

Educational Policy Committee (T.H. Chan School of Medicine)

Annual Update to Faculty Council

E. Lela Giannaris, PhD

Professor, Department of Radiology, Division of Translational Anatomy
Chair, SOM Educational Policy Committee



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

May 2026

Objectives

- 1) Describe the function and structure of the Educational Policy Committee
- 2) Review the work of the EPC for AY2025/26
- 3) Discuss plans and goals for AY2026/27

Function of the EPC

“Legislative Branch” for Curriculum & Educational Policy Governance
for the program leading to the M.D. degree

Reports directly to the Dean

Central role in curriculum review, curriculum development, educational
innovation, and accreditation

Structure of the EPC

- **EPC Leadership Team:**
 - **Chair:** E. Lela Giannaris, PhD (Radiology)
 - **Vice-Chair:** Nancy Skehan, MD (Medicine)
 - **Administrator:** Samantha Michaud
- **Voting seats include** (*as per bylaws approved 1/2026*):
 - Faculty representatives from:
 - Each clinical department
 - Regional campuses: Baystate, Lahey
 - Faculty-at-large (x4 – includes 2 basic science, 1 medical education non-clinical) * *tbd for AY26/27*
 - Alumni Association
 - Affiliates Sites (rotating) **tbd for AY26/27*
 - 4 Student representatives
 - Worcester campus and each regional campus
- **Non-voting seats include:**
 - Dean, Senior Associate Dean, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, other administrative officials

EPC Voting Membership AY 2025/26

Monthly Meetings
1st Monday
12:30-1:30pm

Open to the UMass
Chan Community



	Department	Name
Clinical Science	Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine	Mark Dershwitz, MD
	Dermatology	Nutan Gowda, MD *
	Emergency Medicine	Jennifer Carey, MD
	Family Medicine & Community Health	Mike Ennis, MD
	Medicine	Pang Yen Fan, MD
	Neurological Surgery	Thomas Pieter, MD *
	Neurology	Anindita Deb, MD *
	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Dhivya Kannabiran, MD
	Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences	Priya Janardhana, MD *
	Orthopedics & Physical Rehabilitation	Marci Jones, MD
	Otolaryngology	Hunter Archibald, MD *
	Pathology	Thomas Smith, MD
	Pediatrics	Kerri Gosselin, MD
	Psychiatry	Isha Jalnapurkar, MD
	Radiation Oncology	Gavin Jones, MD*
	Radiology	Maria Barile, MD
	Radiology/Translational Anatomy	Maged Soliman, MD
	Surgery	James Carroll, MD
	Urology	Jennifer Yates, MD
Regional Campuses	UMass Chan - Baystate	Liza Smith, MD
	UMass Chan - Baystate	Diane Robillard, MD
	UMass Chan - Baystate	Veeraraghavan Iyer, MD *
	UMass Chan - Lahey	Kevin Wilson, MD *
	UMass Chan - Lahey	Inbar McCarthy, MD
	UMass Chan - Lahey	Jennifer Rehm, MD

* = Newly appointed in AY25/26

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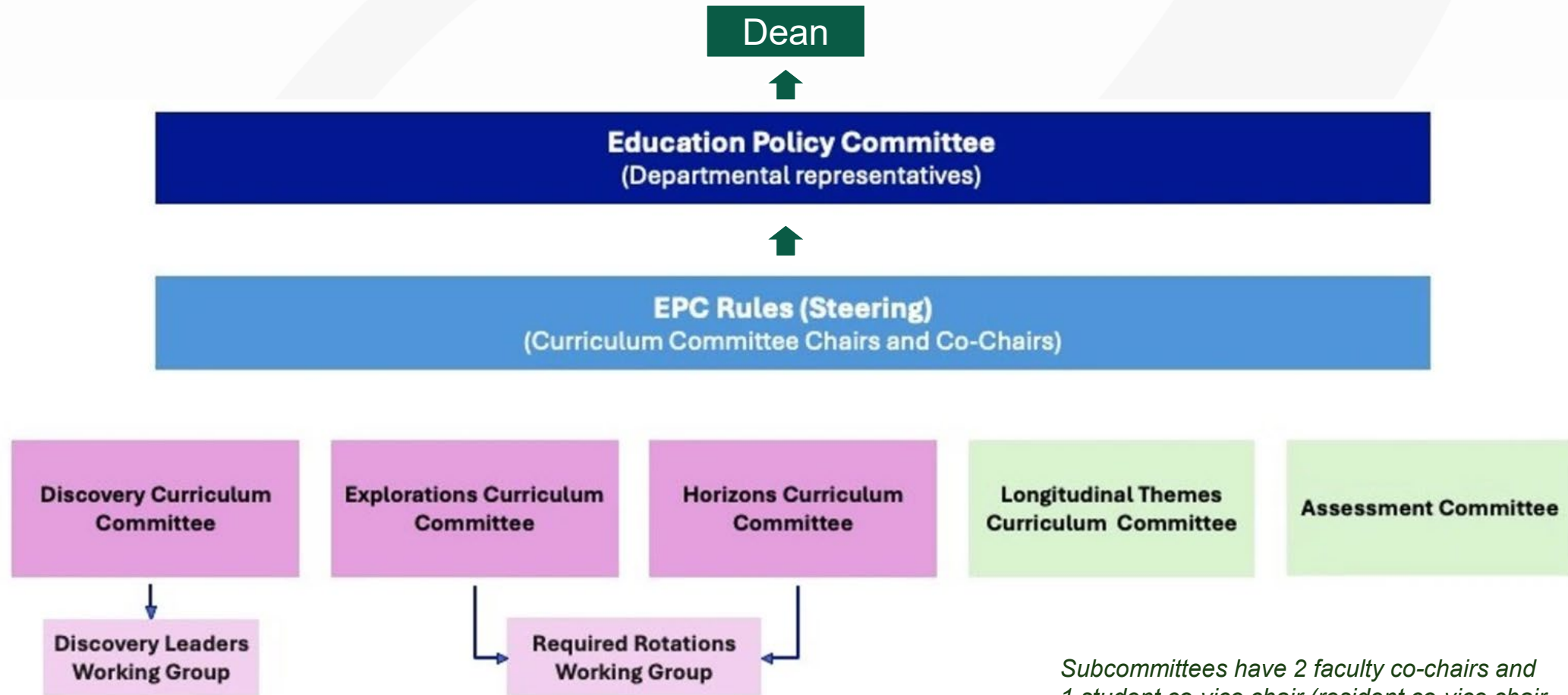


	Group	Name
Students	Medical Student - WOR	Tyler Long (MD/PhD program)
	Medical Student - WOR	Callie Gu *
	Medical Student - PURCH	Kashika Bharol
	Medical Student - LEAD @ Lahey	Robert Williams (LEAD@Lahey)
	Alternate (non-voting) Medical Student	Yasmeed Saeed (PURCH)
Basic Science	Biochemistry & Molecular Pharmacology	William Royer, PhD
	Genomics & Computational Biology	Jill Moore, PhD
	Microbiology and Physiological Systems	Rachel Gerstein, PhD
	Molecular, Cell, and Cancer Biology	William Strohsnitter, PhD
	Population and Quantitative Health Sciences	Eric Mick, PhD
Faculty-at-Large	Medicine (St. Vincent's)	Gary Blanchard, MD *
	Radiology/Translational Anatomy	Susan Gagliardi, PhD
Alumni Council	Alumni Council	Marguerite Brackley, MD *
Affiliate Sites	TBD - rotating	TBD

Note: changes to Faculty-at-Large, including Basic Science department representation coming in AY26/27 to align with updated Bylaws

* = Newly appointed in AY25/26

The EPC reporting to the Dean, has 6 curriculum subcommittees, 2 working groups, plus a steering committee



Subcommittees have 2 faculty co-chairs and 1 student co-vice chair (resident co-vice chair for Assessment committee)

No students on working groups

EPC and Subcommittee Work AY2025-26

Curriculum Oversight – Subcommittees

Course / Clerkship / Theme / Subcommittee Reporting & Presentations

- Annual reporting of subcommittees
- Subcommittee charges updated
- Continue to work on enhancing communication with students

Curriculum Oversight - CQI

CQI Efforts for Underperforming Courses / Longitudinal Themes

- Tracking and support for courses whose metrics demonstrate need for additional improvement
- Courses identified and resolved with phase level oversight:
 - Discovery phase: Skin & Musculoskeletal System (SMS) – resolved
 - Explorations phase: OB/Gyn Clerkship – preliminary data shows this has resolved
- Pathways - Vista Longitudinal Course – ongoing CQI efforts, still underperforming

Curriculum Management - Changes

- Explorations Curriculum Calendar Changes for AY26/27
 - Introduction of a 4-week Clinical Gateway Block:
 - Orientation week, Radiology essentials week, 2 weeks of Population and Community Health Clerkship (PCHC)
 - Restoration of Family Medicine clerkship to continuous weeks instead of a longitudinal experience
- Addition of Pathways Courses PATH 301A and PATH 401A for Grading Timeline Accreditation Compliance

Curriculum Innovation

New Curriculum Approval

- Approval of new Baystate - Greenfield Family Medicine Acting Internship
- In process: Artificial Intelligence Curriculum (approved by Discovery Curriculum Committee)

Presentations to EPC



- Office of Educational Affairs (OEA) Reports
 - Annual Program Review
 - Student Feedback Survey (SFS) Results
 - Graduate Questionnaire (GQ) Results
 - LCME updates
- Assistant Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Campus Climate
- Office of Student Life
- Accelerated MD (aMD) program outcomes

Informational Updates:

- Step 1 Deferral Policy (terminology update)
- New Course Numbers for Regional Campus Elective Offerings
- Academic Evaluation Board Consolidation

Policy Work



- **Policy inventory, review, and organization**
- **Bylaws revisions** – 2 documents:
 - Institutional – SOM bylaws section on EPC
 - EPC specific bylaws
- **SOM GenAI Usage Policy**
- **Discovery Phase Retest, Remediation, and Progression Policy**
- **Explorations Phase Incomplete Policy**
- **aMD Accelerated Medical Degree Program (aMD, 3yr)**
 - Pass/Fail grading for 4th year graduation requirements: Acting Internships (AIs) and Clinical Problem-Solver (CPS)
 - Adjusted requirements for number of Flexible Professional Experience (FPE) weeks and Pathways
 - Timing of Family Medicine NBME
- **Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP; MD/PhD)**
 - Step 1 Timing/Retake Policy for students in the Medical Scientist Training (MD-PhD) Program
 - Medical Scientist Training (MD-PhD) Program and Pathway Program Course Equivalency
 - Course equivalency with Capstone

SOM Generative AI Usage Policy

- Policy statement plus templates for faculty use
- Developed in collaboration with GSBS, GSN, and AI curricular leads
- Document is available via UMass Chan AI Commons → UMass Chan AI Guidance

<https://umassmed.sharepoint.com/sites/UMassChanAICommons/SitePages/GenAI-Guidelines.aspx>

Plenary followed by Faculty and Student Engagement Workshops

- **Plenary:** Navigating Accreditation Using a Continuous Quality Improvement Framework
- Assessing the Assessment: A Closer Look at the Vista Sub-competencies and Milestones
- Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Transitions across the Vista Curricular Phases
- Threads of Support: Helping Faculty Recognize and Respond to Medical Student Challenges
- Generative AI (GenAI) in Education: the current and the possible
- Inside the Student Mind: AI and Third-Party Supplementation (*student-led*)

Annual School of Medicine Educational Retreat

"Vista Reflections: Looking Back, Moving Forward"

February 9, 2026

EPC Plans and Goals for AY 2026-27

Annual Report Presentations

- Office of Educational Affairs
- EPC Subcommittees

Informational Presentations

- Learning Community mentors
- Admissions

Faculty Development

- School of Medicine Annual Educational Retreat
- Explore opportunities for AI use training

EPC Plans and Goals for AY 2026-27

Curricular Oversight / Program Review / LCME Accreditation Prep

- Program review of entire VISTA curriculum, including longitudinal outcomes
- Participate in Institutional Effectiveness Committee CQI efforts
- Contribute to preparations for LCME accreditation process and site visit in April 2028
- Ongoing advising and monitoring of issue related to students deferring entry into Explorations and completion of USMLE Step 1 exam
- Review of GenAI usage policy

Thank you!

Questions?
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