



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

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

Faculty Senate Meeting #5 Minutes

Monday February 5, 2024 at 3:30 PM • UCC 260

1. **Minutes from Meeting #4 on December 4, 2023** <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1629/form>
Approved.
2. **Updates**
 - 2.1. **NECHE** (*Julie Nash*) The NECHE Committee will meet again, with UML's response to their report, to determine our accreditation. The Chancellor goes before the commission in April. Eight NECHE visitors came away with a positive reviews: UML is first-gen focused; Strategic plan is a good road map; Impressed with DAIR office. UML is working hard to make decisions based on data; Strong collaborative culture; Senate processes. Concerns: make sure DAIR is fully staffed, especially as we go to R1; the backlog of deferred maintenance; UML's gen ed is 36, most universities are 40 credit hours; Clearer learning outcomes. MH and PH are on it; Assessment not yet fully mandated, need more rigorous assessment processes; Interdisciplinary programs need definition and oversight; ELL needs coordinated efforts. We hope to have more concrete updates for them to see at the five-year check in.
 - 2.2. **BOT Report from November** (*Matt Hurwitz*) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1630/form>
 - 2.2.1. The Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees attend the BOT meetings on behalf of everyone at UML, to hear what is being discussed by the Board of Trustees system-wide; BOT members are appointed by the president of the system. Subcommittees include academic & student affairs, athletics, audit and risk, and administration & finance. Representatives to the BOT aren't allowed to talk at the meetings, but they learn things that help explain some of the things happening on our campus. The BOT Reports shared with Faculty Senate are the documents given to folks at the BOT meetings. If there are particular things anyone wants to learn about, the Representatives will try to do their best. The calendar has been shared for the full year. All meetings are available on Zoom.
 - 2.2.2. Academic & Student Affairs: The \$62 million MASSGrant Plus Expansion program will impact community colleges and public universities; The appointment of Bertie Greer as

Dean of Manning was fully approved with unanimous vote; Kerry Donohoe spoke on advising at UML.

2.3. **BOT Report from December** (*Michael Graves*) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1637/form>

2.3.1. Athletic; Finance – building projects on campus; deferred maintenance. Discussed all campuses except UML; Audit/Risk Management – AI hacking and what can happen to our systems; December 11-12, moved online last minute because they heard word of protests on campus; Gov Baker, and Gov Healy, allow these meetings to be held online.

2.4. **Interdisciplinary Task Force** (*Michelle Hunt / Michael Geiger*)

2.4.1. The ID Task Force was initially charged with examining existing ID policies across campus, establishing a clear definition of interdisciplinary policies and programs, and recommending revisions needed for growth of our interdisciplinary programs. The Co-Chairs shared input collected from faculty re: the definition of interdisciplinary relative to academic programs, and the challenges with and advantageous aspects of current/potential ID programs. Definitions included: a program that includes two or more disciplines; collaborating with people outside one's department; drawing methodologically as well as content from multiple academic traditions; and courses that cover subjects found across different departments/colleges. Challenges included: administrative management across programs; faculty need more funding and support; difficult to measure and get credit for service and teaching outside of main department; hard to discern ownership creating FTE issues for faculty. Advantages include: program can reach more students who may not have considered that discipline; the opportunity to interact with people outside of one's 'comfort zone'; the opportunity to form a new project and learn from each other; and recruitment of students. Four main takeaways from the NECHE Accreditation Report include a need: for greater oversight of ID programs; to improve process for determining and measuring the quality of ID programs; to develop structures for assessing programmatic learning outcomes; to engage in regular review of ID programs. The ID Task Force has had two very productive meetings since September; a review of the UML website shows the lion's share of ID program are located in FAHSS; a review of peer institutions' websites; brainstorming based on faculty input, our website, and our peers website, to set our goals moving forward.

2.5. **AI Task Force** (*Donna Mellen in collaboration with Huimin Amy Chen & Amit Deokar*)

2.5.1. The AI Task Force is exploring the implications of artificial intelligence for our academic programs and academic integrity. Met twice in FA23 and will convene for three meetings in SP24. Current objectives include: review the academic integrity policy to determine if the policy need to be revised due to current AI issues; prepare an AI readiness survey for students, faculty, and staff; share best practices and recommendations for pedagogy, program assessments, research, and university processes (AI website); report progress to

Faculty Senate on May 6. The President's Office has an AI Working Group in which Julie Nash and Amit Deokar participate for UML. A System-wide Symposium "Impact of Artificial Intelligence" will be held on April 11 at Mount Ida via Zoom; more details will be shared soon.

2.5.2. On behalf of various faculty members Tony Szczesiul shared the occurrence of micro level issues that need to inform the policies being created. Students are using AI; faculty would like more discussion about what other faculty are seeing in their courses and how they are handling it. For example, using AI detectors, saying to student 'here's what I saw, here's what I did, can you tell me about your writing process'. Considerations include: a student who writes in their first language, translates to English, edits himself, and uses AI to paraphrase. First Year Writing program discusses issues on their listserve. Faculty would like guidance on what constitutes plagiarism.

2.5.3. Faculty asked if the AI Task Force is considering AI checker tools in the policies. Turnitin is no longer available to us, more than 100 papers are mislabeled. From Turnitin: for every 100 checks, 4 are false positives. There have been CELT roundtables with great turn out. Donna Mellen invited folks to go back to CELT listserv and continue to talk about it, get feedback from colleagues. Julie Nash mentioned that there are people who embrace AI in their classrooms, and people who will not accept it at all. Checkers can be a resource. Every academic misconduct case comes across Julie's desk.

2.6. **Research Production & Performance Committee** (*Thomas Shea*)

2.6.1. The RPPC is trying to bring workload and such together among departments; Tom asked folks to please send their particular workload agreements – course workload, teaching load, to him.

2.7. **Curriculog Updates for SP24** (*Kerry Patenaude*)

2.7.1. We're continuing to streamline processes to ensure consistency with approval processes that were previously disparate and siloed in email inboxes. We've added "UML System Update" steps to the Curriculog Approval Process (AP) forms to make transparent the necessary steps that occur after Faculty Senate approval, such as catalog updates, website updates, programs being added to the HEIRS database, or Admissions applications, etc. As a proposal progresses through each step, anyone with a UML email address can track a proposal through to completion. We're in the process of creating Policy Proposal APs.

2.7.2. Please continue to use Curriculog in a way that works best for your department and college; Some Curriculum Committees are using the Curriculog "Agenda" feature, some have members submitting comments directly in Curriculog, others have designated the Chair as the one who will enter input from the Committee. Please provide feedback to curriculog@uml.edu so we can continually improve the system (within the constraints of

the software). Kerry is available to provide further details, look at Curriculog with you, or talk through the process for your department. There is a link on the Faculty Senate website to schedule a meeting.

2.7.3. Department Elections

2.7.3.1. An email to Department Chairs will be sent in the coming weeks. Nominations for candidates for Faculty Senate 2024-2025 should be sent to Dept Chairs and all Dept Election results should be sent to Kerry by March 29. The complete list of Faculty Senate 2024-2025 will be sent out on April 1. Nominations for Faculty Senate Officers will open on April 1 and close on April 15. All nominees should send a personal statement to Kerry by April 15. The first meeting of the 2024-2025 Faculty Senate is on Monday May 6, 2024. Officer elections will take place at 3pm.

3. Discussion

3.1. **Policy Discussion** (*Kevin Petersen*) President Kevin Petersen presented a proposal for a new approval process for university-wide policies. In an effort to design a process with sufficient time to review a proposed policy and ensure thorough review among stakeholders, Kevin outlined a 2-month process:

3.2. To initiate a university policy, a formal presentation will be made at the main Faculty Senate meeting at the beginning of the month. The proposal must be submitted via Curriculog and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee one week before the Senate meeting.

3.3. After the initial presentation, where there will be the opportunity for discussion, we will vote to advance the process; if approved, the Senate will post an announcement on UML Today alerting the campus community and soliciting feedback. The campus community may leave comments on Curriculog or send them to the faculty_senate@uml.edu email; they are invited to attend upcoming Senate committee meetings as well.

3.4. During the first month, the policy will then be circulated among all five of the College Curriculum Committees and Dean's Offices for review and feedback.

3.5. Once that review process is completed by the next general Faculty Senate meeting, the policy and its feedback from the colleges will then go through Senate committee review: UPC if it impacts undergraduate education, GPAC if it impacts graduate education; if it impacts both, it will be reviewed by both committees, and potentially the Core Curriculum Committee as well.

3.6. Upon approval from these committees, the proposal will then return to Faculty Senate for a final vote.

3.7. After a brief discussion, we decided to put the process in motion and later assess how well the new procedure meets its objectives. We hope the campus community will take the opportunity to engage with policy proposals and offer us feedback on the process.

4. Undergraduate Policy Committee (*Michael Geiger*)

4.1. **Change Existing Plan: B.S. in Industrial Engineering**

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1501/form> Six changes that will bring programs to be identical with others, for ease of transfer. *Approved.*

4.2. **Proposal to Add Paragraph to: Undergraduate Certificate Credit Deletion/Repetition**

Policy <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1505/form> Bachelor students are allowed up to 15-credits of course deletions. GPS would like to formally put a 3-credit limit in place for certificates. *Approved.*

4.3. **For Information Only:**

4.3.1. **Pre-Requisite Document** - We have a well-written document edited by Kevin & Paula for you to share with your colleagues; We will be voting in March. The document talks about rationale and timeline; Start with 4000-level courses, then move to 3000-level courses. Could start with required courses and then move on to elective courses. Please do bring the materials back to your departments to discuss how they might impact you.

5. **Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee** (*Scott Latham*)

5.1. December 18 meeting was cancelled due to the power outage. All proposals have been moved to the February 20 meeting.

Next: Faculty Senate Meeting #6 on Monday March 11, 2024 in UCC-260 (Moloney Hall)

Meeting adjourned 4:57pm.