



Graduate Policy & Affairs Committee (GPAC)

*Michael Ciuchta (Sub: Mark YiCheon Yim), Ramanpreet Kaur, Saira Latif, Christine Leider (absent), Lisa Marchand, Jeff Moore, Suzanne Moore, Nese Orbey (absent), Neil Shortland (absent), Noah Van Dam**

*Kevin Petersen** (absent), Mai Nguyen¹, Nancy Ludwig¹, Deborah White¹*

**Ex-officio, ¹non-voting

MINUTES

<https://uml.curriculog.com/agenda:186/form>

Monday September 22, 2025 at 3:30-5:00 PM in Alumni Hall 102

1. **Executive Session** (*Noah Van Dam*) Graduate Student Petitions in Alumni Hall 101. The committee reviewed three graduate student petitions.
2. **Minutes from the April 23, 2025 Meeting** (*Noah Van Dam*) Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, seconded by Saira Latif. [Approved: Yes 6, No, 0, Abstain 1.](#)
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2699/form>
3. **Program Proposals** (*Noah Van Dam*)
Missed April 2024-2025 Agenda Deadline
 1. **Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Language Arts and Literacy – Licensure Option** (*Minjeong Kim*) – Change Subplan <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2514/form>
Change required courses in the plan and subplan: A new course (EDUC.6126 Multilingual Learners with Disabilities: Policy and Practice) has replaced EDUC.5410 Teaching Emergent Bilingual Students; Adding Ed.S. seminar to the Ed.S. licensure pathway by replacing EDUC.5220 Young Adult Literature. Stacy Szczesiul presented the four Education proposals. Across all four programs the department is requesting to add one course, and drop one course students don't need because they come in as licensed teachers. The Registrar inquired if any students are caught in between where they may have already received credit for courses being dropped. The change will not negatively impact any students. Motion to approve by Jeff Moore, seconded by Saira Latif. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

- 2. Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Language Arts and Literacy – Non-Licensure Option** (*Minjeong Kim*) – Change Subplan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2515/form> Change required courses in the plan and subplan: A new course (EDUC.6126 Multilingual Learners with Disabilities: Policy and Practice) has replaced EDUC.5410 Teaching Emergent Bilingual Students. Motion to approve by Suzanne Moore, seconded by Ramanpreet Kaur.
Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.
- 3. Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Language Arts and Literacy – Non-Licensure Option** (*Minjeong Kim*) – Change Subplan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2513/form> Add EDUC.6126 Multilingual Learners with Disabilities: Policy and Practice; Remove EDUC.5410 Teaching Emergent Bilingual Students. Motion to approve by Mark Yim, seconded by Jeff Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.
- 4. Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Language Arts and Literacy – Licensure Option** (*Minjeong Kim*) – Change Subplan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2511/form> Add EDUC.6126 Multilingual Learners with Disabilities: Policy and Practice; Remove EDUC.5410 Teaching Emergent Bilingual Students. Motion to approve by Saira Latif, seconded by Suzanne Moore. Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.

Requests for New Plans/Subplans

- 5. Master of Science (M.S.) – Business Analytics – Data Science and Applied AI Option** (*Nichalin Summerfield*) – New Subplan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2681/form> The Data Science and Applied AI option reflects the growing role of artificial intelligence in business decision-making. It provides students with rigorous training in data science methods, machine learning, and AI-driven analytics, preparing them to tackle complex business challenges using cutting-edge techniques. By combining technical depth with practical applications, this option equips graduates with the skills sought by employers in today's data-driven economy and positions them for success in analytics and data science careers. The Master of Science in Business Analytics requires 10 courses (30 credits). Students complete a core of 7 required courses (21 credits) and complete 3 elective courses (9 credits) within their chosen option. A concern was raised by Jeff Moore about using the term 'Data Science' as there are already existing programs that are called Data Science and KCS is concerned about confusion. Nichalin Summerfield explained that the department chose the name because it better reflects the course, and believes they have a different student

audience in KCS. Motion by Noah Van Dam to conditionally approve, provided a forthcoming letter of support from KCS for the title, or offering a different title, is shared before the end of the week, seconded by Jeff Moore. **Conditionally approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.** Upon receipt of a letter of support, Noah will email the committee for virtual voting. Results of email vote with updated name to “Big Data and Applied AI” were Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 1.

6. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Business Analytics – General Business Analytics Option** (*Nichalin Summerfield*) – New Subplan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2679/form> The General Business Analytics option provides students with a broad foundation in analytics concepts, methods, and applications across diverse business domains. This option emphasizes flexibility, allowing students to select from a wide range of electives that match their professional interests and career goals. The Master of Science in Business Analytics requires 10 courses (30 credits). Students complete a core of 7 required courses (21 credits) and complete 3 elective courses (9 credits) within their chosen option. Motion by Saira Latif to approve the options where no conflict exists, seconded by Jeff Moore. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**
7. **Master of Science (M.S.) – Business Analytics – Healthcare Analytics Option** (*Nichalin Summerfield*) – New Subplan
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2680/form> The Healthcare Analytics Option is designed for students who wish to specialize in applying analytics within healthcare contexts, an area of growing demand in both industry and public policy. The electives in this option provide a combination of analytical tools and domain-specific knowledge, preparing graduates for careers in healthcare administration, data analytics, and other roles at the intersection of business and healthcare. Motion by Saira Latif to approve the options where no conflict exists, seconded by Mark Yim. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**

Requests to Change Plans/Subplans

8. **Master of Science (M.S.) Nursing – Family Health Nursing** (*Lisa Marchand*) – Change Admission Requirement <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2690/form>
This proposal lists multiple changes to admissions deadlines. It appears that the only difference with current policy is to close the admissions portal between March 1 and September 1. Lisa Marchand clarified the request is to allow Nursing to shut off the admissions portal on March 1 because there is no space to accept new students. There are currently only 10 spaces left for Fall 2027. Their accrediting body is visiting in Spring 2027 and the department is required to have **xxx for each student**. Per email from Lisa Marchand, the request aims to result in the following: The

application portal will be open September 1 through March 1. After March 1, the application portal will close, and applications will not be accepted into the portal. The application deadline for Spring admissions is November 1. The application deadline for Summer/Fall admissions is March 1. Motion to approve by Saira Latif, seconded Suzanne Moore. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

9. **Master of Science (M.S.) Nursing – Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner** (*Lisa Marchand*) – Change Admission Requirement

<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2689/form> This proposal lists multiple changes to admissions deadlines. It appears that the only difference with current policy is to close the admissions portal between March 1 and September 1. Lisa Marchand has provided clarified text for implementation (see above). Motion to approve by Saira Latif, seconded by Mark Yim. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

Update on Engineering Co-op Requests

Proposals for the following programs were approved in theory by GPAC on April 23, 2025, and approved in theory by Faculty Senate on May 5, 2025, but cannot be implemented as written. They are currently on hold until the requests can be operationalized:

- **M.S. Civil & Environmental Engineering** – Geoenvironmental Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2584/form>
- **M.S. Civil & Environmental Engineering** – Structural Engineering Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2587/form>
- **M.S. Civil & Environmental Engineering** – Transportation Engineering Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2588/form>
- **M.S. Civil & Environmental Engineering** – Geotechnical Engineering Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2585/form>
- **M.S. Civil & Environmental Engineering** – Environmental Engineering Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2589/form>
- **M.S. Computer Engineering** – Cooperative Education Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2590/form>
- **M.S. Electrical Engineering** – Cooperative Education Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2591/form>
- **M.S. Mechanical Engineering** – Cooperative Education Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2592/form>
- **M.S.E. Environmental Studies** – Environmental Engineering Sciences Concentration <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2583/form>
- **M.S.E. Plastics Engineering** – Cooperative Education Option
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2575/form>

The following proposals were rejected back to the Originator by GPAC on April 23, 2025 for consultation with affected departments or resubmission as new subplan requests.

- **M.S. Industrial Engineering – Energy Engineering** – Cooperative Education Option <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2593/form>
- **M.S. Engineering Management** – Cooperative Education Option <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2594/form>
- **M.S. Industrial Engineering** – Cooperative Education Option <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2595/form>
- **M.S. Biomedical Engineering Biotechnology** – Cooperative Education Option <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2576/form>

After additional consultation this summer, the College of Engineering has decided to follow a different approach, with the goal of using marks on a student's transcript similar to distinctions rather than the separate subplans. As the plan is developed, additional updates and proposals may come to GPAC, but no action is requested right now.

Additionally, as the Engineering proposals are still in flux, this request for a new course is also placed on hold until it can be updated with a list of programs for students to be eligible:

- **ENGN.6032 Graduate Engineering Practice**
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2447/form>

There were no questions about the Engineering proposals at this time.

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

Requests to Change Courses

1. **MIST.6080 Enterprise System** (*Luvai Motiwalla*) – Change Course
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2520/form> Change course title to “Enterprise Systems and Analytics” and update the catalog description. Update pre-requisite courses to: MBA or MSBA matriculation, or MIST.6010 Management Information Systems, or MIST.2010 Business Information Systems, or permission of instructor. Motion to approve by Mark Yim, seconded by Saira Latif. **Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.**
2. **MIST.6140 Social and Economic Networks** (*Luvai Motiwalla*) – Change Course
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2528/form> Change course title to “AI Driven Social Media Analytics” and update the catalog description. The committee discussed differences between changes to titles and changes to content. The Registrar posed the question whether the department will allow a student who has

taken the course under the old name will be allowed to take the course with the new name. Yi Yang shared a document showing the highlighted changes to course description. Motion to approve by Noah Van Dam, seconded by Ramanpreet Kaur. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

3. **MIST.6170 Advanced Machine Learning** (*Luvai Motiwalla*) – Change Course <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2516/form> Change course title to “Advanced Machine Learning and AI” and update the catalog description. The committee discussed how this is similar to the earlier conversation about conflicts with Data Science, and how having a similarly titled course across departments can be a problem. Motion to approve by Mark Yim, seconded by Saira Latif. [Approved: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0.](#)

5. Discussion

1. **Graduate Admission Requirements** (*Noah Van Dam*) – <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2706/form> Which changes require GPAC review? Noah Van Dam introduced the task for the committee to decide upon this semester. Initial input from members included that academic requirements would require GPAC approval but monetary requirements would not. Deborah White suggested that the committee look at the catalog as a starting point, which is supposed to be upheld.
2. **Graduate Student Petitions** (*Noah Van Dam*) – <https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2700/form> What information should be included in a standardized template? Noah introduced another task for the committee to decide upon this semester. Initial input from members included providing space to allow for details of several previous petitions, and space for the Registrar to mark whether the previous petitions were approved. Members agreed that it would be valuable for a history of precedence re: outcomes of various requests for exceptions to be included on each student petition.

6. For Information Only:

The two requests for change to university-level policy, approved by Faculty Senate on September 8 to launch into the 2-month review cycle, are currently open for campus-wide comment, as advertised daily in Today@UML.

Both proposals will be on the GPAC October agenda for a vote. Please seek input from your departments and colleges to inform the discussion and vote on October 14.

- **[Call for Comment #5](https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2685/form)** – Request to allow transfer credit from approved international universities through established partnership agreements
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2685/form>
- **[Call for Comment #6](https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2678/form)** - Request to change the graduate non-degree policy
<https://uml.curriculog.com/proposal:2678/form>

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Moore, seconded by Suzanne Moore. [Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm.](#)

Next GPAC Meeting: Tuesday October 14, 2025 at 3:30-5:00pm in Alumni Hall 102.