



Faculty Council
https://www.umb.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_council
Monday, March 6, 2023, 1:00-3:00 PM
Chancellor's Conference Room
3rd floor, Quinn Administration Building

Agenda

I. Approval of the Agenda

II. Motion to approve the 02/06/2023 minutes

III. A Formal Recognition and Appointment of Professor Gonzalo Bacigalupe of the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, an Elected Councilor Representing Full Professors at Large, as the Parliamentarian of the Faculty Council, Effective Immediately.

IV. 2023 Faculty Council Election

For the 2023 election, we need to fill

3 vacant seats in the College of Liberal Arts

2 vacant at-large seats for Assistant Professors

2 seats in the College of Liberal Arts with their terms ending in 2022-2023

1 seat in the College of Education and Human Development with its term ending in 2022-2023

1 seat in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies to become open for 2023-2024 as a result of academic restructuring ("The Gerontology Department and Institute will move to the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences effective July 1, 2023").

1 seat in School for the Environment with its term ending in 2022-2023

We will also need to conduct an election for the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees.

The 2023 Faculty Council Election Committee: Timothy P Oleksiak (Chair)

Timothy.Oleksiak@umb.edu; Nurul Aman Nurul.Aman@umb.edu, Paul J Dyson

Paul.Dyson@umb.edu

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

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

Request for a course change: to change EHS 898 Directed Research in Exercise and Health Sciences from non-repeatable to repeatable. There was an error to choose non-repeatable when the original One-Form was submitted for course approval.

Rationale: This is a doctoral level course offering the student the opportunity to work with their primary advisor to conduct research in the field of exercise science. It is important for doctoral students to take this research course in multiple semesters to continue working closely with their primary faculty advisor to develop their research skills and competencies before they advance to dissertation proposal stage.

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

Requests for program changes: to drop the GRE as an admissions requirement from both the PhD in Gerontology and the Gerontology (MS) - Research/Policy Track.

Rationale: The PhD & MS Gerontology faculty voted unanimously to make these changes based on two reasons: (1) the exorbitant cost of the exam for many international applicants, (2) a body of research that shows bias in the GREs. The PhD program succeeded in recruiting a strong and diverse cohort of 10 highly qualified students in the last cycle, while waiving the GRE requirement.

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

Request for a program change: to drop the GRE as an admissions requirement from the Public Policy PhD program.

Rationale: The PhD faculty Program Committee voted unanimously to make this change based on two reasons: (1) the exorbitant cost of the exam for many international applicants and (2) a body of research that shows bias in the GREs.

Motion #4 (All materials available for review in Curriculog) **From: CEHD**

Request for a program change: to remove HIGHED 692: Capstone in Higher Education from the Higher Education Program's EdD curriculum. Currently, the program requires two capstone-type experiences from students, the Capstone in Higher Education class (HIGHED 692) and the dissertation. Removal of HIGHED 692 from the EdD will result in a reduction of 3 credits, from 54 to 51.

Rationale: This dual capstone experience is unnecessary and takes time away from the completion of the dissertation. The requested changes are based on in-depth discussions and decisions made by the Higher Education Program faculty.

Motion #5 (All materials available for review in Curriculog) **From: CEHD**

Request for program changes: to remove HIGHED 692: Capstone in Higher Education from the Higher Education Program's PhD curriculum and to reduce the number of electives required from four to three. Currently, the program requires: 1) two capstone-type experiences from students, the Capstone in Higher Education class (HIGHED 692) and the dissertation and 2) that students pursuing the PhD degree option complete two advanced methods classes and four electives. These two changes will reduce the credits required for the PhD from 66 to 60.

Rationale: 1) the dual capstone experience is unnecessary and takes away time from the completion of the dissertation. 2) The program faculty believe that three elective classes, accompanied by two advanced methods classes, are sufficient to prepare students for engagement in their dissertation projects and a range of career advancement opportunities in the

field of higher education. In addition, this reduction of credits will bring the PhD degree option more in line with the credit requirements of other PhD programs in the field of Higher Education.

Motion #6 (All materials available for review in Curriculog) **From: CEHD**

Request for a new course: EDLDRS 755 Advanced Research Methods: Participatory Action Research, an Advanced Research Methods course for doctoral students in the Program of Urban Education, Leadership, and Policy Studies. This course is also open to graduate students from other Colleges at UMB.

Rationale: The Urban Education program offers a quantitative and a qualitative research course regularly but does not consistently provide students with advanced research methods courses. Urban Education doctoral students have had to complete their research course requirements by registering for research methods courses in other doctoral programs. Also, the program has never had a participatory action research course be part of its curriculum. With this new course, doctoral students will receive advanced research training that is hinged on justice-centered research ethics and collaborative methods, and given the growing university-wide interest in participatory action research, students from other graduate programs will also benefit.

VI. In memory of Sayed Arid Faisal: A Call for Transformative Justice (Elora Chowdhury, Sana Haroon, Keith Jones)

Please see the attached statement and supporting documents.

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

The synergistic effects of the expanding and intensifying global conflicts, the divisive national political deliberations, the social and economic challenges, the extended and continuing COVID-19 pandemic, and the daily life struggles have made mental health a national and global crisis. Most of the students at UMass Boston suffer much more because of systemic racism, historical economic inequality, and persistent neglect.

To address the national mental health crisis, President Biden launched a comprehensive national strategy in March of last year and called for a major transformation in how mental health is understood, accessed, treated, and integrated – in and out of health care settings. About a month ago (February 7, 2023), the Biden-Harris Administration issued the White House Report on Mental Health Research Priorities. The U.S. Department of Education has recently (February 16, 2023) awarded more than \$188 million “to increase access to school-based mental health services and to strengthen the pipeline of mental health professionals in high-needs districts.”

The Center for Collegiate Mental Health at Penn State University reported that during the 2021-2022 academic year, 180 college and university counseling centers included in their study had 190,907 unique college students seeking mental health treatment. The annual survey of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors for AY 2020-2021 reported, on average, 10.7% of their campus was served by the counseling center. “Anxiety continues to be the most frequent concern among college counseling center clients with 61%, followed by

stress (47%), depression (44%), family concerns (29%), academic performance difficulties (27%), specific relationship problems (26%), social isolation/loneliness (18%), trauma (17%), sleep disturbance (16%), adjusting to a new environment (16%), eating/body image concerns (15%), grief and loss (11%) and suicidal thoughts (11%).”

At least 1,176 people were killed by law enforcement officers in the U.S. in 2022, over 24% of the victims were Black. Many of these senseless killings began with calls for mental health interventions. Tragically, this was exactly what happened to Sayed Arif Faisal, an immigrant from Bangladesh, the only child of his parents, and a former student of UMass Boston. He was shot and killed by one of the officers of the Cambridge Police on January 4, 2023, in response to a 911 call to report that a man jumped out of a window of a neighboring apartment and he appeared to be cutting himself with a knife and broken window glass (<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/cambridgepolice/News/2023/01/fatalofficerinvolvedshootingunderinvestigationbymiddlesexdistrictattorney%E2%80%99soffice>).

We have received at least nineteen (three during the first two months of 2023) announcements of the tragic passing of our students from the Dean of Students since May of 2018.

On the other hand, mental health is clearly an area of exceptional strength for UMass Boston, offering Ph.D. degrees in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, and School Psychology, and Master’s degrees in Counseling, Mental Health, Nursing (advanced practice nursing for Family Nurse Practitioners and Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioners), Rehabilitation Counseling, and School Psychology. Relevant expertise is also available in many other academic departments.

UMass Boston faculty, staff and students are also strongly committed to social justice, and have always been courageous and unyielding advocates and champions for diversity, equality and inclusion.

UMass Boston certainly has great potential to become a national leader in anti-racism, health promotion, student success & social mobility, knowledge creation, and technological innovations. With strong leadership, we have the ability to transform the University of Massachusetts Boston into a truly distinguished public urban research university for the Times, just as our bold and inspirational founders strategically envisioned in the middle 1960s.

Thus, be it RESOLVED that

- (1) UMass Boston strongly condemns the violent and senseless killing of Sayed Arif Faisal by the Cambridge Police, stands in solidarity with his family and community, demands a thorough and transparent investigation, and seeks justice for Sayad Arif Faisal and his family as well as other victims of mental health, gun violence, police brutality, and systemic racism.
- (2) UMass Boston needs to closely monitor the utilization and the clinical capacity of our Counseling Center, to routinely assess the impact of the Clinical Load Index on the enhanced care for students with high intensity concerns such as students with suicidality, sexual assault survivors, students with a registered disability, first

generation and international students, transgender and minority students, to develop a comprehensive approach to mental health, and to insure adequate resources for meeting our rapidly growing needs in mental health support services.

- (3) UMass Boston should carefully study and properly define the role, organizational structure, training and accountability of the UMass Boston Police (33 FTEs in 2022; 50 FTEs in 2018), constitute a meticulously designed, well-coordinated and properly trained team of first responders, and establish robust protocols for mental health support services, campus security, and public safety.

VIII. Reports – maximum of 10 minutes

- a. Chancellor – Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
- b. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – Joseph Berger
- c. Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance – Kathleen Kirleis
- d. Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees – Roberta Wollons
- e. Representative from the Faculty Staff Union – Caroline Coscia
- f. Representative from the Professional Staff Union – Michael Mahan
- g. Representative from the Classified Staff Union – Alexa MacPherson or Amanda Achin
- h. Representatives from the Graduate Employee Organization – Chidimma Ozor Commer or Jonathan Vega-Martinez
- i. Representative from the Undergraduate Student Government – TBA
- j. Representative from the Graduate Student Assembly – Delaney Bowen

IX: New Business

X. Motion to Adjourn