



University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125-3393

University Governance
Faculty Council

https://www.umb.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_council

February 2nd, 2026

Minutes for Monday, February 2, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Members Present: Amy Todd (CLA), Ana Lindsay (MCNHS), Andre Maharaj (CEHD), Anthony Van DerMeer (CLA), Dan Finn (CLA), Daniel Gascon (CLA), Gonzalo Bacigalupe (CEHD), Gretchen Umholtz (CLA), James Soldner (CEHD), Jose D'Incao (CSM), Judith Pare (MCNHS), Kathryn Archard (CM), Larry J. Kaye (CLA), Lorena Estrada-Martinez (SFE), Lusa Lo (CEHD), Lynne Benson (CLA), Marlene Kim (CLA), Mehran Azimi (CM), Nelson Lande (CLA), Peter Lert (CSM), Shaman Hatley (CLA), Timothy Oleksiak (CLA), Travis Johnston (CLA), Tyler Hull (CM)

Members Absent: Abdelkrim Mouhib (CLA), Jeffrey Edward Stokes (MCNHS), Leon Zurawicki (CM), Niya Sa (CSM), Richard Hunter (CLA – on leave Spring 2026), Todd Drogy (HC)

Representatives Present: Alexa McPherson (CSU), Jonathan Vega Martinez (GEO), Caroline Coscia (FSU)

I. Motion to Approve or Amend the Agenda

- Motion to Amend: postpone discussion of Item IX (Motion to constitute an ad hoc faculty committee survey on satisfaction). Rationale is that makers of the Motion are unavailable for discussion during the regular February 2nd meeting.
 - Motion Fails (6 in favor, 6 opposed)
- Motion to Amend: move discussion of Item IX (Motion to constitute an ad hoc faculty committee survey on satisfaction) forward in agenda to become Item III. Rationale is to allow for immediate discussion of the Motion, given that at least one of the makers of the Motion is currently present.
 - Motion Passes (15 in favor, 3 opposed)

Motion Approved, as amended – unanimous

II. Motion to approve the December 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Detailed notes of previous meeting were lost due to technical errors. Members are asked to confirm if their attendance is correctly recorded on the re-created Minutes.

Motion Approved – unanimous

III. Motion to constitute an ad hoc faculty committee survey on satisfaction (originally scheduled as Agenda Item IX)

Be it resolved that the following ad hoc faculty council committee be constituted: Ad hoc faculty committee survey on satisfaction

Members: Steven Jackson (CSM), Marlene Kim (CLA), Maxim Olchanyi (CLA)

Charge: revise the satisfaction survey, send out, and evaluate the results

Dates of committee: February 2, 2026 through December 31 2026 (to evaluate the results). The committee aims to send out the survey during spring 2026 and aims to have the results out by the end of the summer but requests extra time (if needed) to analyze the qualitative results, (which will take more effort and time).

- Motion by maker to move discussion into Executive Session. Executive Committee advises updates from Provost Berger will be relevant to this discussion and thus advises against moving into Executive Session. Maker withdraws this Motion to move discussion into Executive Session.
- Motion to postpone discussion until subsequent Faculty Council meeting
 - Motion Passes (unanimous)

Motion Tabled

IV. Motion to admit list of items raised at December 8th, 2025 Open Meeting to the February 2026 minutes (See [Appendix A](#))

- Motion intended simply to admit these matters into the record, given that no official minutes are recorded for the Open Meeting itself. No additional discussion.

Motion Approved – unanimous

V. Motion to approve new members of standing committees:

Academic Affairs:

Callie Brusegaard, CEHD

Ilaria D'Angelis, Economics, CLA

Liang (Lindsay) Ma, Communication, CLA

Joint Athletics Committee:

Peter Federman, McCormack, CLA

Community Engaged Scholarship:

Hye Min Kim, Communications, CLA
Budget and Long Range Planning Committee:
Penelope MacDonald, Assistant Dean of University Libraries, will serve as
representative for Stephanie Walker, Dean of University Libraries, for Spring
2026

Motion Approved – unanimous

VI. Motions from the General Education Committee (See [Appendix B](#))

Motion Approved – unanimous

VII. Motions from the Graduate Studies Committee (See [Appendix C](#))

Motion Approved – unanimous

VIII. "Motion to approve the Revised Acceptable Use Policy (Revised January 2026)

(Travis Johnston, Chair of Academic Technology Committee).

- Document available for review here: [UMB-AUP-ISOPOL04-25-R2-Acceptable Use Policy.docx](#)
- Members note that current version of Document still contains many notes and comments. Chair of Academic Technology Committee clarifies these were intentionally left on the document to illustrate the concerns raised by various commenters and IT's responses and resolutions.
- Members note this will become a legally binding document and insist that all notes and comments be incorporated into the body of the text before being voted upon. Chair of Academic Technology Committee agrees to refer Document back to Wil Khouri (Assistant Vice Chancellor of IT) with this feedback.
- Motion to postpone discussion until subsequent Faculty Council regular meeting. Document remains open for comments in the meantime.
 - Motion Passes (unanimous)

Motion Tabled

IX. Motion to ensure educational continuity for members of our community affected by the violence of federal immigration agents.

The Faculty Council at the University of Massachusetts Boston condemns the violent acts of federal immigration agents in Minneapolis and throughout the country. Under the pretext of immigration enforcement, this violence is directed at all people, regardless of

race, sex, citizenship, or immigration status. We recognize the multiple tangible impacts these actions have on students, educational workers, and communities, and the disruption they cause to the learning environment. We commit to working with faculty, staff, students, and administration to ensure educational continuity for members of our community who feel unsafe, enabling them to participate in our academic life, regardless of where they are.

Be it further moved that the administration, via Deans and/or Chairs, re-circulate the procedures in place for requesting online, remote, and hybrid learning options, with the explicit inclusion of the actions of federal immigration agents as a rationale for shifting modalities. Administration will make this plan available to students, staff and faculty.

Be it further moved, that the university alert the campus community of the presence of immigration agents on our campus via the official emergency alert system. This alert should be accompanied by clear and concise instructions for recommended actions as well as the phone number for campus legal assistance.

- Intention of motion is to identify concrete steps to ensure safety of students, faculty, and staff in the event of a surge in federal immigration enforcement in local communities; particularly regarding educational continuity for impacted community members who may need to shelter in place and would be unable to travel to campus for in-person coursework and activities.
- Provost Berger clarifies existing policies and procedures related to educational continuity: an instructor may request move an in-person class to a remote modality, requests for 1 week or less can be approved by Department Chair, requests for 1-2 weeks requires Dean's approval (in coordination with Registrar and Provost), and requests for over 2 weeks must be approved by the Provost's Office. If individual faculty members feel that local conditions warrant suspending in-person meetings, this is the existing policy for how that would be handled.
- Member comments that not all Chairs and Deans are understanding and sympathetic to the fear and concerns raised by impacted faculty, requests that Administration proactively declare that a federal surge would constitute a valid reason for such a request. Provost Berger agrees to take this into consideration.
- Member requests clarification on how these policies would apply to off-campus coursework settings, such as clinical placements for Nursing program. Provost Berger confirms policy remains the same regardless of particular settings.
- Executive Committee highlights that the motion recommends usage of the Emergency Alert System to notify the community to the presence of federal agents on campus. Administrators decline invitation to comment on this provision.
- Member recommends the LUCE Hotline as a resource for reliable information about ICE activity - <https://www.lucemass.org/>. Member notes that MTA also approved a motion to make funds available for immigration legal resources.

Motion Approved – unanimous

X. Discussion of previously circulated reports from union representatives:

- Reports posted: [6. Reports from Representatives to Faculty Council](#)

A. Classified Staff Union – Alexa MacPherson (CSU President)

- Governor Healey’s proposed health insurance cost increases will impose significant financial hardship on all state workers. CSU calls on UMB Administration to use its influence with the statehouse to advocate against this measure.
- Committee on Grade 17 & 18 Compression has ratified an agreement which secures 1-1.5% raises for impacted members. Committee bargaining remains ongoing for Contracting Out, Workloads, and Reclassification.
- PSU remains at the bargaining table after 19 months. CSU calls on Administration to engage in good faith bargaining to resolve this.

B. Professional Staff Union – Michael Mahan (PSU Representative)

- Not present, report posted.

C. Faculty Staff Union – Caroline Coscia (FSU President)

- Reiterates same concerns about Governor Healey’s proposal to increase health insurance cost.

D. Graduate Employee Organization – Jonathan Vega Martinez (GEO Representative)

- GEO Scholarly Support Fund (for academic expenses) and Emergency Support Fund (for any unexpected personal expenses) both still have funds available. Faculty are asked to remind their students to apply.

XI. Discussion of previously circulated reports from administrators:

- Reports posted: [5. Administrators' Reports](#)

A. Chancellor - Marcelo Suárez-Orozco

- International graduate enrollment has declined significantly this semester, but domestic enrollments and transfers have increased slightly.
- UMBPD has relocated to Quinn Service and Supply, Upper Level, Room 0034.
- Resources and assistance are available for campus community members who are experiencing anxiety and stress from current events - <https://www.umb.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/support-resources/>

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

- Add/Drop deadline is extended to Thursday, Feb 5th due to snow closures.
- In process of establishing a working group for the Faculty Climate Survey, with aim of launching survey in Fall 2026.

- Executive Committee relays concerns from faculty members about high number of course cancellations this semester. Provost advises number of course cancellations has remained steady with previous semesters. Provost explains existing course cancellation policies: minimum enrollment is 12 students for undergraduate courses and 8 enrollments for graduate courses, but the Dean can authorize exceptions.

C. Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis

- Introduces new CIO David Albrecht
- New signage for Emergency Procedures being installed in all classrooms and meeting spaces across campus. In the process of replacing and updating exterior doors on all campus buildings.
- Member raises concern about ongoing construction on McCormack Hall, 5th Floor. Member reports exposure to dust and debris in workspace, and comments on lack of advance notice or alternative workspaces offered. FSU Representative advises this is a health and safety matter that can be follow up on through union channels.

XII. Discussion of previously circulated reports from student government:

- No discussion, no reports provided.

A. Representatives from the Graduate Student Government

B. Representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government – Julia Olszewski, Vice President

XIII. New Business

- No discussion.

XIV. Motion Adjourn

Motion Approved – unanimous

Appendix A

Items Raised at Open Meeting on December 12, 2025:

1. Faculty Satisfaction Survey (expanding CLA senate to campus as a whole; ensuring meaningful faculty involvement in externally administered survey)
2. Request for an update from administration on NECHE report with link to the final report and supporting documents. <https://www.umb.edu/about/accreditation--rankings/>
3. Faculty review of compliance with Wellman Document.
4. Academic Technology Council Updates
 - a. • Accessible Use Policy: lots of comments on document, final document pending
 - b. • Artificial Intelligence Policy open for comments:
[UMB_AIPolicy_Draft1_ZR_090825.docx](#)
 - c. • Discussion of strategies for dealing with AI; Suggestion these are shared via video interviews; Suggestion that UMB holds an AI summit during Spring reading period (Thursday May 14-Friday May 15).
 - d. • <https://www.currentaffairs.org/news/ai-is-destroying-the-university-and-learning-itself>
5. Strengthening Faculty Council Standing Committees; filling vacancies
6. Update on Africana Studies offices
7. Research Committee made a number of recommendations which the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is making its way through.
8. Suggestion that FC meetings in Spring consist of motions only; continuation meetings run as open meetings.
9. Update on ALEKS math placement test.

Appendix B

Motions from the General Education Committee

Motion 1: That Africana Studies/English/Women’s, Sexuality, and Gender Studies 224L, Aesthetics & “Black Womanhood”: Contemporary Transatlantic Women’s Novels, be approved as satisfying the International Diversity requirement.

WISER Course Description: This course explores novels by contemporary African American and Black British women writers who encourage us to rethink our understandings of womanhood and racial identity. It emphasizes aesthetics as a mode of resistance by examining the stylistic innovations employed by contemporary Black women writers to revise oppressive, dominant representations of blackness and womanhood in the US and the UK. The course traces the authors' use of traditional African and Black diasporic beliefs to infuse genres like science fiction and horror with new understandings of Black womanhood that are not restricted to heteronormative, white-centering conceptions of identity. Authors include Toni Morrison, Jesmyn Ward, Helen Oyeyemi, Jackie Kay, Octavia Butler, and Rivers Solomon.

Motion 2: That Women’s, Sexuality, and Gender Studies 222, Queer Asia(n), be approved as satisfying the International Diversity requirement.

WISER Course Description: What’s queer about Asia? What’s Asian about queer? This class introduces students to key theoretical problems and empirical issues concerning LGBTQ+ lifeworld across Asia and Asian diaspora. We will examine the intersecting webs of forces that condition “queer Asia” as space, experience, and method: cis-heteropatriarchy, nationalism, regionalism, colonialism, orientalism, neoliberalism, and authoritarianism. Taking an expansive view of Asia and Asianness and using a global Asia framework to bridge area and ethnic studies and emphasize connections between regions. LGBTQ+ issues under examination include kinship practices, media representations, community activism, gay and transgender tourism, and international development. This class fulfills the International Diversity requirement.

Appendix C

GSC Motions for February 2, 2026 FC Meeting

All materials available for review on Curriculog

Motion #1

From: CLA

Request for a program change to the Applied Economics MA. This proposal will change the structure of the program to provide more flexibility and faster pathways to completion by 1) simplifying the structure of elective courses -eliminating the distinction between economics elective and quantitative methods electives, and the requirement that students take a quantitative-methods elective from another program. Instead, students will take three elective courses from an expanded list which will include the courses that students currently take from other programs; 2) by eliminating the 1-credit ECON 650 course as a requirement; and 3) increasing the maximum capstone credits (ECON 698) from five to six credits (in governance). The total number of credits for the degree remains at 32.

Rationale: The Economics Master's program landscape has changed significantly, especially after Covid. Regional competitors are now offering shorter programs, with flexibility on start dates and often also mode of instruction. In the past, ECON 651 – Quantitative Methods I and ECON 652 – Quantitative Methods II were taught in the Fall semester, one year apart. To ensure that students' quantitative skills did not depreciate during this year-long gap, the 1-credit ECON 650 – Applied Research Practicum course exposed students to different applied research projects during the Spring semester. Recently, in an effort to accelerate time to completion, ECON 651 and ECON 652 are taught in consecutive Fall and Spring semesters, which reduces the need for ECON 650. This course remains available but will no longer be a required course.