



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

University Governance
Faculty Council

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

April 7th, 2025

Minutes for Monday, April 7, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Members Present:

Abdelkrim Mouhib (CLA); Alex Mueller (CLA); Amy Todd (CLA); Andre Maharaj (CEHD); Daniel Gascon (CLA); Gonzalo Bacigalupe (CEHD); Gretchen Umholtz (CLA); Harry Konstantinidis (CLA); Janna Kellinger (CEHD); Jason Rodriguez (CLA); Jeffrey Stokes (CNHS); Judith Pare (CNHS); Larry Kaye (CLA); Leon Zurawicki (CM); Lisa Heelan-Fancher (CNHS); Lorena Estrada-Martinez (SFE); Lusa Lo (CEHD); Lynne Benson (CLA); Marlene Kim (CLA); Mohsin Habib (CM); Nelson Lande (CLA); Peter Lert (CSM); Shaman Hatley (CLA); Timothy Oleksiak (CLA); Tyler Hull (CM)

Members Absent:

Ana Lindsay (CNHS); Anthony Van DerMeer (CLA); Edward Ginsberg (CSM); Niya Sa (CSM); Nurul Aman (CLA); Paul Dyson (CLA); Richard Hunter (CLA); Robert Kim (CM); Todd Drogy (HC)

Representatives Present: Michael Mahan (PSU), Alexa McPherson (CSU)

I. Motion to Approve the Agenda

- *Amendment to Item IV:* Garrett Smith (Deputy Chancellor) and Wil Khouri (Assistant Vice Chancellor, Information Security Officer) will participate in discussion of IT Acceptable Use Policy; in lieu of Raymond Lefebvre (Vice Chancellor Information Technology & CIO) as originally expected
- *Point of Order:* FC Executive Committee requests all Councilors participating via Zoom to keep cameras on, and to actively participate in voting on Motions. Councilors unable to participate should demote themselves to 'participant' status in Zoom.

Motion Approved, as amended – unanimous

II. Motion to Approve the March 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion Approved – unanimous

III. Motions from the Graduate Studies Committee (See Appendix A below)

Motion Approved – unanimous

IV. Motion from the Executive Committee regarding IT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP); and discussion of concerns raised with Garrett Smith (Deputy Chancellor) and Wil Khouri (Assistant Vice Chancellor, Information Security Officer)

Motion: That the University, with the participation of the Academic Technology Committee of the Faculty Council, revise the IT Acceptable Use Policy, along with any related supporting documents and trainings, to enhance and clarify protections against random or unnecessary monitoring, confiscation, or interference with personal devices; to enhance and clarify recourse in case of interference with personal devices; to clarify what activities count as university business on university owned devices; and to enhance and clarify recourse in case of interventions on university owned devices. Revisions should be in place by May 31, 2025.

- Supporting documentation available here, including compiled list of questions and concerns from faculty members: [Information Security Policies, Acceptable Use Policy Documents](#)
- Discussion with DC Smith and AVC Khouri
- FC Executive Committee proposes amendment to Motion: Insert clause, “That the University, with the participation of the Academic Technology Committee of the Faculty Council, revise the IT Acceptable Use Policy...”.

Amendment Approved – unanimous

Motion Approved, as amended – unanimous

V. Motion to move directly to New Business

Motion Approved – unanimous

VI. New Business

- Motion to invite student representative Max Herschman to discuss open letter to UMass Boston Administration concerning student visa revocations
- Open Letter available here: [Student Letter to Administration Concerning Visa Revocations](#)

Motion Approved – unanimous

- Student Representative informs Faculty Council that students and campus community members have been asking to meet with Administration to discuss concerns related to the treatment of protesters on our campus, and deportations on other campuses that have happened since January. Over 10,000 emails have been sent to UMB Administration since March through an earlier petition drive. Current request is for a meeting with Administration to discuss proactive measures

to protect the campus community, especially in light of recent revocations of student Visas. Students have received no response to date.

- Lengthy discussion with Provost.
- FC Executive Committee proposed Motion:

Faculty Council encourages administration to engage in an ongoing dialogue with student representatives and community members seeking to protect those targeted by visa revocations and threats related to immigration status.

Motion Approved – unanimous

- Per FC By-Laws, since this motion was not circulated one week in advance of the meeting, it will be placed on the agenda of the May 5th meeting for a second vote.

VII. Discussion of previously circulated reports from union representatives:

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

A. Alexa MacPherson (Classified Staff Union, President)

- Frustrated with lack of progress after 9 months of bargaining. Management continues to arrive late and unprepared for sessions, and to reject proposals without providing rationale.

B. Michael Mahan (Professional Staff Union, Representative)

- Likewise frustrated with management's lack of good faith in ongoing bargaining.

C. Caroline Coscia (Faculty Staff Union, President)

- Not present, no report provided.

D. Jonathan Vega Martinez (Graduate Employee Union, Representative)

- Not present, no report provided.

VIII. Discussion of previously circulated reports from administrators:

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

A. Chancellor - Marcelo Suárez-Orozco

- Not present, report posted.

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

- CSM Dean Search: 5 finalist candidates will visit campus week of April 14th
- CLA Dean Search: Recommendations for finalist candidates received, campus visits are being scheduled.
- NECHE Visit in March: Informal exit interview indicated very positive feedback. Full public report will be published in June.

C. Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis

- 3 upcoming opportunities to learn more about University finances: Planning & Construction Lunch & Learn (April 15th), Campus Update (April 16th), and Beacon Budget Model Update (April 29th)

IX. Motion to Adjourn

Motion Approved – unanimous

Appendix A

GSC Motions for April 7, 2025 FC Meeting

All materials available for review on Curriculog

Motion #1

From: CSM

Request for a new course: BIOL 662 Ecological Genomics

Description: Ecological genomics is the use of genetic sequencing data to understand organisms and their responses to their environments. This course provides a foundation of theory and methods in ecological genomics with a focus on four scales of genomic diversity: functional genomics, population genomics, comparative genomics, and metagenomics. The course starts with a brief introduction to sequencing technologies and tools, after which students evaluate recent relevant primary literature and conduct hands-on bioinformatics analyses with real data. Students also develop an original research proposal.

Rationale: Increasingly, ecological and evolutionary research is using data and tools from genomics to address fundamental questions in biology as well as applications in fields such as conservation, agriculture, and climate change. Students in the Environmental Biology PhD program frequently incorporate these approaches in their work, but the department does not yet offer a course on the topic at the graduate or undergraduate level. This new course will serve as an introduction to this field and a bridge between ecological/evolutionary and genomic theory and applications. It also incorporates a substantial hands-on application portion personalized to each student's research goals. It was well received as a Special Topics course.