Faculty Council Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2026, 1:00-3:00 PM
Chancellor's Conference Room
Third Floor, Quinn Administration Building
https://www.umb.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-council/

Agenda

Supporting documents are included as appendices to this **agenda and** may also be found in the September Meeting Documents Folder here: 10-05-2026 October Meeting Documents (To access these documents, you must be signed into your UMB account.) Note: all materials for the October Meeting are in this agenda *and* in the respective folders in the October Meeting Documents.

I. Motion to approve or amend the agenda

II. Motion to approve or amend the September 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes (see Appendix A)

III. Chair's Note

IV. Discussion of increased surveillance on campus

V. Discussions and questions regarding previously circulated administrative reports (Appendix B)
   a. Chancellor – Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
   b. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Joseph Berger
   c. Vice Chancellor of Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis

VI. Motion to approve Faculty Council Board of Trustee (BoT) members
   a. Representative to BoT
      i. Atreya Chakraborty – Accounting and Finance (CM)
   b. Alternate to BoT
      i. Richard Hunter – Psychology (CLA)

VII. Motion to approve Faculty Council Parliamentarian
   a. Peter Lert – Mathematics (CSM)

VIII. Motions from Graduate Studies Committee – Andre (see Appendix C)

IX. Motion to preserve student access to Museum of Fine Art, Boston – Committee on Museum Partnerships and Gretchen Umholtz, Classics & Religious Studies (CLA)

Whereas UMass Boston takes pride in its status as a Public Urban Research University, offering students the benefits of the great city of Boston and offering Boston the engagement and energy of our exceptionally diverse student body; and
Whereas the world-class collections, programs, and resources of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston are an invaluable teaching resource used as part of assigned course work across the university for a very large number of UMass Boston students per year; and

Whereas free access to the Museum of Fine Arts is a valuable recreational, social, and intellectual resource for all students, especially those for whom art is not a part of their academic program; and
Whereas students who visit the Museum of Fine Arts for class projects frequently report that it was a new and enriching experience that they enjoyed sharing with friends, parents, or children, immediately spreading the benefits of their UMass Boston learning to their wider communities; and
Whereas the standard admission price of $30 would be prohibitively expensive for many of our students, particularly in the current environment of escalating prices and of reduction or loss of various governmental resources and supports that many students and their families rely on; and
Whereas depriving our students of a long-standing benefit enjoyed by students of thirty-one other institutions of higher learning in the greater Boston area would be a serious betrayal of our mission and would bring chaos to many courses with assignments designed around this benefit;
Be it resolved: That the Provost should immediately take all necessary measures to continue and protect funding for UMass Boston's uninterrupted participation in the University Membership program of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, guaranteeing continued access for all undergraduate students.

X. Discussion conditions of the Library from Dean of Libraries and Library Committee Chair
   a. Dean of University Libraries – Stephanie Walker
   b. Chair of Library Committee – Jaque Contrera Avila, Gerontology (MCNHS)

XI. Motion to approve resolution in response to working conditions in Healey Library – Lynne Benson, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies (CLA)
   a. See "Healey Library Elevator Impairment Tracking Spreadsheet" (must be signed into UMB account; also under "Motions and Supporting Documents" folder)

Whereas Healey Library is an essential building on campus, central to the intellectual life of the university and a key space of scholarly activity; and
Whereas Healey Library has significant and long-standing structural problems, including faulty elevators, a faulty HVAC system, and multiple pest infestations, that together endanger the health and safety of all on campus and undermine the mission of the library to serve the UMass Boston community and the general public; and
Whereas Healey Library has documented and reported numerous safety-related incidents, including elevator entrapments; and
Whereas these are known issues to the administration and yet they have failed to act with the urgency required;
Be it resolved that the Faculty Council urges the administration to expeditiously attend to these matters.

XII. Discussion process for Administrator review
   a. Vice Chancellor Human Resources - Marie Bowen

XIII. Motion to create an ad hoc working group to establish structures for the periodic review of administrators

Whereas Faculty Council has a responsibility to participate in periodic five-year review of administrators;
Whereas the last periodic review of the Provost, though successful, felt rushed; and
Whereas this process of senior administrative review is mandatory and can be anticipated; and
Whereas the next review will be Dean Rajini Srikanth, PhD, in her role as Dean of Faculty; and
Whereas there will be many more reviews of administrators in the coming months and years;

Be it resolved that Faculty Council approve an ad hoc committee with the following description and charges:

Name: Administrator Review Committee (ARC)

Charge: The ARC is charged with developing a systematic approach to faculty's role in the periodic five-year review of university administrators in line with the Board of Trustees' doc. T93-080 (https://www.umassp.edu/bot/board-policies/t93-080).The approach will include surveys of faculty, as appropriate, with items that are relevant to the administrator under review. The ARC is also charged with revising the structures of its work and bringing questions and concerns about its roles to Faculty Council Executive Committee as needed. The ARC will work closely with the Provost and HR in asserting faculty right to engage, will update Faculty Council as needed with procedures, policy, and outcomes, and will generally clarify our role and be ready to fulfill that role effectively for each review.

Membership: The Executive Committee shall appoint a faculty member to lead these efforts and gather a committee of no more than 3 additional members. No more than 2 members should be from any one college.

Dissolving of Committee: The ARC shall be dissolved on May 21, 2028

Be it further resolved that the ARC will be reconstituted or transformed into a Standing Committee, as needed, for reviews after May 21, 2028.

XIV. Move to Executive Session to discuss matters concerning administrative reviews

XV. New Business

XVI. Motion to Adjourn

Appendix A – Minutes for Monday, September 13, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

University Governance
Faculty Council
https://www.umb.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_council
September 14th, 2026

Minutes for Monday, September 14, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Members Present: Cassandra Alexopoulos (CLA); Kathryn Archard (CM); Mehran Azimi (CM); Gonzalo Bacigalupe (CEHD); Lynne Benson (CLA); Christopher Contreras (CLA); Jose D'Incao (CSM); Lorena Estrada-Martinez (SFE); Dan Finn (CLA); Daniel Gascon (CLA); Isabel Gomez (CLA); Richard Hunter (CLA); Travis Johnston (CLA); Valerie Karr (CEHD); Marlene Kim (CLA); Nelson Lande (CLA); Peter Lert (CSM); Ana Lindsay (MCNHS); Lusa Lo (CEHD); Andre Maharaj (CEHD); Abdelkrim Mouhib (CLA); Timothy Oleksiak (CLA); Judith Pare (MCNHS); James Soldner (CEHD); Amy Todd (CLA); Gretchen Umholtz (CLA)

Members Absent: Nurul Aman (CLA); Todd Drogy (HC); Rishabh Kumar (CLA); Tongjian You (MCNHS); Leon Zurawicki (CM)

Representatives Present: Alexa MacPherson (CSU), Jason Rodriquez (FSU), Simone Trainor (USG)

I. Motion to approve or amend the agenda

Approved - unanimous

II. Motion to approve or amend the May 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Approved – 2 abstentions

III. Faculty Council Chair Announcement – Timothy Oleksiak (see Appendix A)

- Full statement available here: FC Chair Announcement – Timothy Oleksiak
- Chair specifies vision of how council will function to facilitate shared governance, as guided by the Wellman Document, the Faculty Council Constitution and By-Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order
- Administrative reports will pivot to a Question & Answer format based on pre-circulated reports. Councilors are asked to read reports in advance and come prepared with questions for discussion.
- Reminder that work of Committees is vital to the functioning of the Council. Request for Committee Chairs to actively communicate with Executive Committee, and for Councilors to assist in recruiting colleagues to fill Committee vacancies.
- Chair will hold Faculty Council Office Hours once monthly via Zoom, open to all members of campus community to workshop ideas pertinent to the Council.
- In person attendance of Council meetings is encouraged. Zoom attendees are asked to remain engaged and keep cameras on when feasible. Those office hours are found at the bottom of the main page of the Faculty Council website

IV. Note from FC Parliamentarian – Gonzalo Bacigalupe

- Slide deck available here: Notes from FC Parliamentarian
- Robert's Rules exist to facilitate orderly discussion and equal opportunity for all viewpoints to be expressed, they guidelines intended to facilitate constructive dialogue rather than to rigidly control proceedings.
- Parliamentarian Gonzalo Bacigalupe is on leave for Fall 2026 Semester, Council will need to appoint interim Parliamentarian.

V. Discussions and questions regarding previously circulated administrative reports

a. Chancellor – Marcelo Suárez-Orozco

- Full report available here: Chancellor Suárez-Orozco - September 2026 Report
- Discussion of Chancellor's announced departure, effective February 1st. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco advises the Board of Trustees and Office of the President will oversee the process for identifying the next Chancellor, per codified and customary practices. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco has no influence over selection of his successor.
- Discussion of enrollment trends. Vice Chancellor John Drew advises that final count of enrollment trends will not be confirmed until after Add-Drop deadline on 9/15. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco advises that composition of student body is changing significantly, enrollment drops in some categories are being compensated by others such that enrollment overall is still largely holding steady. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco recognizes significant drop in international student enrollment, in keeping with national trends resulting from federal policy environment. Governor Maura Healey and Mayor Michelle Wu have shared messages welcoming international students to the state and city.

b. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Joseph Berger

- Full report available here: Provost Berger - September 2026 Report
- Discussion of AI. Provost Berger advises American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) Institute on AI is opportunity to learn how other campuses are approaching matters, and comments that UMass Boston aspires to be a leader in the ethical and responsible usage of AI. Provost Berger advises administration will be working with Office of Faculty Development, Center for Innovative Teaching, and Academic Technology Committee to develop policies and resources. Provost Berger advises aim is to infuse AI into curriculum and pedagogy across disciplines, catered to the particular needs of each field.
- Faculty member comments on inability to Opt Out of many AI features in University-mandated platforms (e.g. Copilot summaries in Outlook). Provost Berger recognizes this is precisely the type of issue that an AI governance framework is needed to address. Chair of Academic Technology Committee advises a governance document has been drafted in coordination with CIO David Albrecht, which will be circulated to Faculty Council in subsequent meeting.
- Discussion of Accelerated Masters Programs (AMPs). Provost Berger advises that further policy updates are being implemented to provide a clear pathway for students to utilize AMP options, including a waiver policy for students who have exceeded 30 credits but still wish to apply. Provost Berger commits to meeting with any Graduate Program Directors or relevant Committees to address concerns. Faculty member comments that policy effectively excluded transfer students from eligibility for AMPs due to provision dictating window of credits earned at UMass Boston.

Associate Provost Amy Cook advises this provision is being reviewed to develop a waiver policy to mitigate these scenarios.

c. Vice Chancellor of Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis

- Full report available here: VC Kirleis - September 2026 Report
- Discussion of $1.9 million reduction of funding in State budget. Vice Chancellor Kirleis advises advocacy efforts are attempting to get these funds restored via a supplemental budget, which is yet to be finalized. Faculty members inquire about opportunities for campus unions or concerned individuals to support advocacy efforts. Vice Chancellor Kirleis advises Office of the President is leading these advocacy efforts. Provost Berger comments that additional advocacy from other parties is welcome and encouraged.
- Discussion of FY26 close-out report. Member of Budget and Long-Range Planning Committee notes that committee has not received report yet. Vice Chancellor Kirleis advises that report will be shared in first committee meeting of the semester, which hasn't occurred yet.

VI. Reports from union representatives

a. Classified Staff University Representative - Alexa MacPherson, CSU President

- Full report available here: CSU Report_September 2026
- Locals across the UMass System are coordinating a reclassification initiative to obtain updated job descriptions for members, and to move responsibility for classification to the Board of Higher Education rather than Human Resources.
- CSU members express concern about impact of AI, and must be included in discussions of AI policies alongside faculty colleagues.
- Significant breakdown in communication with Human Resources. Labor Relations has advised CSU members to resign from positions in response to reported harassment and retaliation from supervisors, and has imposed required therapy as a condition of disciplinary procedures in these cases.

b. Faculty Staff Union Representative – Jason Rodriquez, FSU President

- FSU Newsletter: The Point: What Does an R1 Library Actually Look Like?
- Serious health and safety concerns about conditions in Healey Library. Elevators are 50 years old and routinely malfunctioning, causing over 30 documented entrapments since January. The HVAC system is failing, creating poor ventilation that causes health problems for workers and damage to books. Significant pest problems also present health risk and threaten to damage materials, particularly concerned about moths and carpet beetles in the archive areas. FSU is seeking expedited action to address these concerns, including complete replacement of the elevators rather than continuous repairs as has been the case. FSU also demands clear and transparent communication with staff about scheduled maintenance work, which has not been the case during recent repairs. FSU and CSU filed a joint-grievance regarding these issues, and is coordinating with Undergraduate Student Government (USG) on related concerns.
- Vice Chancellor Kirleis advises project to replace elevators in Healey Library and Campus Center is already underway, and commits to providing Council a timeline for the next stages of this project. Vice Chancellor Kirleis advises that the long term future of Healey Library building is addressed in the Campus Master Plan.

VII. Discussion of Faculty Council vacancies (see Appendix B)

a. **Board of Trustees (BoT) representative to serve until the spring 2027 elections**

b. **An alternate faculty representative to the BoT to assist BoT representative to serve until the spring 2027 elections.**

c. **Two CLA representatives to serve until spring 2027 elections**

d. **One CSM representative to serve until spring 2027 elections**

- Discussion of incentive structure as significant factor adversely impacting vacancies. Faculty members with limited bandwidth are often reluctant to contribute time and energy to forms of service that are not institutionally valued or compensated; yet faculty participation is also critical to effective shared governance and intellectually rewarding.
- Discussion of recruitment strategies. Deans and Chairs of unrepresented units have been contacted, Councilors are encouraged to discuss with colleagues. Suggestion to inquire further with Deans and Chairs to assess specific reasons for underrepresentation in order to more effectively strategize. Smaller departments are often underrepresented because of limited bandwidth among fewer faculty, whereas larger departments are often reluctant to volunteer more representatives to avoid generating overrepresentation. Election Committee clarifies that vacancies in seats officially designated to particular Colleges doesn't necessary correlate to actual lack of representation on Council, when At-Large Seats are accounted for representation is fairly equal.
- Discussion of BoT Representative position's duties. Representative attends all BoT and Committee meetings, but can only participate in discussion upon request. All meetings are currently held over Zoom. Suggestion for BoT Representative and Alternative Representative divide up which meetings to attend in order to divide amount of labor required of these roles. Suggestion for FC Committee Chairs to attend relevant BoT Committee meetings. Clarification that any faculty member is allowed to attend BoT meetings as a spectator, access is not limited solely to the official BoT representative. Discussion of By-Laws governing implications of a current Councilor filling the role of the BoT Representative, this would be a separate FC Seat from the one they were elected to serve. Two faculty members express interest in serving as BoT Representative, Motion to approve will be made in October meeting, pending review of By-Laws.

VIII. Discussion of Standing Committee vacancies (see Appendix B)

a. **FC Joint Discipline and Grievance Committee members**

b. **Academic Technology Committee (ATC) is currently without an IT liaison for ATC after Apurva Mehta's retirement.**

c. **Financial Aid, Admissions, and Records (FAAR) committee requests two members to serve**

d. **Two member of FC needed to serve as members of ExCom**

- No further discussion.

IX. Motion to approve members of Faculty Council Standing Committees

a. Approve Members of the Financial Aid, Admissions and Records (FAAR) Committee (all current members who wish to serve another term)

- Richard Hung, SFE
- Mona Abo-Zena, CEHD
- Serra Acar, CEHD
- Cuf Ferguson, CLA
- Werner Kunz, CM

Approved - unanimous

X. Motions from Graduate Studies Committee – Andre Maharaj (see Appendix C)

Approved – 1 abstention

XI. Arising from open meeting of May 2026: Updates on "top-off" for faculty receiving financial grants, awards, etc.

- Provost Berger clarifies meaning of 'top-off'. If a faculty member obtains a prestigious fellowship that requires taking leave and the fellowship pays less than their standard salary, the university may pay the difference via 'top-off' funding. There is a list of pre-approved fellowships this policy automatically applies to, but faculty are welcome to request top-off funds for any fellowship.
- Provost Berger advises that process is being streamlined to integrate top-off funding application into existing sabbatical application, whereas historically these have been two separate processes. Details of this revised process are still be refined.

XII. Arising from open meeting of May 2026: Discussion of Canvas hacking incident and its long-term effects and new questions (as of 9/2/26) regarding Digital Accessibility Policies email (sent via David Albrecht to campus community on 9/2/26)

- Supporting documents available here: XII. Memos from CIO David Albrecht
- Discussion of Digital Accessibility Policies. Federal Deadline for new guidelines was originally April 2026, but was postponed to April 2027 by Trump administration. UMB Policy was drafted in preparation for original deadline, new plan is to aim for compliance by start of Spring 2027 semester. An FAQ has been posted to website.
- Discussion of who bears burden of responsibility for compliance with policy requirements, the institution or individual faculty members. Concerns expressed that if individual faculty members are liable for ensuring compliance of their materials then they may simply opt to remove materials all together, therefore reducing overall access to course content. Concerns expressed about individual liability effectively constituting a new job requirement, thus breaching existing FSU contractual agreements. Acknowledgement that individual faculty should be making good faith effort to bring materials into compliance using available resources, while still asserting ultimate responsibility lies with institution.
- Provost Berger advises Canvas has built-in accessibility checking tools, and additional resources are available via Learning Design. Provost Berger advises that the library is still working towards

bringing its materials into compliance. ATC Chair Travis Johnston advises that 68% of Canvas course materials have already been assessed as compliant, per CIO David Albrecht.

XIII. Arising from open meeting of May 2026: Discussion of impacts of accelerated master's program (AMP) policies.

- Discussed previously during Provost's report (see Agenda Item V.B).
- Provost Berger reiterates that GPDs of impacted programs are encouraged to set up a consultation. FC Executive Committee requests GPDs to report outcomes of such conversations back to the Council.

XIV. Arising from open meeting of May 2026: Motion to create a working group to review and report on tracking outcomes of motions passed by Faculty Council.

WHEREAS faculty council members have expressed curiosity regarding the number of accepted proposals
WHEREAS there is currently no single repository for approved FC proposals and administrative responses outside minutes and reports
BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Council constitute an ad hoc committee with the following description and charges:
Name: Ad Hoc Faculty Council Motion Review Committee (MRC)
Charge: The MRC is charged with developing a systematic review of motions passed by Faculty Council from Fall 2020-Spring 2028 as well as written responses from administration, if any, to these motions. The review will exclude motions from the General Education Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee. The MRC will create an archive of motions and response for Faculty Council by May 21, 2028.
Membership: Faculty Council shall appoint Amy Todd to chair this committee and entrust her to find and select up to four additional members. No more than 2 members should be from any one college.
Dissolving of Committee: The MRC shall be dissolved after submission of their findings or by May 21, 2028, which ever happens sooner.

- Discussion of appropriateness of imposing workload burden upon faculty members, versus having such an audit performed by a paid member of administration. Provost Berger advises that his staff is ready and willing to cooperate with this initiative, but will take its guidance from the Committee.

Approved – 1 abstention

XV. Arising from open meeting of May 2026: Discussion of increased surveillance on campus

a. Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police – Stacey Lloyd (invited on 9/1)

MOTION: Move discussion to top of Agenda for October Meeting.

Approved - unanimous

XVI. New Business

- No discussion

XVII. Motion to Adjourn

Approved - unanimous

Appendix A – Note from Faculty Council Chair

Greetings, administers, union leaders, student representatives, faculty, and welcomed guests. I wanted to take a moment at the start of a new academic year to lay out a vision for the work ahead and to share with you a few changes that I hope will make our work a more positive experience.

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As I understand it, Faculty Council's primary role is to advise and consult with administration on a host of matters relating to shared governance. These responsibilities and roles are enumerated in several governing documents: The Wellman Report/Document (BoT Doc: T73-098), our Constitution, and our Bylaws. Our operating procedures are governed by Robert's Rules of Order. We should not seek mastery of the procedures and policies herein. But our reach and our power come in large part from these documents.

I believe Faculty Council's greatest power is the good-faith sharing of information so that, when appropriate, we can create and pass motions. Some motions help us do our work better and are guided at FC as a body. The most important motions, again our clearest sense of power in shared governance, are those directed at administration and those that compel action. Administration must respond to motions discussed, nuanced, and passed by this body.

I have asked the Chancellor and the Provost to shift from delivering administrator's reports each month to adopting a question-and-answer format. They have agreed, and I hope we begin to see the kinds of good faith exchanges we want to see take place during this time. In order to do this well, I have asked the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice Chancellor to submit their reports before the agenda circulates. I am committed to including these reports in our agenda, so you have time to read them and come prepared with questions. When we come prepared and with relevant information, shared governance is intellectually satisfying and materially consequential.

A primary responsibility as your Chair is to develop an agenda in consultation with my excellent, kind, and engaged colleagues on the Executive Committee and to run a good and fair meeting each month. Councilors can propose motions just as Standing Committees can propose motions. Getting these proposed motions by the deadlines (which are auto-emailed to councilors) is important. Simply bringing information to my attention is necessary, but what is also helpful is if that can be framed in the form of a motion or at least come with a request for action. When you reach out to me, please let me know what you are asking me to do.

Since the work of Faculty Council is done largely through Standing Committees, it is imperative that ExCom, as the Committee on Committees, begin to organize and regularize information sharing. The job of Chair is made easier when I have reports, meeting agenda, and minutes from our Standing Committees as soon as they are made available. I will be emailing Standing Committee chairs requesting information about this work.

The work of Standing Committees is made easier when seats on those committees are full of representatives throughout the colleges. As faculty, we should be concerned when a Standing Committee is shorted of members. The fewer the committee members, the more work each individual member must do. This leads to burn out, a feeling like the work isn't valued, and potential for missing important aspects of the work increases. If your committee isn't working or it's not working how you'd like, speak up about it in the spirit of congeniality. But I ask faculty writ large to learn about the Standing Committees and engage with them on the work that you find meaningful and intellectually satisfying. If this requires us to update the website to include better and more useful descriptions of this work, let's make that a focus. These changes can often be done outside of monthly meetings and then voted on when the work is ready for FC review.

To facilitate information sharing, I will be holding office hours each month for any student, faculty, staff, or administrator that would like to share information with me. This time can also be used by councilors to help refine or craft motions or to help formulate questions for administrators. These office hours are not only for those who have it figured out but can also be a brave space for councilors to get help on how to do the work better or as spaces for faculty who want to know how to get involved. These office hours and a zoom link are now or will very shortly be on our Faculty Council webpage. If you cannot meet during this time, please email me anyway with requests for meetings. We know a 5-minute zoom can do much more work than 20 email exchanges.

To make things as easy as possible, I will strive to put every relevant document for our monthly meetings in the agenda proper. I will attend to usability and readability so that you can move through the document with intention. This will mean longer agenda documents, but it also means that councilors ideally only need to open 1 file to have all the information they need as they prepare for our meetings. We will still continue to use the normal filing system for archival purposes and for those who wish to look through documents apart from the agenda. Please still review all folders until the kinks in this process are smoothed out.

Being together in a room where it happens is intellectually satisfying personally rewarding, and food and coffee is often provided. I ask each councilor to commit to joining us in person for at least 1 meeting each semester. The Open Meetings at the end of each fall/spring semester that are just for faculty are especially important to simply check in with each other and prepare for the first meeting following semester. That having been said, hybrid meetings allow for greater care giving or to have disability access needs met. There will be no judgmental attitudes against councilors who choose virtual options. If you are joining us from zoom, I ask that you keep your camera on and remain focused on the work of the meeting.

Finally, my default to you will always be generosity and kindness unless I am given material evidence that such an approach is no longer warranted. Our Standing Committees are working hard at honoring our charges and making FC intellectually rewarding experiences for those involved. Let's keep track of how to do that adequately and sufficiently so that the work is consequential and supportive of our colleagues.

With respect and admiration for each of you and the work ahead,

Timothy Oleksiak, Faculty Council Chair

CHANGES REVIEW

- Updated website with Wellman Document and FC Chair Office Hours.
- Administrator's Reports will now be Discussion and Questions Regarding Previously Circulated Administrator's Reports.
- Standing Committee Chairs should create and submit meeting agenda/minutes to Faculty.Council@umb.edu as soon as this information is available to Standing Committee members.

Appendix B – Short Description of Roles and Responsibilities

Below are short descriptions of vacant positions on the Faculty Council. You can learn more about the charges of each Standing Committee and the general responsibilities of councilors in our Bylaws.

Board of Trustee Representative and Alternate

The faculty representative to the Board of Trustees (BoT) attends (virtually or in-person as wanted) the BoT meeting and reports back to the Faculty Council ExCom. This person meets with the Intercollegiate Faculty Council group which usually meets directly after each BoT meeting and reports back to FC ExCom. Will propose agenda items, as needed and in consultation with the FCExCom, for larger FC discussion.

The alternate faculty representative to the BoT representative coordinates with the representative.

Faculty Council Member (CLA and CSM representatives)

Members of faculty council (FC) represent various faculty groups on campus during FC business. They read agenda, minutes, and relevant reports to prepare questions and discussions at monthly FC meetings from September – May each academic year and emergency or special meetings of FC as needed. They can propose and vote on motions. FC members are strongly encouraged to participate as members of FC Standing Committees as well.

Joint Discipline and Grievance Committee (Sarah Hamblin, Chair)

Members of this committee receive and adjudicate formal disciplinary actions or filed grievances that students or teachers make on a host of issues from violations of codes of conduct to academic dishonesty. This committee meets when there are cases to adjudicate. Some years there are as few as 2 cases; other years there are many. This work may also be conducted over the summer.

Appendix C – Motions from Graduate Studies Committee

Motion #1
From: MGS
Request for a program change to the Public Administration (MPA) - General Track, to make PUBADM 612 a required course and PUBADM 601 an elective course in the MPA program. PUBADM 612 Urban Politics & Policy is currently an elective course and PUBADM 601 New England Political Environment is currently a required course.

Rationale: The MPA curriculum in general is increasingly offering a broader view of global society and the program is increasingly attracting students from regions outside of New England. Swapping the more general course to be required and the more narrow course to be an elective is consistent with this

approach. PUBADM 601 New England Political Environment is a course specific to New England. PUBADM 612 Urban Politics & Policy is a course that considers U.S. contexts outside of New England as well as international contexts.

Motion #2
From: SGISD
Request for a course change, to cross-list GISD 601 Current and Historical Perspectives on Global Inclusion and Social Development into the Public Policy graduate program as PPOL-G 601L. The GISD program team has voted to approve this change, as has the GPD of the public policy program. This Curriculog proposal is to formalize that cross-listing.

Description: There has been a growing interest in recent decades in ensuring that people and populations are included and that society is supportive of the equality of its members and the chance for prosperity for all. This course focuses on social inclusion and social development in a global context. The term ""social inclusion" has been conceptualized as a process, a state of being included, and a method for integrating those excluded or at risk of being excluded due to disability or other reasons and conditions into society. In development studies, the term "social development" captures the idea of improving people's well-being and quality of life, and is often defined in reference to particular social problems. Globalization is the process of interaction and integration among economies, societies, and cultures across the globe through forces such as international trade and transport and advances in communication technology. Students will examine definitions, current and historical perspectives on and approaches to these concepts, and their implications for policy and practice. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to apply these concepts to particular policy areas including disability, health, labor market, and economic policy affecting particular communities, countries, or regions.

Rationale: There is meaningful resonance between GISD courses and the public policy program, and historically students from public policy have taken GISD 601. GISD courses add an additional focus on inclusion, development, and applied knowledge. The GISD 601 course is a core class that orients students towards the global foundations of concepts of inclusion and development, and is highly relevant for students of public policy.

Motion #3
From: SGISD
Request for a course change, to cross-list GISD 615 State, Sovereignty and Governance for Inclusion and Social Development in the public policy graduate program as PPOL-G 615L. This decision has been voted upon and unanimously approved by the GISD program committee, approved by its GPD, and by the GPD of the public policy program. As there are many students from Public Policy that take this course, this cross-listing formalizes something that's already occurring.

Description: State and governance regimes of various sorts design, implement, as well as comprise crucial context for any work within global inclusion and social development. This course familiarizes students with theories, research and practice regarding the role of the state and governance as it pertains to inclusion and development. The course examines the emergence of the state, including pre- and non-Westphalian state contexts, specifically experiences of colonization and the development, and the near-universal inheritance of the modern state. We explore contemporary forms of the state, and pressures emerging and surrounding it, including those of the market, civil society and democracy. The course then moves to the recent transformation of statehood and the shift to new modes of governance, specifically the role of non-state

actors across scale--from local to global--and investigates how various institutions, corporate power and political society shift the role of states.

Rationale: GISD courses add an additional focus on inclusion, development, and applied knowledge. The GISD 615 course is a core elective that familiarizes students with theories, research and practice regarding the role of the state and governance as it pertains to inclusion and development. Students in GISD programs are exposed to leadership training and curriculum that promotes cultural competency and community capacity building, and that employs research as a means for shaping both policy and practice.

Appendix B: Administrative Reports for Questions and Discussion

Chancellor's Report

ENROLLMENT UPDATES

Undergraduate Recruitment:

The Undergraduate Admissions team has hit the road this fall as it actively recruits the incoming Fall 2027 class.

- The first-year Admissions staff has scheduled more than 800 visits to high schools and college fairs nationwide, including more than 350 in Massachusetts and more than 450 in a dozen additional states.
- The International Admissions team has an extensive fall travel schedule and will be recruiting students at nearly 100 events across 11 countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Vietnam, and Qatar.

Graduate Recruitment:

- The Graduate Admissions team is also actively traveling this fall, recruiting prospective graduate students. The team will attend local and regional fairs, including several City of Boston "Open Street" events.
- The University will host its annual virtual Graduate Open House program on the evening of October 7th.

Student Employment:

- Student Employment Services (SES) deployed a new job-hiring portal for on-campus employment opportunities. The new portal streamlines the application process for students and the hiring and onboarding process for managers. Because on-campus employment opportunities benefit our students' financial well-being and sense of belonging, we encourage all offices to consider hiring student employees.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Congressman Stephen Lynch Visits Campus for SWPH Federal Grant Announcement

Last month, I was pleased to welcome back to campus the Honorable Stephen Lynch to thank the Congressman – a loyal neighbor and ardent supporter of the UMass Boston campus – for securing a $1 million federal appropriation to enable UMass Boston to renovate our Saltwater Pump House, a key component of the university's seawater cooling system. To read more about this event and the initiative, please see a recent Dorchester Reporter article here.

Governor Healey and Mayor Wu Welcome International Students

As the new academic year begins and students from around the world join us on campus, we were thrilled to feature two video greetings on our website from Governor Maura Healey and Mayor Michelle Wu, welcoming our international students to UMass Boston. I encourage everyone in the UMass Boston community to view and share the videos at this link:
https://www.umb.edu/admissions/international-students/#mayormessage

2026 Convocation

On September 17, I was thrilled to welcome our Convocation keynote speaker, Dr. Ashish Jha, Co-Founder and CEO of BioRadar and Senior Fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center for Emerging Technology, Scientific Advancement & Global Policy. At the ceremony marking the official start of the new academic year, Dr. Jha – former White House

COVID-19 Response Coordinator under President Biden – encouraged our students to seek diverse perspectives, challenge their assumptions, and maintain the humility essential to keep learning. His remarks were personal, heartfelt, and timely in this new age of AI. During the ceremony, we also presented the John W. Ryan Award to finance student Christopher Nsar. Congratulations to Christopher on his academic achievements to date.

Mayor Wu Visits Campus to Announce Internship Program with BPHC
Last month, I was pleased to welcome Mayor Michelle Wu back to campus as she joined us to announce an exciting new partnership with the City and its Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Boston's Commissioner of Public Health, also joined us for this special announcement, as did City Councilors John FitzGerald and Ruthzee Louijeune. Spearheaded by UMass Boston's Urban Public Health department – conceived around the university's view that sound, equitable healthcare delivery is premised on a broad understanding of the disparate ways in which healthcare is experienced by diverse populations – UMass Boston and the BHPC have established the joint guaranteed internship program, which will provide our students with the opportunity to work alongside BPHC staff and other experts as part of a senior capstone project that will bring them into Boston's high schools to teach teens about health issues. The new partnership with the BHPC embodies a strand of UMass Boston's ethos – to bring together experts, disciplines, and differing perspectives to advance knowledge and tackle the complex public health challenges of our time. News stories on this event can be found in the Boston Globe and the Dorchester Reporter.

Belonging Summit at the Vatican
In collaboration with the First Partner of the State of California, Mrs. Jennifer Siebel Newsom, and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, I was pleased to co-organize and participate in a summit at the Vatican in late September on "Belonging and Social Relations in the Age of Fragility." The summit addressed the contemporary crisis of belonging through the lenses of anthropology, developmental psychology, sociology, culture theory, and faith-based approaches, with a view to rebuilding the relational infrastructure of human society. I was pleased to serve as co-chair of the workshop with the First Partner and to present a session on "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor: Belonging in a Fragile Planet."

Twenty-Two UMass Boston Students Travel to Ireland and Northern Ireland Through Global Beacon Experience
This past summer, the inaugural Global Beacon Experience offered 22 UMass Boston students a fully funded, 12-day educational program in Ireland and Northern Ireland, expanding access to international education for students who have historically had fewer opportunities to study abroad.

Every student in the inaugural cohort traveled outside the United States for the first time. The cohort included a substantial number of first-generation students (86%), Pell Grant recipients (100%), and students of color (76%). Through meetings and experiences with university partners, researchers, employers, community leaders, and government officials, students gained new global perspectives, developed cross-cultural skills, and explored how their academic interests connect to future careers.

The Global Beacon Experience program reflects UMass Boston's commitment to educational equity, student success, and the preparation of graduates to contribute and lead in an increasingly interconnected world. Applications for the 2027 Global Beacon Experience are now being accepted. To learn more about the new program, please contact the Office of Global Programs.

Welcome Week Festivities
A UMass Boston tradition, last month's Welcome Week – sponsored by Student Activities and the Student Arts and Events Council (SAEC) – launched the academic year as the university's campus-wide co-curricular kickoff.

With more than fifty events designed to engage students beyond the classroom, connect them with service opportunities, and introduce them to study abroad programs, it remains a popular and impactful student success initiative.

Reminder: Online Resource for UMB Community
As a reminder: we include immigration and travel resources for students, faculty, and staff on our website: www.umb.edu/federal. Resources include guidance (for employees) from the Office of General Counsel on responding to potential inquiries or campus visits from government agents or law enforcement officers.

Provost's Update to Faculty Council
October 5, 2026

As the academic year moves forward, the strength of UMass Boston continues to be reflected in the faculty and staff who support and advance the mission of the university. Through their teaching, scholarship, research, service, and commitment to student success, I am grateful to you for your steadfast commitment to promoting academic excellence and strengthening the impact of the university. Across Academic Affairs, we remain committed to supporting scholarship and creative activity, fostering opportunities for professional growth and leadership, recognizing excellence, and strengthening a community grounded in inclusive excellence and belonging. These investments are essential to our continued progress and to our ability to respond to the evolving needs of our students and the broader higher education landscape.

With this commitment in mind, I am pleased to share the following updates from Academic Affairs, highlighting recent accomplishments and initiatives that support our faculty and staff and advance the university's strategic priorities.

Holistic Student Success

Graduate Assistantship Allocations: We are entering year three of the graduate assistantship reallocation Process, continuing our efforts to support programmatic, instructional, and research needs alongside the professional development of graduate assistants. The process provides a consistent and data-informed approach for allocating graduate assistantships across the university. Throughout the first two years, we have sought to incorporate feedback from the campus community to refine the process and allocation criteria. During this period, two-thirds of the university's centrally funded assistantships were committed through three-year allocations.
This year, we will allocate the final third of the assistantships, totaling up to 125.5 FTE dedicated to TAs or centrally funded RAs. Following this year's allocation, we will transition into a rotating cycle of multi-year commitments. Applications will continue to be evaluated based on instructional impact, meaningful professional and academic development for graduate students, clear responsibilities and outcomes, and support for doctoral students while providing opportunities for master's students where appropriate. Through this evolving process, we remain focused on determining graduate assistantship allocations to support graduate student development, academic programs, teaching, and research across the university.

Enriching the Human Core

Faculty Conversations
The Chancellor and Provost continue to host small-group conversations with faculty for open and meaningful dialogue about UMass Boston, our academic community, and the broader higher education environment. These gatherings provide faculty with an opportunity to share perspectives, experiences, and ideas and to engage in conversation about issues important to our community. Our goal remains to engage faculty from across campus

and strengthen communication, connection, and collaboration. Faculty interested in joining an upcoming conversation are encouraged to contact provost@umb.edu so that we can schedule you for one of the upcoming gatherings.

Deval L. Patrick Endowed Chair Nominations

Nominations, including self-nominations, are invited for the inaugural Deval L. Patrick Endowed Chair of Social, Political and Economic Innovation. The Chair will be a widely recognized senior faculty scholar with a distinguished record of innovative, interdisciplinary research and engagement focused on addressing critical social and economic inequities and advancing positive socioeconomic change. Senior tenure-track faculty from all disciplines and colleges whose scholarship and advocacy align with the mission of the Chair are encouraged to apply or nominate a colleague. Nominations can be submitted to provost@umb.edu. Additional information regarding application materials, deadlines, and the nomination process have been shared with the campus community.

Strategic Resource Planning

Similar to research universities nationally, UMass Boston is navigating a challenging financial environment shaped by changing enrollment patterns, uncertainty in federal research funding, rising costs, and an increasingly constrained landscape for external resources. We enter this period from a position of strength and momentum, with rigorous R1 research activity, resilient enrollment, strong partnerships, and deeply committed faculty and staff. Our response will be strategic and forward-looking, focused on protecting our faculty, staff, and academic mission while strengthening long-term financial sustainability. As we adapt to this changing environment, our focus will be on thoughtful resource stewardship that balances fiscal responsibility with continued investment in our people, mission, and future in ways that advance student success, academic quality, and research excellence. We are confident that by approaching this work thoughtfully and collectively, we can navigate the challenges ahead while preserving the strengths that distinguish UMass Boston and creating new opportunities for our faculty, staff, students, and university to thrive.

Upcoming Key Dates and Events

- October 15: Business, Accounting, and Finance Career Expo
- October 24: Fall Open House to welcome admissions visits
- Grand Scholarly Challenges and Collaborative Research Clusters proposals due by November 1, 2026
- November 2: Spring/Winter Registration begins

Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance's Report

Kathleen Kirleis, Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Finance

Faculty Council Report - October 5, 2025

It is my pleasure to report on the following items:

1. Board of Trustees activity – The Board of Trustees met on September 8th. The Administration and Finance Committee activity was included as part of this Board meeting. There was no separate A&F committee meeting.

   Regarding the capital budget, the campus had a Vote 2 for the Salt Water Pump House Heat Shift Chillers Project. This vote will allow this $20M project to move into construction. Part of the project budget includes a $5.4M grant from the state to install heat shift chiller technology, enabling the campus to reduce

on site fossil fuel by 82% by 2029, speeding up implementing our original Energy & Carbon Master Plan by decades. We are grateful to the state for this support.

As is customary at the September meeting, the Board of Trustees also approved the university's submission for next year's budget request when it is required to be provided to the state.

2. FY2026 results – Preliminary unaudited results for FY26 have been completed and submitted to the President's Office for inclusion in the overall systemwide reporting and audit. I am pleased to report that our campus reported a positive operating margin for the ninth consecutive year, with last year's preliminary results reported at 2.2%. I am grateful to the Controller's Office staff for their work in preparing these results and to all in our campus community who have worked so diligently over the past year to support our mission through the careful stewardship of the university's budgeted resources that flow from student tuition and fees and the state appropriation.

   More details about last year's preliminary results will be provided to the Budget and Long Range Planning Committee.

3. The campus will be updating its Five Year Forecast for the Board of Trustees' December meeting. This exercise is a multi-year operating budget plan that will include the requirement of meeting the 2% operating margin for each year of the forecast. The updated forecast will be due to the President's Office on October 16th.

4. The first quarter closed on September 30th. After financial reporting for the quarter is completed later this month, the projection for the remaining portion of the year will be updated, including the latest information on the state appropriation and fall enrollment.

5. ERP Modernization Project: The University of Massachusetts ERP modernization project continues to move forward. Representatives from Administration and Finance, Human Resources, Grants Administration, Information Technology and other areas across UMass

   Boston will participate in vendor demonstrations and the evaluation of proposals from the two finalists, Workday and Oracle. This project is focused on replacing the University's current PeopleSoft administrative systems with a modern platform supporting areas such as finance and human resources. Separately, the UMass System Office will also begin exploring the future modernization of the Student Information System. These are significant, multi-year initiatives, and there will be opportunities for campus stakeholders to participate as the work progresses.

6. Facilities – Some highlights from Facilities this month are:
   - We were pleased to welcome Congressman Stephen Lynch to campus on September 14th to thank him for the $1M federal appropriation for repairs to the Sea Water Pump House. We are grateful to Congressman Lynch for his support and these repairs to the equipment in the pump house will be underway this fiscal year.
   - Work on the Campus Center roof is well underway. The skylights in the roof will be being replaced this fall and seating in the Campus Center that is under them will be temporarily relocated while this work is completed.
   - The elevators in Healey Library are 20 years old, having been installed in 2007. Currently, there is a capital project to replace them, with design underway to be completed and bid out this fall, and construction to take place this spring.

7. Information Technology – there are a number of projects and initiatives presently underway in IT, including:
    - Teams Calling Modernization: Information Technology has announced the Teams Calling initiative, which will modernize the University's telephone services over the coming year. We are currently developing the implementation timeline and phased rollout plan. The transition will provide greater flexibility for employees, support more modern ways of working, and allow the University to retire aging telephone infrastructure. Additional information, including timing, training, and what individuals can expect, will be shared well in advance of any changes.
    - Start of the Fall Semester: The start of the semester went smoothly from an IT support perspective. For the first two weeks, IT increased the number of staff available to provide in-person assistance and established a satellite help desk in the Campus Center to make support easier to access. We also provided more frequent technology updates and reminders through the Beacon Bytes newsletter. We will continue looking for ways to make IT support more visible, accessible, and responsive to the needs of faculty, students, and staff.
    - New Faculty Technology Onboarding: This year, all new faculty received their University computers by the end of New Faculty Orientation. We are continuing to look at ways to make the technology onboarding process even more efficient and ensure new faculty have the tools they need as early as possible. We welcome feedback from faculty on what worked well and where we can further improve the experience.
    - Cybersecurity Awareness Month: October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and IT will be sharing information throughout the month to help members of the community recognize common cybersecurity risks and better protect themselves and University information. October also marks the annual UMass Cybersecurity Awareness Training period. This training is required for all employees, and additional information and reminders will be provided during the month.

Appendix C: Motions from Graduate Studies Committee

GSC Motions for October, 2026 FC Meeting

All materials available for review on Curriculog

Motion #1: Program change: Urban Planning and Community Development (MS)

From: School for the Environment (SFE)

Proposal: to eliminate the current concentrations in the MS, to be replaced by focus areas. The current concentrations require students to choose from three options, with three required courses and two electives per concentration.

Description: Students will design their own focus areas with their mentors, including options based on pre-existing concentrations, such as Environmental and Land Use Planning and Housing and Community Development Planning. Other possible focus areas in the near future could include Transportation Planning, Urban Analytics/GIS and Social Justice in Planning. The courses that would allow students to specialize in a Transportation focus area are currently under review.
Focus areas will not appear on a student's transcript. They represent a group of courses that students decide to specialize in after consultation with their academic advisor. Courses selected for a focus area will now be considered electives; there will be no required courses and electives as there concentration categories. Requirements for degree completion in terms of number of credits will still be the same, but the division of courses will be stated as core course requirements and electives.

Rationale: The shift from concentrations to focus areas stems from a need for greater flexibility and better alignment with modern, inter-disciplinary workforce demands. Keeping up with workforce demands requires a curriculum that can more easily adapt to new skills set requirements.

Motion #2 New course: HIGHED 742 Neoliberalism and Academic Capitalism in Higher

Education: Moving Toward Resistance

From: CEHD

Proposal: a new course to provide critical understanding of some of the most important societal/economic factors shaping higher education today. It will familiarize students with a range of theories related to neoliberalism and academic capitalism and offer opportunities for students to apply those theories to various practice- and policy-focused topics in higher education, including the experiences of students, faculty, and staff members.
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Description: The political and economic ideologies of neoliberalism and academic capitalism have been significantly shaping the functioning of higher education institutions for decades, limiting colleges' and universities' ability to promote the public good, equity, and justice. Academic capitalism refers broadly to increased linkages between higher education institutions and the new economy; market-driven

conceptualizations of students, faculty, and staff; the spread of corporatized cultures; the commercialization of research; and increased partnerships with private entities, among other practices. This course offers the opportunity for students to develop an understanding of neoliberalism and academic capitalism in higher education, with a focus on moving toward policies and practices that emphasize resistance to these larger processes. Specifically, the course will focus on a range of topics in relation to conceptual and practical understandings of neoliberalism and academic capitalism, as well as these larger processes in the context of students; faculty; administration; identity and subjectivity; access and enrollment; gender and racial justice; and intersections of academic capitalism and the public good. Importantly, the course will emphasize research, theoretical, practical, and policy-related issues related to neoliberalism, academic capitalism, and forces of resistance, in addition to discussions related to our roles in upholding and actively resisting the practices, structures, and processes created by neoliberalism and academic capitalism.

Rationale: The content of this course offers graduate students opportunities to engage in critical thinking related to a range of issues in the context of marketization forces in higher education. The class also focuses on turning research and theory into action, with an emphasis on students' experiences in their professional endeavors. This is particularly significant for students in the Higher Education Program, the majority of whom are employed in full-time positions at colleges and universities in New England. This course has been offered in the Higher Education Program as a special topics class.

Motion # 3 New course: ENVSCI 608 Natural Disasters, Hazards and Resilience

From: SFE

Proposal: a new course to provide the natural science and data analysis perspective on natural disasters. In the current curriculum, there are three courses related to natural disaster management; these existing courses focus on the social science perspective of natural disaster management.

Description: This course examines major natural disasters, hazards, and resilience from an advanced data-driven and interdisciplinary perspective, integrating concepts from natural sciences, social sciences, and spatial analysis. Students will engage deeply with the scientific literature to learn the state of the art in natural hazards research. Students will also explore publicly available, real-world databases of these hazards. This course focuses on six major disasters and hazards: wildfires, extreme heat, flooding, storms, landslides, and drought. For each hazard, students will learn about its causes, impacts, risk management approaches, and community resilience through lectures and discussions. Students will analyze the spatial patterns of these disasters and hazards. Students will work with real-world datasets and mapping tools to analyze recent disaster events. Other hazards, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes, will be briefly discussed. This course also explores strategies to enhance the resilience of both human and natural systems to disasters and hazards through in-depth case studies.

Rationale: Natural disasters and hazards are becoming more frequent and intense under the changing climate and the topic of natural hazards and resilience has attracted increasing interest in academia, government and industry. In the curriculum of UMass Boston, there is no course on natural hazards and resilience from a data-driven and interdisciplinary perspective. This new course will enable students to gain knowledge about major natural hazards and provide training on data analysis skills related to monitoring hazards and identifying the spatial and temporal patterns using real-world data.

Motion # 4 New course: ENVSCI 620 Biodiversity Conservation: Bridging Nature and Culture

From: SFE

Proposal: A new course to explore the links between biological and cultural diversity for conservation, integrating approaches from ecology, conservation biology, and anthropology. The course will serve as a foundation for the adaptation of integrative frameworks for graduate students wishing to design social-ecological research projects, or components of independent research projects, that start with and build on local values, perspectives, and needs.

Description: This course examines the interdependencies between humans and biodiversity through a biocultural approach to conservation. A biocultural approach aims to understand how ecosystems, species, and human cultures co-evolve toward centering local values, perspectives, and needs into biodiversity conservation strategies. Topics include biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity patterns and threats; human-wildlife systems; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; zoos, aquariums, and natural history museums; human-wildlife conflict and coexistence; and biocultural diversity in urban ecosystems. Students will also gain insights into conservation science and practice through exercises in documenting local ecological knowledge; developing social science surveys; conducting fieldwork; and communicating research results.

Rationale: This proposal aims to fill a gap within the elective course offerings related to biodiversity conservation science for the MS and PhD degrees at the School for the Environment. Students will bridge across the natural and social sciences to identify and critique interventions that center the social-ecological realities of biodiversity conservation, in both science and practice.