedded AI systems using state-of-the-art development platforms. Motion to approve by Michael Ciuchta, seconded by Noah Van Dam. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

5. **EECE.5864 Applied AI for Engineering Research** *(Mike Geiger)* – **New Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2978/form. This combined undergraduate and graduate course explores how artificial intelligence can enhance research, data analysis, and creative innovation. Students will learn to apply AI tools for literature review, data analysis, and communication of results. The course concludes with a discussion of how AI transforms scientific thinking and creativity. Motion to table by Noah Van Dam, seconded by Suzanne Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

Change Courses

6. **CRIM.6500 Violence in America** *(Kelly Socia)* – **Change Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2984/form. *(Unresolved issue: Whether the new description is changing the content of the class. The Registrar's Office mentioned this should be a new course with a new number and title; The department provided further rationale.)* Change the course title and course description. The Registrar's concerns were discussed by the committee. After discussion it was determined that even though the description changed to reflect contemporary language around course content, the content of the course was not changing enough to warrant a new number and title. Motion to approve as presented by Eleanor Abrams, seconded by Saira

Latif. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

7. **DPTH.XXXX (36 courses)** *(David Cornell)* – **Change Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3095/form. Change the pre-requisite and co-requisite courses for 36 physical therapy courses. Motion to approve by Michael Ciuchta, seconded by Jeff Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

8. **MLSC.5510 Advanced Pathophysiology** *(Suzanne Moore)* – **Change Course** https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:3070/form. Change the course prefix from MLSC to BMSC, change the pre-requisite courses, update the catalog description and learning outcomes. Motion to approve by Eleanor Abrams, seconded by Ramanpreet Kaur. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

6. **Discussion**

1. **Graduate Student Petitions** *(Noah Van Dam)* – https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2700/form Update status of information gathering after the December GPAC meeting. Jeff Moore sent an updated form for committee review. The updated version has been uploaded to Curriculog along with notes of the committee discussion, which focused on implementation as the content was seen to be largely acceptable.

Motion to adjourn by Noah Van Dam, seconded by Ramanpreet Kaur. Meeting adjourned 5:10 PM.

Next GPAC Meeting: Wednesday April 22, 2026 at 3:30-5:00pm in Alumni Hall 102.