

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

Kevin Petersen, Ryan McPherson*, Julie Nash¹ (absent), Mai Nguyen¹, Yolanda Hood¹, Kieran Collins² (absent), Arjun Sachin Gupte² (absent)*

*ex-officio, ¹ non-voting, ² student-at-large

Minutes

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:208/form>

Meeting of Undergraduate Policy Committee (UPC) of Faculty Senate

Monday February 9, 2026 at 3:30-5:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall 102

1. **Committee Member Intentions for 2026-2027** (*Mike Geiger, for Kerry Patenaude*)
 1. Please communicate your intention to keep or release your seat on the Undergraduate Policy 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 for open seats, and Committees will elect Chairs.

2. **Minutes of UPC Meeting December 8, 2025** (*Mike Geiger*)
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2980/form> Motion to approve by Elissa Magnant, seconded by Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti. **Approved: Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 0.**

3. Policy Proposals
 1. **UML – Clarify the Policy on Graduate Student Transfer Credit** (*Noah Van Dam*) – **Change Policy (University-Level)** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2859/form>. 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** – Will review on 2/9/26
- **GPAC** – Will review on 2/17/26
- **Faculty Senate** – Will review on 3/2/26

Motion to approve by Elissa Magnant, seconded by Dina Bozicas. **Approved: Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 0.**

4. Program Proposals

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. Discussion centered on likely number of interested students (several STEM students in ECON minor who would likely prefer Quantitative Economics), ECON.2110 as a prerequisite for 2120 (no implications for non-ECON majors), and the reason for the lack of electives (maybe one other course might make sense in minor). Motion to approve by Leslie Farris, seconded by Wen Zhu. **Approved: Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 0.**
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. Mai Nguyen asked if there would be more demand for ECON.2120 in the fall with this change; the department still plans to offer one section each semester. Motion to approve by Walter Toomey, seconded by Raj Kumar Gondle. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**

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. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Raj Kumar Gondle. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**
4. **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). Motion to approve by Dina Bozicas, seconded by Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**
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: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). Motion to approve by Dina Bozicas, seconded by Mary Kate Keyes. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**
6. **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. Brief discussion on whether the “resume admissions” field in the Curriculog proposal should be completed yet. Mai Nguyen noted that the suggested resumption date for admissions is not binding and therefore can easily be changed. Motion to approve by Mary Kate Keyes, seconded by Jennifer Gonzalez-Zugasti. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**

5. Course Proposals

New Courses

1. **WLAN.3000 Applied Linguistics Across Disciplines** (*David Balmaceda Marengo, Maria Matz*) **New Course** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2932/form>. This course offers an exploration into how linguistic knowledge is applied to real-world issues. This interdisciplinary field bridges theory and practice, extending its reach into various domains like language teaching, policy-making, health, and legal contexts. By examining topics such as language acquisition, multilingualism, language planning, and sociolinguistic issues, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how language influences and is influenced by societal, cultural, and individual factors. This course is conducted in English. Ryan McPherson asked if this course would satisfy Career Connected Experience requirement (answer: yes). Motion to approve by Leslie Farris, seconded by Dina Bozicas. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Change Courses

2. **HIST.3300 Tudor and Stuart England, 1485-1714** (*Christoph Strobel*) **Change Course** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2881/form>. Change course title to "Wives, Witches, and Wars: Britain 1485-1714". Motion to approve by Elissa Magnant, seconded by Mary Kate Keyes. **Approved: Yes 10, No 0, Abstain 0.**

6. Discussion

1. Elective Updates: Committee discussed fact that UMass President's Office now reviews elective updates to existing programs, prompting us to consider whether presenting these proposals as "information only" at Faculty Senate is sufficient. Proposals have been treated as informational to keep the Senate meetings moving efficiently; having full Senate approval on the record might be good practice going forward. Ultimately decided to present elective update proposals to Senate for potential votes, with the understanding that these proposals will be approved automatically if nobody objects and/or calls for a vote on a given proposal.

[Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.](#)

Next UPC Meeting: Monday March 16, 2026 at 3:30-5:00pm in Alumni Hall 102.