

CLA Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21, 2026 | **Time:** 2:30–4:00 PM | **Location:** I03-3300 (ISC)

Minute Taker:

Attendees: Karen Okigbo (Socio), Joe Ramsey (American), Avary Carhill-Poza (Applied Ling), Amy Sue Hazel (Performing Arts), Nino Keadze (LAIS), Simone De Lemos (At-large LAIS), VanJessica Gladney (Hist), Amani El Jack (WGSS), Roberto Renteria (Psy), Kellee Barnard (Classics), Lindsay Ma (Comm), Nural Aman (Econ), Jean-Phillippe Belleau (Anthro), Daniel Remein (English), Alicia Rodriguez (Modern Lang), Ayesha Irani (Asian Studies), Danielle Morales (Socio), Trevor Memmott (Public Policy), Dana Miranda (Philo).

1. Approval of May Minutes

- **Action:** Motion seconded and approved. 1 abstention.

2. Dean's Report

- **Enrollment:** Fall Semester FTE enrollment is flat (up for undergraduate students, down for graduate students). There is a 22% drop in international enrollment. Most students are in-state (less out-of-state students).
- **Budget:** We are not in retrenchment, but we are dealing with certain financial realities (reallocations and tightening of budgets). The university-wide campaign for raising money has increased.
- **CLA News:** Ten Tenure-Track Faculty and One Non-Tenure Track Faculty joined.
 - The transition to R1 Status with High Access (the highest in the country for a public university) is positive news. However, we need to do better with retention (73% rate) as this low even when compared to peer institutions.
 - CLA received a \$9 million windfall endowment for the ART department. Political Science and Economics are also receiving scholarships from the same donor.
 - The Dean's Office launched the Attention Project (this includes the CLA Deep Read course and the One Page Project).
 - Sociology is piloting a peer-mentorship project with CLA First (Dean hopes that this can be provided college and university wide).
 - The President and Board of Trustees will determine the next Chancellor (perhaps an interim for 5 months) but limited information.
- **Tenure Track (TT) Hires:** 6 hires approved for this year.
 - Approved departments: Psychology, History, Economics, Communication, Philosophy, English.
- **90-Credit Three-Year Degree**
 - Not currently being adopted.
- **Questions:**
 - Given the 11% Budget cuts to the Operating Funds, how does this affect NTT? The NTT budget has been a point of contention, but this budget cut does not impact NTT numbers (as this concerns a different budget).

- What is going to happen since the Provost is no longer covering the costs associated with free MFA attendance (as they previously covered 2/3 of the costs)? This is currently affecting nine classes in ART and will impact the Experiencing Boston Cohort. The Dean wants this to be a university priority rather than an item covered by CLA. That said, the Dean might cover this cost by September 29 as an emergency item. Faculty Council is also speaking with the provost about this issue.
- Can faculty be included in conversations about the Chancellor hire? The search committee will have faculty representation, but this would be the purview of the Faculty Council.

3. Moderator's Report

- Recruiting one more SEC member. Karen Okigbo (Socio) has agreed to join.
- Recruiting one at-large positions and three NTT senators.
- Recruiting a senator from the ART department, but there might be an absence.
- Request: When providing rationale in Curriculog, try to include a 3-sentence blurb for ease of access.

4. Course Approvals

- Motion to vote as a block for section (New Courses); seconded and approved.
- Motion to vote as a block for section (Substantial Changes-Courses); seconded and approved.
- Motion to vote as a block for section (Substantial Changes-Program), except for Asian Studies Major (BA); seconded and approved.
 - **New Courses:**
 - CLA - 125 - CLA First Success Seminar
 - CLSICS - 293 - Law and Justice in the Roman Empire
 - LATIN - 375 - Living Text
 - Latin 378/678 - Latin Literature of Vesuvius
 - **Substantial Changes-Courses:**
 - AFRSTY - 309L - Africana Feminisms in the Black Diaspora
 - ANTH 324 – A Biocultural Approach to War
 - ANTH 672 – Indigeneity and Colonialism: Approaches, Intersections, and Legacies in Anthropology and Archaeology
 - CW 697 – Special Topics in Creative Writing
 - Dance 330 – The Pedagogy of Dance
 - ENGL 204 – Writing the Professions: Genre, Design, Ethics
 - ENGL 458 – Undergraduate Colloquium: Literature in Public Spaces
 - LATIN 301 – Cicero
 - LATIN 302 – Caesar
 - LATIN 303 – Roman Comedy
 - LATIN 321 – Advanced Readings in Latin Literature
 - POLSCI 220 – International Relations
 - PORT 201 Learning Portuguese through Health, Sustainability & Migration
 - PORT 202 Learning Portuguese through Culture, Environment & Technology

- **Substantial Changes-Program:**
 - Asian Studies Major (BA)
 - Cross-Cultural East Asian Studies Minor
 - Public Policy (MPP)
 - South Asian Studies Minor
- Motion to approve passed for section (New Courses); passed for section (Substantial Changes-Courses) with 1 abstention; and passed for section (Substantial Changes-Program), except for Asian Studies Major (BA), with 1 abstention.
- Motion to sending Asian Studies Major (BA) back with a Rationale (ASIAN/POLSCI 1xx-- Survey of Southern Asia and the Middle East” needs to be created first); seconded and approved. 1 abstention.

5. New Business

A. 3-Year BA Programs

- **Context:** Given that some schools (Merrimack College and Suffolk University) are pursuing pilot programs for sub-120 credit degree programs, is there interest in an investigatory study by the CLA Senate pushing back against the 3-Year BA Programs? This could include discussion about the costs of higher education, as well as how this change could significantly affect UMass Boston (enrollment, accreditation, Gen Ed curriculum and requirements, etc.).
Options: 1) include this topic as an agenda item at our next meeting; 2) establish a committee; or 3) put forward a resolution. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

B. MFA Visit

- **Context:** For any classes that need an MFA visit, please send information to Kelly Colvin (History) by the end of the day.

6. Adjournment