

*Elizabeth Bifuh, Ramanpreet Kaur, Saira Latif, Jeff Moore (absent), Suzanne Moore, Nese Orbey (partial attendance), Neil Shortland (absent), Noah Van Dam, Kevin Petersen**, Mai Nguyen¹ (absent), Nancy Ludwig¹, Deborah White¹, Mubarak Ayinla² (absent), E. Shakira Fedna² (absent)*

** Ex-officio, ¹non-voting, ²student representative

MINUTES

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:156/form>

December 16, 2024 at 3:30-5:00 PM in Alumni Hall 102

1. **Executive Session** (*Noah Van Dam*) Graduate Student Petition in Alumni Hall 101
2. **Minutes from the November 18, 2024 Meeting** (*Noah Van Dam*)
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2238/form> No comments/questions. Motion to approve by Suzanne Moore, second by Saira Latif. **Approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0.**
3. **Program Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*)

New Plans

1. **PhD in Mathematics** (*Hung Phan*) – New Plan (Major/Program) in DHE Phase I
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1785/form>. Discussion focused on the elective courses that would be offered for students; a full list wasn't given but will be required by DHE. The program will continue alongside the joint Ph.D. in Computational Mathematics for now. The department would like eventually to bring that into this program as an option, but that is a future discussion. Once the program reaches initial level of enrollment for TA students, would plan to only admit new students as current students graduate and open up TA slots. Some faculty may have RA funds, which may allow additional students to enroll beyond the small numbers currently forecast, especially after the first couple years. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Suzanne Moore. **Approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1**
2. **Graduate Certificate in Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies** (*James Forest*) – New Plan (Certificate) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2208/form>. There was a question about admission criteria as there were few details in the proposal, but it is

assumed the same criteria as the other certificate programs from the School of Criminology & Justice Studies would apply. This certificate would provide a path to the Master's in Security Studies; other certificates are mainly feeders for the Master's in Criminal Justice degree. Motion to approve Saira Latif, second by Elizabeth Bifuh. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0**

3. **Graduate Certificate in Population Health and Behavioral Sciences** (*Leland Ackerson*) – New Plan (Certificate) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2234/form>. Motion to approve by Suzanne Moore, second by Elizabeth Bifuh. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0**

Change Plans

4. **PhD in Applied Psychology and Prevention Science** (*Megan Papesch*) – Change Plan (Major/Program) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2124/form>. Change title and CIP Code to “Psychology”. Clarified that the new CIP is SS, not STEM. Comment was raised that going from specific to general can sometimes hurt students who now don't have a degree with specific expertise, but the proposing department felt the current name isn't accurate for most students who don't work in prevention science and the students would still be able to distinguish focus areas on a resume. It may be that in the future the department will consider adding specific options to the degree, but that is not currently planned. Motion to approve by Saira Latif, second by Ramanpreet Kuar. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**
5. **M.S. Accounting – Business Analytics Option** (*Stefanie Tate, Huimin Amy Chen*) – Change Name of Program & Elevate Subplan to Plan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2246/form>. Taking option and making it its own program with state approved STEM designation. Motion to approve by Saira Latif, second by Suzanne Moore. **Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0**
6. **Graduate Certificate in Pathogen Diagnostics** (*Mingdi Yan*) – Change Plan (Certificate) <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2072/form>. Questions arose of how this change will affect the total number of credits a student might have to take (not the minimum required), and whether students will disproportionately register for the new 3-credit lab and the other 3-credit courses since it would reduce the number of classes a student needs to take by one. No representative was available, so the proposal was tabled until the February meeting. Motion to table to February meeting by Noah Van Dam, second by Suzanne Moore. **MOTION TO TABLE APPROVED: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0.**

4. **Course Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*)

New Courses

1. **CHEN.5310 Applied Machine Learning in Engineering** (*Zhiyong Gu*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2053/form>. In response to comments from the Registrar's Office, the proposer asked to update the pre-requisites to be "MATH.2340 Differential Equations or MATH.2360 Engineering Differential Equations or permission of instructor." This update has been applied to the proposal in Curriculog. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Nese Orbey. **Approve:** Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0
2. **EECE.5860 Introduction to Generative Artificial Intelligence** (*Tingshu Hu / Mike Geiger*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2113/form>. The department uploaded a statement of difference this morning, comparing AI to deep learning courses, but not in time for all committee members to review. The committee inquired how this graduate course will be distinguished from the undergraduate version that was proposed; the department will make sure the requirements are different. Questions were raised about how niche or specialized this course would be and if there was too much overlap with current offerings, but consensus was there was limited overlap and the area was broad enough to warrant a course. Motion to approve by Saira Latif, second by Nese Orbey. **Approved:** Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0
3. **MATH.5800 Mathematical methods for Quantum error correction** (*Shiwen Zhang*) – New Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:1904/form> (old form) Previously rejected back to originator to make necessary changes; changes have been made. Motion to approve by Elizabeth Bifuh, second by Suzanne Moore. **Approved:** Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0

Change Courses

4. **CHEM.5660 Nanomaterials and Nanostructures** (*Mingdi Yan*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2172/form> Removing Organic Chemistry as a prerequisite course.
5. **EECE.7PCT for Eng Doc Candidates** (*Tingshu Hu / Mike Geiger*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2075/form> Updating this Curricular Practical Training for Engineering Doctoral Candidates course to 1 contact hour.
6. **ENGN.6020 Graduate Professional Development for Engineers** (*Sukesh Aghara*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2038/form>. Changing course component from seminar to independent study, per recommendation from the Registrar's Office; the course was meant to be run even with just one student.
7. **IENG.5040 Manufacturing Systems** (*David Claudio*) – Change Course

- <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2142/form>. Changing course catalog number and title from “IENG.5040 Manufacturing Systems” to “IENG.5025 Advanced Production and Inventory Management” to match the new undergraduate version. The UG version is a core required course for undergraduates, but the GR version is not a core required course for graduate students.
8. **IENG.5080 Advanced Human Machine System Design** (*David Claudio*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2144/form>. David asked the committee to remove the proposal as things have changed; he will submit a proposal for a new course.
 9. **MECH.5830 Advanced Aerodynamics** (*Noah Van Dam*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2146/form>. Removing orbital dynamics content no longer covered as it is taught in another class now. Removing project language to increase instructor flexibility, but no changes in mode of instruction planned currently.
 10. **NURS.7070 Epidemiology of Health Promotion** (*Lisa Marchand*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2205/form>. There seemed to be some confusion as to whether there were any extra restrictions being applied. There was no one to present from the department and no representative from the registrar's office to confirm during discussions. GPAC committee members supported removing any additional restrictions (if any).
 11. **NURS.7170 Evaluation Research** (*Lisa Marchand*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2119/form>. There was some confusion whether there were additional pre-requisites or enrollment restrictions. The proposer could not attend and there was no representative from the registrar's office to confirm. The course description does have a statement about course pre-requisites. Based on information from Lisa Marchand, the committee approved removing this statement from the course description and any other prerequisites (if any).

Motion to approve all course changes, except those noted otherwise, by Saira Latif, second by Suzanne Moore. Approved: Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0

5. Policy Proposals (*Noah Van Dam*)

1. Proposal to Change University-Level Policy: **Graduate Admissions Transcript Requirement** (*Stacy Szczesiul*)

- The proposal <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2102/form> was introduced by *Stacy Szczesiul & Shahram Haydari* for initial discussion to Faculty Senate at Meeting #3 on November 4. Faculty Senate voted to move the proposal forward into the 2-month review process for university-level policy changes.
- The [Faculty Senate Call for Comment #2](#) was announced on November 8.

- The proposal spent one week at the College Curriculum Committee step, and one week at the College Dean step.
- **The proposal was reviewed by UPC** on December 9 and approved with the caveat that the language needs to be strengthened to clearly restrict potential applicants to those from countries in crisis and include a better-defined process for reviewing these applicants.
- **The proposal was reviewed by GPAC** on December 16 and rejected as it is currently written. During the GPAC meeting Stacy Szczesiul described updates made at the request from UPC to add stronger guardrails. The policy now asks that the student provide a written statement regarding the extraordinary circumstances preventing them from providing official transcripts, and validation from an acceptable outside organization. Shahram Haydari shared that Education USA is a well-known and well-respected organization that helps to identify partners to validate the authenticity of unofficial transcripts. For example, Prospect Burma provides scholarships for students and works with the students to document their circumstances. The admission decision will still be determined by the Program Coordinator, who can decide whether to accept the unofficial transcripts as part of the admission package. This is not a policy that would be advertised, but it would go into the catalog, and each student in these rare circumstances would be considered case by case. NECHE has said it is ok if we make a policy decision to admit students, and it will be up to the department to decide if they want to use the policy. Without this policy the department would have to have the same conversation with GPAC each time.
- Even with the stronger language developed in response to comments from UPC, GPAC committee members still had extreme reservations about developing a blanket policy. There were concerns about the NGOs or other organizations that would validate a student's academic history, how those organizations would be vetted by the university, whether the process would be subject to fraud in the foreign countries. Some expressed support for requesting exceptions for every student, others for every program, such as the current program with Prospect Burma. There was a discussion about our role as a public institution in opening doors to students in extreme situations to be able to access higher education, but one member expressed concerns about maintaining high standards as a research institution. A motion to approve was made by Noah Van Dam and seconded by Suzanne Moore, that included a request for additional information about other institutions that may have similar policies to be presented at Faculty Senate, however the motion did not receive a majority of votes (Yes 2, No 2, Abstain 1) and so the policy was rejected by GPAC. Given that there is a student who was granted the exception of temporary admission without an official transcript by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for Fall 2024, a new motion was proposed. [Motion to allow this one student to continue the exception](#) of their admission in their current certificate program by Noah Van Dam, second by Saira Latif. [Approved: Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 2](#)

- **The proposal will return to Faculty Senate Meeting #5** on February 3, 2025 for the final discussion and vote.
2. **Proposal to Change University-Level Policy: Increase Allowed Transfer Credits** (*Kyle Coffey*)
- The proposal <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2131/form> was introduced by *Kyle Coffey & Julie Nash* for initial discussion to Faculty Senate at Meeting #3 on November 4. Faculty Senate voted to move the proposal forward into the 2-month review process for university-level policy changes.
 - The [Faculty Senate Call for Comment #3](#) was announced on November 8.
 - The proposal spent one week at the College Curriculum Committee step, and one week at the College Dean step.
 - **The proposal was reviewed by UPC** on December 9 and approved.
 - **The proposal was reviewed by GPAC** on December 16 and approved. GPAC discussed why the increase is to 75 credits instead of 90, as some universities do, and whether students would be able to petition up to 90 credits; Petitions for 75 credits are frequent and always approved, and students would still be able to file an academic petition to transfer up to 90 credits. Because this is for transfer credits from a 2-year institution, no credits may be transferred at 3000-level or above and this does not change that. There was also some concern expressed by committee members about the rigor of the courses being transferred in, but this policy doesn't affect which credits may be transferred, only the number of credits, and it would remove an extra administrative step that is always approved. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, second by Suzanne Moore. [Approved: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0](#)
 - **The proposal will return to Faculty Senate Meeting #5** on February 3, 2025 for the final discussion and vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm

6. Discussion

1. **GPAC New Course Proposal Guidelines** (*Noah Van Dam*) – Other File <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2203/form> This item was not discussed.

Next GPAC Meeting: Tuesday February 18, 2025 at 3:30-5:00pm in Saab ETIC – Perry Atrium.