



University of Massachusetts  
Boston  
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Boston, MA 02125-3393

University Governance  
Faculty Council

[https://www.umb.edu/faculty\\_staff/faculty\\_council](https://www.umb.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_council)

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

### **Minutes for Monday, April 3, 2023 1:00-3:00**

**Members present:** Nurul Aman (CLA), Gonzalo Bacigalupe (CEHD), Lynne Benson (CLA), Kui Du (CM), Todd Drogy (Honors), Paul Dyson (CLA), Joel Fish (CSM), Sommer Forrester (CLA), Priscilla Gazarian (CNHS), Mohsin Habib (CM), Maria John (CLA), Janna Kellinger (CEHD), Robert Kim (CM), Harry Konstantinidis (CLA), Nelson Lande (CLA), Qingjiang Vince Li (CSM), Lusa Lo (CEHD), Alex Mueller (CLA), Pamela Nadash (MGS), Timothy Oleksiak (CLA), Jason Rodriguez (CLA), Niya Sa (CSM), Michael Tlusty (SFE), Amy Todd (CLA), Phil Troped (CNHS), Gretchen Umholtz (CLA), Roberta Wollons (CLA), Zong-Guo Xia (SFE), Kai Zou (CNHS)

**Members absent:** Edward Ginsberg (CSM)

**Representatives present:** Caroline Coscia (FSU), Jonathan Vega-Martinez (GEO), Delaney Bowen (GSA), Christelle Joseph (USG)

#### **I. Approval of the Agenda**

*Motion Approved*

#### **II. Motion to approve the 03/06/2023 minutes**

*Motion Approved*

#### **III. Motions from the Academic Affairs Committee (Steve Ackerman, Chair)**

##### **Motion #1:**

It is moved that faculties recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees that the listed students and any additional candidates who upon completion of all requirements for graduation and the maintenance of good standing be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science.

##### **Motion #2:**

It is moved that faculties recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees that the listed students and any additional candidates who upon completion of all requirements for graduation and the maintenance of good standing be awarded the degree of Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Education, Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Policy, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, Post-Master's Certificate, and Educational Specialist.

*Motions Approved*

**IV. Motions from the General Education Committee (Neal Bruss, Chair)**

**Motion #1: That Women's and Gender Studies 229L, Latinx Sexualities, be approved as satisfying the Social and Behavioral Sciences distribution.**

**WISER Course Description:** This interdisciplinary course combines Latinx/o/a Studies and Sexuality Studies with a feminist lens to examine how sexuality both shapes and is shaped by immigration, race, class, gender, gentrification, language, religion, culture, and kinship. In the tradition of critical ethnic studies, the course examines sexuality by centering Latinx knowledges, histories, cultural production, and everyday lives. Although the primary focus is on Latinx sexualities in the United States, our analysis will be grounded in a transnational and diasporic context. Topics may include queer latinidad, sexual health, family formations, sex work, media representation, social movements, and visual and performing arts.

**General Education Capabilities:** Verbal Reasoning and Critical Reading and Analysis.

**Motion #2: That Religious Studies/Asian Studies 229L, Introduction to Buddhism, be approved as satisfying the World Cultures distribution.**

**WISER Course Description:** This course surveys the Buddhist religion from past to present. The focus is on central teachings, practices, and institutions in their diverse historical and social contexts, from ancient India to various lands of East and Southeast Asia and the contemporary world. Particular attention is given to Buddhist narratives, disciplines, cosmologies, and historical developments.

**General Education Capabilities:** Critical Reading and Analysis, and Effective Communication (Written Communication).

*All Motions Approved*

**V. Motions from the Graduate Studies Committee (Andre Maharaj, Chair)**

**Motion #1: (All materials available for review in Curriculog) From CSM**

**Request for a new course: BIOL 649 Responsible Conduct of Research,** a new 1-credit course intended for graduate students in the biological and biomedical sciences. It will be an elective for the graduate programs in the Biology Department. However, it is designed to fulfill NIH requirements for Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training for all NIH trainees and will be required for those who are supported with NIH funding.

**Rationale:** For a number of years, the department has provided this training to graduate students through Current Literature courses, as a unit integrated into the Scientific Communication course, and also with informal training throughout the graduate research experience. It is important for this essential component of research training to be formalized in the form of a permanent course. This is a very important course that the department needs, given the number of faculty with NIH grants and the importance of this topic in the training of scientists.

**Motion #2:** (All materials available for review in Curriculog) **From CSM**

**Request for a new course:** CHEM 608 Data Analysis in Chemistry, a new 4-credit course (cross-listed with the new undergraduate CHEM 408 course going through governance) that will introduce the application of statistical techniques to experimental and theoretical chemists with applications drawn from the core chemistry courses at UMB. The course objective is to acquire the necessary skills to build statistical models to design, conduct and understand experimental chemistry. The course will also be added to the Computational Physics track of the Computational Sciences PhD.

**Rationale:** For students to be competitive in the workforce, and for the overall efficiency of science, there is a growing need for students to have a deeper understanding of the statistical apparatus for drawing conclusions. There is a critical need to make reliable predictions, build robust models, identify patterns, such as structure-property relationships, and guide chemical syntheses. Given the many recent advances in computing power, software and algorithms, the course will lay the foundation for students of chemistry to better understand the data science and machine learning for chemical problems.

**Motion #3:** (All materials available for review in Curriculog) **From CLA**

**Request for a new program: English Language Development (ELD) Graduate Certificate,** a new graduate certificate of 15 credits (5 Applied Linguistics courses - APLING 603 Language, Culture and Identity; APLING 605 Theories and Principles of Language Teaching; APLING 614 Foundations of Bilingual/Multicultural Education; APLING 618 Teaching ESL: Methods and Approaches; APLING 670 Testing in the Bilingual/ESL Classroom) designed as a stand-alone certificate for teachers licensed in another area or as a core component of a pathway leading to ESL Initial Licensure for pre-service and in-service teachers in Massachusetts. The certificate program consists of five courses that together cover the theory and practice of instruction for English Learners. It will be offered to educators working with ELs, with a special focus on recruiting bilingual and BIPOC educators who do not currently hold an Initial license in ESL (including paraprofessionals and teachers with licenses in other content areas).

**Rationale:** There is a startling shortage of adequately prepared teachers for English Learners in Massachusetts today. The Centering Relationships, Equity, and Access for Teachers of English Learners (CREATE) Project, funded by a National Professional Development grant, is designed to increase individual, educator, and district capacity to serve English Learners in 8 high-needs urban school districts in Greater Boston. Through this grant, 120 students over five years will complete an educator credentialing pathway in ESL, bilingual, or dual-language education. Of these 120 participants, we estimate that two thirds will be enrolled in the proposed English Language Development Graduate Certificate (ELD). With support from our partner school districts, we expect to recruit many of our participants to continue on to complete their MA in Applied Linguistics at UMB and/or receive Initial Licensure in ESL. Beyond the grant timeframe, with the partnerships, program capacity and systems already in place, we will continue to recruit educators to the ELD Graduate Certificate, our MA program and credentialing pathways. The ELD certificate will support Massachusetts public schools that are either looking to credential their existing ESL teachers, many of whom are on emergency licenses, or are searching for highly qualified ESL, dual language and bilingual teachers to meet the needs of an increasing number of English Learners.

*All Motions Approved*

## **VI. Update on the Membership of the Ad-Hoc Bylaws Revision Committee and the General Education Committee and Sub-Committees**

***“A councilor on leave may retain her/his Council membership. If unable to attend regularly during the leave period, an alternate will be designated by the Executive Committee pending his/her return.”***

### **Ad-Hoc Bylaws Revision Committee**

Neal Bruss CLA (English) Co-Chair  
Carolina Coscia CLA (Political Science)  
John Duff SFE (School for the Environment)  
Joel Fish CSM (Mathematics) Co-Chair  
Sharon Lamb CEHD (Counseling and School Psychology)  
Philip Troped MCNHS (Exercise and Health Sciences)  
Wei Zhang CM (Management Science & Information Systems)

### **General Education Committee**

Dr. Jeffrey Stokes MGS (Gerontology) Spring 2023  
Sangwan Kim CM (Finance), Spring 2023

### **Quantitative Reasoning Subcommittee**

Albert Kao CSM (Biology) Spring 2023

## **VII. Updates on the Motions and Resolutions of the Faculty Council**

*See “Addendum to VII. Updates on the Motions and Resolutions of the Faculty Council” that follows.*

This is a comprehensive review and updates to the resolutions that were passed in the Faculty Council this year. These are the updates, in lieu of the Provost’s absence (this meeting), and are provided via e-mail.

*“Motion from the Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Task Force” provided by Rajini Srikanth:*

By the end of April, visits to 10 Departments will have taken place. The discussions ranged from thirty minutes to an hour. It has provided an occasion for departments to consider what they think is effective teaching and what is and is not in their capacity to do. Overall, it has been a “genuine” experience so far.

*“A Resolution to Confront Mental Health, Gun Violence, Police Brutality, and Systemic Racism”*

**Discussion:** Members of the council commented on the teach-in that occurred two Fridays ago, noting that it was well-received. Another member mentions that two years ago, there was Mental Health First Aid training that was offered. Currently, there is no training offered for recertification. It is concluded that hopefully there can be a list of 'demands' made by the FC to help improve these situations going forward in the future.

*Helio Campus Data Analytics Platform provided by Andrew Perumal*

Associate Provost Andrew Perumal gave an overview of the new Helio Campus platform that is recently being implemented into the university system. We previously didn't have the data warehouses to exactly approach our day-to-day needs. As we strive to be a University that is more "data informed," this platform is being brought in to help us more effectively cultivate and examine the student data in the scope of the Strategic Plan and beyond. This should hopefully help us more accurately and efficiently work with the data that we work with on many different levels of the University. Currently, there is focus on building dashboards to look at past and present data, and to generate and analyze data comparatively inside and outside our University. The timeline for the kick-off of these processes should be quick and exceptional.

**Q:** You said four or five years ago we chose a different metric to highly focus on?

**A:** No, it was a platform that was looking at a very limited scope of student success

**Q:** What was that form of student success?

**A:** The platform was called Civitas, it was looking at how students were retained from semester to semester...it was efficient, but did not allow us to fine tune its modeling.

**Q:** Have faculty been involved in implanting student success metrics and will this platform be used to analyze faculty performance?

**A:** Going forward into the later stages of this process, faculty support will be more integrated into this. Helio Campus is not used for tracking faculty.

#### *"Resolution on Continuing Development of Africana Studies" comments by Jemadari Kamara*

Jemadari Kamara reports several issues about the ongoing Africana Studies process. The Provost has not allowed direct input from the Africana Studies Department to the process. The Interim-Dean (of CLA) has been helpful to facilitate the process and constitute a committee. The job search has not been posted yet. The Faculty Council needs to be aware of what is going on. Hopefully we can generate some traction to gain input from the Department in the process.

**Discussion:** One of the members asked if we can request a detailed timeline for this process. It would create a foundation for further information. Another member has proposed that we create a sub-committee that is specifically involved in making recommendations for the Faculty Council to consider in communication with the Provost about this issue. The process was suggested and brought up again in IX New Business.

#### **VIII. Reports – Maximum of 10 minutes**

- Chancellor – Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
  - *Report Attached*

**Q:** Have the recent rise in Master's Program applicants been related to the Shorelight Program?

**A:** We have seen some influence on International applications, but it is also attributed to coming out of the pandemic and natural increase.

- Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Joseph Berger
  - *Report Attached*
- Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis
  - *Report Attached*

**Q:** Student Financial Responsibility Agreement (SFRA)? Why are we doing this?

**A:** We're actually the last UMass Campus to adopt this. It is necessary. We don't have any previous legislature [sic] addressing this. It allows us to have the legal relationship with the students in regard to their fees, etc. It is necessary in terms of legality and student success.

**Q:** Can you say more about how it harms us?

**A:** It allows us to try to work with students in house if students don't pay. If it ends up in a worst case scenario, then we have to use a collections agency.

- Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees – Roberta Wollons
  - *Report Attached*
- Representative from the Faculty Staff Union – Caroline Coscia
  - The FSU contract is ending this June and the union is still fighting for their ground rules (the first step) and expanded bargaining. The Belmont case of 2015 allows for all members to come to the bargaining session. FSU must do expanded bargaining as part of their contract.
  - FSU is very concerned about the physical condition of the library, temperature and upkeep of the materials, and drop off of librarians. We want to hear from you about the library.
  - The Annual Meeting is April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the budget will be produced.
- Representatives from the Graduate Employee Organization – Jonathan Vega-Martinez
  - *Report Attached*
  - The Chancellor offered a direct invitation for the GEO to come to meet with him.
- Representative from the Graduate Student Association – Delaney Bowen
  - Officially now the "Graduate Student Government"
  - Partnered with the Desi Student Association and the Nepali Student Associate for the Holi Festival student event that happened on the lawn.
  - Working with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs with a graduate student committee to address issues affecting graduate students.
- Representative from the Undergraduate Student Government – Christelle Joseph
  - The USG recently appointed a representative to help increase the availability of menstrual products on campus for everyone.

## **IX: New Business**

- Nelson Landte moved that FC creates a committee, with Jeadari Kumari as a member, to create a list of addresses to the Provost's Office regarding the Africana Studies issue  
**Discussion:** It would be for a committee to establish a timeline. It would require a second reading for FC to confirm what it is voting on and that the information is correct.  
**Q:** What is the spirit of the second reading?  
**A:** The information needs to be absorbed.  
**Q:** Clarification on the rules: when does this second reading need to happen?  
**A:** The reading can happen on screen or passed around as a memo.  
**Q:** Logistics: If we vote to create a committee, do we have to outline who will be on it and how it will be formed?  
**A:** This could be left up to the Executive Committee to decide on the structure of it. It should be executed fairly quickly.

The motion went to edit, but did not produce a final result.

**X. Motion to Adjourn**

Adjourned

## Addendum to VII. Updates on the Motions and Resolutions of the Faculty Council

**October 3, 2022, 1:00-3:00 PM**

### **Motion from Sociology Faculty – Kevin Wozniak and Andrea Leverentz on “Criminal and Disciplinary History Disclosures”**

**From:** Joseph B Berger <Joseph.Berger@umb.edu> **Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2022 7:41 AM **To:** Zong-Guo Xia <ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu> **Cc:** Priscilla K Gazarian <Priscilla.Gazarian@umb.edu>; Pamela Nadash <Pamela.Nadash@umb.edu>; Elizabeth L Sweet <Betsy.Sweet@umb.edu>; Amy Todd <Amy.Todd@umb.edu> **Subject:** RE: Motion Passed by the Faculty Council at Its 10/03/2022 Meeting  
Dear Zong-Guo,

Thank you for informing of the motion. I am already looking into it, will share your motion and questions with the appropriate offices, and will keep Faculty Council updated on what we find out. We will make a decision on how best to proceed by November 1, 2022.

Best,  
Joe

### **Provost’s Remarks Faculty Council November 7, 2022**

Thank you to Faculty Council as a whole and to the Financial Aid, Admissions, and Records Committee, for the motion and subsequent questions and insights regarding the inclusion of Criminal and Disciplinary History Disclosure questions on UMass Boston graduate admissions forms. We have looked further into this and given the multiple perspectives on this and the importance of the issue, we will be launching a working group that includes faculty members and administrators to **make a final recommendation by the end of March** regarding whether to remove these questions, retain these questions, or amend these questions.

**November 7, 2022, 1:00-3:00 PM**

#### **(1) Motion from the Holistic Evaluation of Teaching Task Force**

*“The Task Force on the Holistic Evaluation of Teaching moves that during the Fall 22 and early part of the Spring ’23 semesters the various departments within each college discuss the recommendations of the task force for a cluster of approaches to provide holistic evaluation of teaching, and we strongly encourage departments to articulate by **April 30th, 2023** a plan for how best to discuss, engage with, and consider implementation of the recommendations within their department and the support and resources needed to do so. A subcommittee of task force members will be available to consult on departmental plans.”*

#### **(2) Resolution on Continuing Development of Africana Studies**

**From:** Joseph B Berger <Joseph.Berger@umb.edu> **Sent:** Monday, November 7, 2022 8:32 PM **To:** Zong-Guo Xia <ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu> **Cc:** Priscilla K Gazarian <Priscilla.Gazarian@umb.edu>; Pamela Nadash <Pamela.Nadash@umb.edu>; Elizabeth L Sweet <Betsy.Sweet@umb.edu>; Amy Todd <Amy.Todd@umb.edu>; Zong-Guo Xia <ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu> **Subject:** Re: Faculty Council Resolution on Continuing Development of Africana Studies

Dear Zong-Guo,

Thank you for passing this resolution on to me. I acknowledge receipt and look forward to rapidly providing a response.

Best,  
Joe



**December 5, 2022, 1:00-3:00 PM**

**(1) Resolution on Moving Three Academic Departments (Economic, Political Science and Sociology) from the College of Liberal Arts to the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies**  
**(2) Recommendation of the Faculty Council Research Committee on a “Salary Top-up Policy”**

**FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT Provost Joseph Berger Monday, February 6, 2023**

- The Gerontology Department and Institute will move to MCNHS effective July 1, 2023.
- A still-to-be determined joint committee/working group on CLA-MGS organization will be convened to make recommendations to me regarding the best ways to structure the relationship between CLA and MGS. ... The committee will commence work in February and provide recommendations to me by May 5, 2023.

**FACULTY COUNCIL REPORT Provost Joseph Berger Monday, March 6, 2023**

**Academic Reorganization**

As I reported last month, we are proceeding with the formation of a CLA-MGS Reorganization Design Team. I have received nominations from the College of Liberal Arts, The McCormack Graduate School of Public Policy and Global Studies, and the Faculty Council Budget and Long-range Planning Committee. I deeply appreciate the work done by colleagues to make those nominations and I am grateful to the dedicated individuals who have been nominated. The Design Team is being broadly charged to develop recommendations regarding the best ways to formally restructure the relationship between CLA and MGS. Ultimately, and as conceived, the work of the team will focus on strengthening the immediate and long-term success of both CLA and MGS. A much more detailed charge will be provided at the team’s first meeting. I will work closely with this group of colleagues, so that we can learn from and with each other throughout the process. The work is expected to conclude in early May.

**From:** Joseph B Berger <Joseph.Berger@umb.edu> **Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 9:52 AM **To:** Zong-Guo Xia <ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu> **Cc:** Priscilla K Gazarian <Priscilla.Gazarian@umb.edu>; Pamela Nadash <Pamela.Nadash@umb.edu>; Elizabeth L Sweet <Betsy.Sweet@umb.edu>; Amy Todd <Amy.Todd@umb.edu>; Rosalyn Negron <Rosalyn.Negron@umb.edu> **Subject:** RE: Recommendation of the Faculty Council on a “Salary Top-up Policy”

Dear Zong-Guo,

Thank you to you and your colleagues in Faculty Council for sending this along. I also sincerely appreciate Rosalyn’s leadership and the contributions of the Faculty Research Council. ***We will develop implementation processes and guidelines by the beginning of March*** so that this policy can be implemented for fellowships during the 2023-24 academic year.

Best,  
Joe

**March 6, 2023, 1:00-3:00 PM**

**A Resolution to Confront Mental Health, Gun Violence, Police Brutality, and Systemic Racism**

### Enrollment

- We are closely monitoring first year undergraduate numbers leading up to the May 1 deposit deadline. First year applications ended this cycle up 6% with the increases coming from out-of-state and international students. Undergraduate Admissions continues to review completed applications and acceptance are currently up 8% compared to this time last year. We are at a critical point for students to make a decision about attending in fall 2023. Deposits are currently up 6%. Our largest first year yield event was held this past Saturday, and attracted hundreds of prospective Beacons and their guests.
- At the Master's level, applications are up across all residencies but the increase is largely attributable to a few programs that are attracting more interest from international students. To promote our accelerated master's opportunities, we hosted for current undergraduates a focused information session which highlighted program opportunities and featured a few faculty and students who are currently pursuing a 4 + 1. Over 20 undergraduate students attended the program (another session is scheduled for later in April). While interest in our PhD programs is up 14%, many programs have a set cap; therefore, the increased interest will not necessarily translate into increased enrollment.

### Student Affairs

- UMass Boston will host a Family Day on Saturday, April 29th. This event is an important way to connect families with the campus experience. The day includes a spring brunch and welcome, Bobby's Carnival, a Boston Harbor cruise, a Beacon Showcase Dinner, and sporting events.
- As we continue to build traditions to celebrate graduates, we are pleased to launch a new event for the Class of 2023 to toast their success at Lincoln Tavern & Restaurant marking 50 days until graduation. The event will be held on Tuesday, April 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Tickets include food. Contact Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Karen Ferrer-Muñiz for more details.
- An info sheet has been shared with students, staff, and deans offering resources for supporting Muslim students during Ramadan. This resource is a partnership of the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and is based on the *What Community Should Feel Like* resource first published by the Islamic Center at New York University. It is meant to be an educational starting place on Ramadan and is not a definitive guide. Visit [umb.edu/student-affairs](http://umb.edu/student-affairs) to download a copy.

### Commencement Speakers Announced

We were thrilled to announce this past week that our 2023 Commencement speakers will be United States Senator Elizabeth Warren and entrepreneur, philanthropist, and co-founder and president of Quincy-based Granite Telecommunications, Mr. Rob Hale. Each will address our undergraduate Class of 2023 on Thursday, May 25, here on campus. We are especially honored that UMass Boston will be Senator Warren's only university commencement address in the Commonwealth this year. I know we are all looking forward to hearing from these two leaders, who do so much to support the Commonwealth and the City of Boston.

### **Residence Hall Named in Honor of Dr. Keith J. and Angela Motley**

As previously announced in a campus communication, the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees, together with the Office of the President, decided to name our residence halls in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Dr. J. Keith Motley and his wife, Angela. This gesture will honor in perpetuity the Motleys' commitment to our holistic, student-centered approach to education, and is a testament to their leadership, foresight, and hard work in making our residence halls a permanent feature of campus life on Columbia Point. A formal event to rename the residence halls will be held in late April; I look forward to joining President Meehan and many others at this event to honor Dr. and Mrs. Motley.

### **Emergency Preparedness Exercise on Campus**

Late last month, the UMass Boston Police Department and Office of Emergency Management held a full-scale emergency preparedness training exercise at the Campus Center. The training allowed campus police officers to practice active threat response and provided students and employees with an opportunity to participate in an emergency preparedness activity. As part of our commitment to prioritizing the safety of all members of our campus community, UMass Boston has conducted emergency preparedness active threat exercises annually since 2012 (except during the pandemic).

### **Applied Linguistics Professors Award \$2.9MM for Development Program**

Professors Avary Carhill-Poza and Panayota Gounari have been awarded a prestigious five-year, \$2.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to Centering Relationships, Equity, and Access for Teachers of English Learners, a professional development program that will address the shortage of qualified, diverse teachers of English learners in eight urban high-needs public school districts in Greater Boston. The project will recruit and train 120 teachers over the next five years, focusing on teachers and paraprofessionals who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color. Congratulations, Drs. Carhill-Poza and Gounari.

### **Grant Awarded to UMass Boston as an AANAPISI Institution**

Because of our distinction as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution, a U.S. Department of Education grant will fund a plan for UMass Boston to work with Bunker Hill Community College to implement a culturally sustaining transfer pathway that enhances the capacities of each institution. This new funding comes at a critical time given the dual pandemic of COVID-19 and anti-Asian hate aimed at Asian American students, families, and communities. This partnership is critical as the largest share of Asian American transfer students at UMass Boston begin their studies at Bunker Hill Community College.

### **Visit to LA and the UCLA Community Schools**

Last month, I led a delegation of K-12 education leaders and policymakers here in Massachusetts to Los Angeles for a learning tour of UCLA's exemplary University-assisted network of schools, where we engaged in strategic discussions with administrators, principals, teachers, and policy makers at the UCLA Community school at the RFK Complex, as well as the Horace Mann UCLA Community School in South Los Angeles. The UMass Boston delegation included Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper, Mayor Wu's Senior Advisor for Youth and Schools, Dr. Rebecca Grainger, MA Higher Education Commissioner Noe Ortega, Provost Joe Berger, and Dean Tara Parker, among others. During the visit, we learned best practices for creating new synergies and developing partnerships for the benefit of underserved students and neighborhoods in Boston. We look forward to providing updates on this initiative in the future. Thanks to the generosity of an external donor, travel-related expenses for all

**FACULTY COUNCIL UPDATES**  
**Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**  
**Monday, April 3, 2023**

participants on this trip were covered by private funds. I thank Dean Parker for her leadership as we work closely with local elementary and high schools, Boston Public Schools leadership, the Mayor's Office, and community partners to build new models for holistic and equitable high-quality community schooling right here in our own neighborhoods.

### **FY24 Strategic Investment for Academic Units**

Given the realities of an ongoing structural deficit, we continue to look for innovative ways to close the gap and be balanced for FY24. That said, we have worked to 1) remain balanced and within the targets provided; 2) reallocate additional budget from the Provost Office to the Academic Units; 3) reset the NTT base budget using updated baselines that more accurately reflect the NTT teaching levels; and 4) make necessary investments in specific institutional priorities.

As a result of these considerations, we managed to both make some targeted strategic investments while remaining collectively within the FY24 budget goal. Some highlights are included below:

- 1) Continuing investment in the Healey Library to accommodate increases in fixed external costs and the need to continue to bolster academic and research support capabilities.
- 2) Maximizing allocation of portions of the Provost's Office non-benefitted payroll and non-payroll budgets to help facilitate increases in budget across academic affairs.
- 3) Resetting the NTT base budget to more accurately reflect instructional needs resulted in an approximate \$1M in additional budget authority.
- 4) Ongoing stabilization of center and institute budgets, and where possible strategic investment (i.e. potential hiring of a Trotter Institute Director in FY24).

Where applicable and appropriate, there will be ongoing discussions regarding the more structured/planned use of available endowments. Where salary relief is possible based on the endowment purpose, units will need to confirm appropriate adjustments have been made to the salary funding sources. In some cases, non-payroll offsets can also be achieved and those should be identified and discussed.

### **CLA-MGS Design Team**

The Design Team has been meeting for the last three weeks under the leadership of Reef Youngreen and Stacy VanDeveer with facilitation from Susan Gauss. I appreciate the work and dedication of the Design Team members and look forward to our ongoing work together through May 12.

### **Africana Studies and the Trotter Institute**

The Africana Studies search for three faculty hires (two senior and one open rank position) remains an institutional priority. Dean Pratima Prasad has made good progress working with the search committee and I, like so many others, am eager to bolster the number of faculty in Africana Studies and provide further resources to enhance and expand UMass Boston's academic and scholarly work in Africana Studies.

I am also pleased that the search for the Director of the Trotter Institute is making good progress. The search committee is interviewing semi-finalists and we will be bringing finalists to campus in the very near future. We are also hiring a new staff position to support the Trotter Institute and the other CANALA centers and institutes.

I am grateful for Michael Johnson and Mickaella Perina's leadership on the Trotter Transition Committee and am pleased that Michael is stepping into the role of interim director of the Trotter until we bring the new director on board in a few months.

### **Update on Faculty Council Motions**

I am pleased to be working closely with Faculty Council, including the executive committee and many of the key committees, and am pleased to have this opportunity to provide an update on some of the motions that have been passed this year.

Criminal and Disciplinary History Disclosures – we have checked with the Office of General Counsel, and we have discretion at the campus-level. Building upon this, we are looking at these questions with Enrollment Management and I plan on attending the May meeting of the Financial Aid, Admissions, and Records Committee.

Holistic Evaluation of Teaching - Dean of Faculty Rajini Srikanth is working with a limited number of departments that have volunteered to explore the use of holistic evaluation. As discussed in Faculty Council, this is strictly voluntary and we will use these initial explorations to inform further consultation about how best to evaluate teaching.

### **Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education**

I am pleased to announce a campus-wide internal search for a re-envisioned position to lead and enhance graduate studies at UMass Boston, the Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education (AVPGE).

The AVPGE will report to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and lead the Office of Graduate Studies, which supports graduate student success in master's, doctoral, and certificate programs while overseeing graduate academic policies. In all cases, the AVPGE will foster an environment that promotes creative and rigorous scholarship and research. The AVPGE will be a transformative leader who is responsible for providing the strategic leadership and management of graduate education while promoting inclusive excellence. As such, the AVPGE will help refine and implement a graduate education mission consistent with the University's mission and newly articulated and formally codified *For the Times* strategic plan. I will be meeting with the Office Graduate Studies team shortly to work further with them on this transition.

I will be sending out a position description this week with nominations due to [provost@umb.edu](mailto:provost@umb.edu) by April 14, 2023. Upon confirmation of interest, all nominees will be invited to submit a one-page statement of interest and vision for the position along with their CV. I will work with a consultative committee to review the nominations, conduct interviews, and identify how best to fill this vitally important position in a timely and thoughtful manner.

Faculty Council

April 5, 2023

Vice-Chancellor for Administration and Finance Report

Good afternoon! It is good to be with you this afternoon. I would like to report on the following items:

1. Campus Update – A Financial Update was provided as part of March 22's Campus Update. Items discussed included the FY23 budget, Quarter 2 results, the FY24 budget development timeline, proposed FY24 tuition rates and Campus Projects. If you were unable to attend the Campus Update and would like to learn more about the Financial Update or other topics covered at the forum, the materials are available on the university website.
2. The 2023 Active Threat Full Scale Emergency Exercise – The exercise was held in the Campus Center on March 17<sup>th</sup> and was a great success. 158 people participated in this year's drill. Thank you to all here who were part of those efforts. Since 2012, the university has conducted emergency preparedness active threat exercises like this one on a nearly annual basis, except during the pandemic. These exercises allow our police officers to practice active threat response in a university building and provide students, faculty, and staff with an opportunity to participate in an important emergency preparedness activity. The university also has a [Active Threat Training Video](#) to assist the campus community in the preparation for an active threat situation. I strongly recommend that you to watch the video if you have not already had a chance to do so.
3. The Beacon Budget Model – additional discussion on the model framework took place at the Budget and Long Range Planning Committee meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>. There is some initial information about the model now available on the university website at [Beacon Budget Model - UMass Boston \(umb.edu\)](#). I encourage you all to take a look at the materials.
4. Student Financial Responsibility Agreement (SFRA) - As you may know, our campus is the last in the system to invoke the requirement of a SFRA. In the current academic year, we have conducted a “soft launch” of the OGC-approved language to students as notice of their financial responsibilities, but with no system-enforced requirement to accept the terms and conditions. During this soft launch, 73.3% of our students, or close to 16,000, signed the SFRA. There were no complaints brought forth at the Bursar's Office during this time. Beginning fall 2023, students will have a system-enforced requirement to accept (via check box) the SFRA. The SFRA will carry a registration hold until completed. Each student will be required to accept the SFRA once for the academic year. This requirement is now live and in place as registration opens today. The [SFRA](#) and [FAQ](#) 's about the SFRA are now live on the university website. Please feel free to take a look at them for further details.
5. Student Payment Plans-as part of our ongoing student success efforts, work is underway to require students to have a plan to pay for their classes in place before the end of add/drop in September. UMB is an outlier among its peers in current practice of not

having such a requirement and by updating our requirements, students will be better situated for success. Students will need to have completed their financial aid, set up a payment plan or paid their bill in full or they will be dropped from their classes. There is a multidisciplinary working group planning this project to develop all of the necessary policies, procedures and communications. The initial communication to students, faculty and staff about this update will be out this week.

6. FY24 budget submission – the university’s initial FY24 budget was submitted to the President’s Office on March 30, 2023. You may recall as part of our five year planning process, the operating margin for FY24 was planned at \$9.8M. As we rolled forward FY23 activity and budgeted using a combination of required central guidance and our own data, that operating margin has decreased from \$9.8M to a balanced budget of \$0. Dorchester Bay City continues to be part of our budget plans as that project progresses, although the timeline for permitting has changed. Now we are planning for the permitting to be completed by December 31, 2023, instead of the original timeframe of June 30, 2023. Additional planning will continue as the state budget process progresses this spring and we reach the deposit deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>. More information will be forthcoming as this work progresses.



Prof. Roberta Wollons  
FC Representative to the Board of Trustees  
Report to the Faculty Council, April 3, 2023

There were no meeting of the Board of Trustees or sub committees in March.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Wollons

**From:** Roberta Wollons <[Roberta.Wollons@umb.edu](mailto:Roberta.Wollons@umb.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 31, 2023 5:53 PM  
**To:** Zong-Guo Xia <[ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu](mailto:ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu)>  
**Subject:** Board of Trustees Agenda

Hi, Zong-Guo

I just received the agenda for the April 5<sup>th</sup> BoT Administration and Finance meeting. There are other meetings that day, but I only have the agenda for this committee so far. Please share with the EC to see if there are any issues you would like me to bring to this meeting.

Best

Roberta

Prof. Roberta Wollons  
Department of History

BOARD OR COMMITTEE	MEETING DATE & TIME
Committee on Administration and Finance	April 5, 2023, 9:00 am
Athletics Committee	April 5, 2023, 11:00 am

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**From:** Jonathan Vega Martinez <Jonathan.VegaMart001@umb.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 2, 2023 11:59 PM  
**To:** Zong-Guo Xia <ZongGuo.Xia@umb.edu>  
**Cc:** Chidimma Ozor Commer <Chidimma.Ozor@umb.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Written Reports for the Faculty Council Meeting on 04/03/2023

Hi Zong-Guo,

Below is the GEO's statement for faculty council. I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

*Hi everyone, I'm Jonathan the GEO representative. Since we last met the designated representative from administration to our committees has resigned and been replaced. While this event is frustrating and will no doubt continue to delay our goals, we are cautiously optimistic. Mickey has stepped up as administration's new representative and has recognized how unacceptable the nature of these delays has been. While we are still guarded in our dealings with administration, we are cautiously optimistic about what lies ahead. Mickey has taken steps to ensure that the university keeps their end of the bargain, such as ensuring that the money intended for the launch of our emergency fund will roll over to next year. She is also working to reduce bureaucratic bloat by consolidating our various committees. In doing so the goal is to minimize procedural delays and the possibility of things falling through the cracks. We truly and deeply hope that these efforts are indicative of a larger change that seeks to improve labor relations at Umass Boston, and not simply a token effort at appeasement. We are optimistic, but as the saying goes: once bitten, twice shy.*

*Our optimism is further tempered by the fact that the chancellor had a meeting with other Umass Boston unions, but failed to extend an invitation to us. We will be reaching out to the chancellor to clarify the situation which we hope was a simple mix-up or oversight. As I am quick to point out, graduate assistants aren't simply students, we are also workers in equal measure. This is why the Faculty Council invites both the GSA AND the GEO to offer reports: it is in recognition of the dual roles we fill at this institution. As such it is a shame that the GEO wasn't able to meet with the chancellor to share its perspective.*

Best,  
**Jonathan Vega Martinez (he/him)**  
PhD Student Sociology  
GEO Organizing Committee  
[Office Hours Sign-Up](#)