



University of Massachusetts Lowell
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MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meeting #2

Monday October 7, 2024 at 3:30-5:00 PM • UCC 260

1. **Update from the Chancellor** (*Julie Chen*)

Chancellor Julie Chen highlighted enrollment information shared at the recent Town Hall and reiterated that UML needs to be 2% over to break even, as enrollment determines the budget and in turn what UML can offer to students and faculty. Together with Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Anne Maglia, the Chancellor invited faculty to brainstorm ideas to improve enrollment with urgency and share what resources they would need. Suggestions reported out included an early child education coop for older transfer students, formalized industrial partnerships, bringing high school students in to shadow college students as our best ambassadors, show movies and discuss scientific facts, send faculty to companies to give a lecture, offer micro-credentials with lower requirements than certificates, using audio/video content to market the City of Lowell and connect dots to what is already happening. The Chancellor asked faculty to keep sending all ideas to Kevin Petersen and reiterated that priority #1 for UML is meeting the budget because that gives us our resources. She encouraged ongoing conversations in departments to think about what makes sense within each program, e.g. fully online and want to expand on-campus, on-campus and can expand online, etc. Over 5-10 years we want to continue to grow.

2. **Board of Trustees Update** (*Kevin Petersen & Lisa Marchand*)

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2067/form> Lisa Marchand shared updates from the Finance Meeting: University will need to meet a 2% margin (\$12 million); UML along with UMD participated in a pilot program -looked at students who weren't accepted to UMA, and admitted 17 of those students. BOT spoke a lot about dual enrollment programs (high school and college); honors students taking AP classes. Julie Chen shared that at each meeting a different student presents their campus; our UML student trustee successfully presented a report to BOT.

2.1. **BOT Alternate Representative Election** – Due to Matt Hurwitz moving to Middlesex Community College, Kevin Petersen invited nominations for an alternate representative to the BOT. The BOT meeting includes four sets of meetings, in clusters, in Zoom;

Walter Toomey nominated himself, second by Ryan McPherson. By a show of hands Walter Toomey was elected to serve as the BOT Alternate Representative.

3. **AI Task Force Update** (*Kevin Petersen*) New AI website spearheaded by Julie Nash; disbanding Task Force but encourage ongoing involvement with AI; Mini-grants, will be reporting on how folks are using AI in the classroom with AI, to help train for future careers. The Senate will be periodically updated on campus-wide initiatives.
4. **Interdisciplinary Task Force** (*Kevin Petersen & Karoline Evans*)
 - 4.1. **Planning for 2024-2025 and recruiting new members.** Continuing for another year. What is ID? How do we define ID? In terms of enrollment & retention, what can we do to attract students to our campus. More specific function and outputs Looking for 5-10 faculty senators, from anywhere on campus; partner with Provost's Office, Registrar's Office, possibly Admissions Office.
5. **Core Curriculum Committee members needed** (*Ryan McPherson*)
<https://www.uml.edu/faculty-senate/committees/ccc.aspx> The Core Curriculum Committee is looking for three members (one from Manning, one from FAHSS Social Sciences, one from ZCHS) to evaluate courses for the core curriculum. Please email Ryan McPherson if you are willing to serve.
6. **Library Advisory Committee members needed** (*Dennis Christodouleas*)
<https://www.uml.edu/faculty-senate/committees/library-advisory-committee.aspx> The Library Advisory Committee is looking for two members (one from FCOE, one from FAHSS) to help the library provide the best possible resources to faculty and students. LAC meets every second Monday of the month via Zoom. Please email Dennis Christodouleas if you are willing to serve.
7. **Vote: Minutes from Meeting #1 on May 6, 2024** (*Kevin Petersen*)
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2093/form> Approve 92% Abstain 8%
8. **Proposal to Change University-Level Policy** (*Karoline Evans & Paula Haines*) Add "In Progress" grading for Study Abroad courses with post-term travel
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2071/form> For a certain subset of study abroad students, the travel portion occurs after the term ends. This is a proposal to introduce a grade "IP" (with no numerical value), that will allow students taking study abroad courses with post-term travel to remain in the pool of students being considered for honors. Currently, using the "INC" grade for study abroad courses in which the travel portion occurs after the term ends prevents otherwise qualified students from being considered for honors. Question: Not a grade available to all courses? Correct, only specific study abroad courses with post-term travel. Question: Isn't this the same as the "PR" grade used for Thesis students? This is different from Grad which uses PR; the IP grade is not repeatable; it is one and done. Question: To clarify, the IP grade would be used to avoid penalization for study abroad

students who won't have a final grade in place at the end of the semester? Correct, semester honors happen one time. Grade changes happen throughout. Question: If students do better, can they appeal? No, it's point in time. [Motion to move the proposal into the 2-month review cycle: Approved 95%, Abstained 5%](#)

9. **Undergraduate Policy Committee** (*Kevin Petersen & Ryan McPherson for Mike Geiger*)

9.1. **Proposal for New College-Level Policy** All FCOE Undergraduates will complete a Professional Development Seminar (PDS) or will achieve Equivalent Learning Outcomes through other department course(s)

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1918/form> Dean Sherwood explained that while the co-op program run through Career Services is excellent, only 30% of engineering students are taking part. This policy is designed to ensure that all engineering students demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes of the Professional Development Seminars, but to allow additional flexibility in how that is achieved: students may take the 1-credit or 3-credit version of Career Services' PDS, or take a departmental-approved course that is designed to meet the PDS outcomes. Discussion at the meeting provided additional insights: that students may still apply for co-ops regardless of how they have met the PDS outcomes; that any faculty member teaching a 0-credit course to meet the outcomes would earn credits toward their teaching load. Earlier versions of this proposal included an option for "life experience" credits; that was stricken as being outside of University policy. Faculty can instead use existing methods of waiver and exception. [Vote to approve: Yes 85%, No 10%, Abstain 6%.](#)

10. **Graduate Policy and Affairs Committee** (*Noah Van Dam & Kevin Petersen*)

11. **Executive Session** (*Kevin Petersen*) N/A

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Next: Faculty Senate Meeting #3 on Monday November 4, 2024 at 3:30-5:00pm in UCC-260 (Moloney Hall)