

Dina Bozicas (absent), Tanya Coutu, Leslie Farris, Michael Geiger (Chair), Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti, Raj Kumar Gondle (absent), Mary Kate Keyes, Elissa Magnant, Walter Toomey (absent), Wen Zhu

Kevin Petersen, Ryan McPherson*, Julie Nash¹, Mai Nguyen¹, Yolanda Hood¹(absent)*

*ex-officio, ¹ non-voting

Minutes

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:190/form>

Meeting of Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC) of Faculty Senate

Tuesday October 14, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall 102

1. **Minutes of UPC Meeting September 15, 2025** (*Mike Geiger*)

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2730/form> Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Leslie Farris. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

2. Policy Proposals

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.
 - i. **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%.
 - ii. **Call for Comment #5** was **announced** on Friday September 12.

- iii. **College Curriculum Committees** had the opportunity to add comments directly the proposal from September 12-19.
- iv. **College Deans** had the opportunity to add comments directly to the proposal from September 19-26.
- v. **All campus community members are invited to provide further input at the upcoming senate and committee meetings:**
- vi. **UPC** voted on October 14. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Wen Zhu. [Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 1.](#)
- vii. **GPAC** will contribute to the campus review with a vote on October 20.
- viii. **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.

- i. **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%
- ii. [Call for Comment #6](#) was [announced](#) on Friday September 12.
- iii. **College Curriculum Committees** had the opportunity to add comments directly the proposal from September 12-19.
- iv. **College Deans** had the opportunity to add comments directly to the proposal from September 19-26.
- v. **All campus community members are invited to provide further input at the upcoming senate and committee meetings:**
- vi. **UPC** voted on October 14. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Leslie Farris. [Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 1.](#)
- vii. **GPAC** will contribute to the campus review with a vote on October 20.
- viii. **Faculty Senate** will provide a final review and vote during Meeting #4 on November 3.

3. Program Proposals

1. **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. Motion to approve by Jennifer Gonzales-Zugasti, seconded by Wen Zhu. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

4. Course Proposals

New Courses

1. **COMP.1140 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for All** (*Mohammad Arif Ul Alam*) – New Course (Lecture): <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2682/form>. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century, reshaping industries, influencing daily life, and raising new social and ethical questions. This undergraduate course provides an accessible introduction to AI with no prerequisites, designed for students from all backgrounds. Through engaging discussions and case studies, students will learn the fundamental concepts of AI, including machine learning, neural networks, natural language processing, and computer vision, while exploring how these technologies are applied in fields such as healthcare, finance, transportation, and customer service. Emphasizing a critical perspective, the course helps students recognize both the capabilities and limitations of AI, and equips them to evaluate its broader ethical, social, and philosophical implications. By the end, students will be prepared to navigate the rapidly evolving AI landscape as informed, responsible, and thoughtful participants in an AI-driven world. Spent significant time discussing proposed enrollment requirements and how practical they are to implement. Ultimately removed anti-requisite and moved enrollment requirements to course description because the requirements can't actually be coded in SiS. Motion to approve by Jennifer Gonzales-Zugasti, seconded by Mary Kate Keyes. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**
2. **COMP.1150 Introduction to AI for Scientists and Engineers** (*David Adams*) – New Course (Lecture): <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2668/form>. This course focuses on foundational concepts of artificial intelligence, such as search strategies (e.g., breadth-first and A*), basic game-playing techniques, and introductory probabilistic reasoning. It also introduces core ideas of reinforcement learning in an accessible way. The course will provide an introduction to basic Python programming to support students with no prior experience. Emphasis is placed on conceptual understanding, practical applications, and hands-on exercises using simple programming in Python with basic data structures. Students will complete guided assignments and a final project that integrates course concepts through both a written report and a modest coding component. Spent significant time discussing proposed enrollment requirements and how practical they are to implement. Ultimately moved

enrollment requirements (except pre-requisites) to course description because the requirements can't actually be coded in SiS. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Leslie Farris. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

3. **ENVI.4935 Internship: Sustainability** (*Lori Weeden*) – New Course (Independent Study/Directed Study): <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2684/form>. Work experience with a private or public employer that focuses on sustainability or sustainable practices. Written report, student presentation, and supervisor evaluation required. The internship work experience must include a minimum of eight hours per week. Discussed structure of course and whether contact hours/credit hours were appropriate. Students typically start internship over the summer and would get credit for this course after returning (and continuing to work) in the fall. Discussed contract protections typically in place for these students before they work, as well as desire to allow students to earn credit for work that is typically unpaid. Suggested that total hours for internship + course bring credit count in line with federal definition. Motion to approve by Leslie Farris, seconded by Mary Kate Keyes. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**
4. **HIST.2345 Comedy in Modern American History** (*Christoph Strobel*) – New Course (Lecture): <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2640/form>. This course explores various aspects of comedy in modern America, focusing primarily on humorous performance. We begin with a survey of classical and contemporary theories about humor as well as an overview of comedy genres and formats. We then explore a range of so-called “stage comedy” (on the stage, on the screen, and on television) in greater detail, chronologically and topically. This consideration starts with blackface minstrel and vaudeville shows at the end of the nineteenth century, moves on to early film, phonographic records, television programs, and comic cinema in subsequent decades, and finishes with stand-up acts in the latter part of the twentieth century. Of course, our perspective is mostly historical, but doing all this will be necessarily interdisciplinary, drawing on a range of insights, methodologies, observations, and interpretations from philosophy, psychology, anthropology, and linguistics. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Jennifer Gonzales-Zugasti. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Change Courses

5. **CIVE.3010 Fluid Mechanics** (*Jianqiang Wei*) – Change Course: <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2597/form>. *This proposal had missed the agenda deadlines for the April 14 and September 15, 2025 meetings.* Change pre-requisite courses to "MATH 2310 Calculus III; ENGN 2070 Dynamics; MATH 2340 Differential Equations, or MATH.2360 Eng. Differential Equations, or MATH.2440

Honors Differential Equations." Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Jennifer Gonzales-Zugasti. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

6. **EECE.4090 Directed Studies** (*Jean-Francois Millithaler*) – Change Course: <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1971/form>. *This proposal had missed the agenda deadlines for the April 14 and September 15, 2025 meetings.* Update contact hours to 3 hours. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Leslie Farris. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)
7. **EECE.4991 Capstone Project** (*Jean-Francois Millithaler*) – Change Course: <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2170/form>. *This proposal had missed the agenda deadlines for the April 14 and September 15, 2025 meetings.* Change pre-requisite courses to “EECE.3991 Capstone Proposal or ENGN.4017 Entrepreneurship Engineering Capstone Proposal”. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Leslie Farris. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)
8. **PLAS.2470 Thermodynamics** (*Akshay Kokil*) – Change Course: <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2649/form>. Remove "permission of instructor" from enrollment requirements. For ABET reasons the department needs to remove “permission of instructor”. The committee recommends adding “for Plastics Engineering students” to the pre-req, and strongly suggests changing the name of the course to include “Plastics Engineering”. Motion to approve by Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti, seconded by Mary Kate Keyes. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)
9. **PLAS.4060 Polymer Structure, Properties, and Applications** (*Akshay Kokil*) – Change Course: <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2648/form>. Change pre-requisite and co-requisite courses to: Pre-reqs PLAS.2010 Polymer Materials I and PLAS.2020 Polymer Materials II. Pre-reqs or co-reqs: PLAS.2150 Plastics Processing Engineering Lab I, and PLAS.3810 Polymer Science for Engineers I, and PLAS.3830 Polymer Science I Laboratory. 2010 is redundant because 2010 is a co-req for 2150. Adding extra pre-reqs so that students take it later in their pathway. Right now there is nothing stopping students from taking it, and they would not have the required information to be successful. Motion to approve by Wen Zhu, seconded by Mary Kate Keyes. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

5. Discussion

[Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.](#)

Next UPC Meeting: Monday November 10, 2025 at 3:30-5:00pm in Alumni Hall 102.