



Faculty Council Meeting
Monday, February 2, 2026, 1:00-3:00 PM
Chancellor's Conference Room
Third Floor, Quinn Administration Building
[**https://www.umb.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-council**](https://www.umb.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-council)

Agenda

Supporting documents may be found in the February Meeting Documents Folder here: [2025-2026 Faculty Council Meeting Documents](#) (To access these documents, you must be signed into your UMB account.)

I. Motion to approve the Agenda

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

III. Motion to admit list of items raised at December 8th 2025 Open Meeting to the February 2026 minutes (see Appendix A Below)

IV. 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

V. Motions from the General Education Committee (See Appendix B below)

VI. Motions from the Graduate Studies Committee (See Appendix C below)

VII. "Motion to approve the Revised Acceptable Use Policy (Revised January 2026) (Travis Johnston, Chair of Academic Technology Committee).

VIII. 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.

IX. Motion to constitute an ad hoc faculty committee survey on satisfaction (Marlene Kim)

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).

X. Discussion of previously circulated reports from union representatives:

- Classified Staff University Representative - Alexa MacPherson, CSU President
- Professional Staff Union Representative - Michael Mahan
- Faculty Staff Union Representative - Caroline Coscia, FSU President
- Representatives from the Graduate Employee Organization – Jonathan Vega Martinez

XI. Discussion of previously circulated reports from administrators:

- Chancellor - Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
- Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Joseph Berger
- Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis

XII. Discussion of previously circulated reports from student government:

- Representatives from the Graduate Student Government
- Representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government – Julia Olszewski, Vice President

XIII. New Business

XIV. Motion to Adjourn

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

- Accessible Use Policy: lots of comments on document, final document pending
- Artificial Intelligence Policy open for comments:

[UMB_AIPolicy_Draft1_ZR_090825.docx](#)

- 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).
- <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

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.