SPECIAL REPORT
OF THE
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning
POLICY REGARDING DEFINITIONS OF COURSES
(#8563)
Presented at the
814th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 28, 2022

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
Carol Barr, Carolyn Bassett, Bryan Beck, William Brown, Allison Butler, Marcy Clark, Morgan Donovan-Hall, Sharon Dormier, Laura Francis, Janet Fink, Kate Green, Keisha Green, Jennifer Heuer, Matthew Komer, Lt. Col. David Lemery, Mark Liberatore, Linda Lowry, Andrea Malaguti, Sarah Pfatticher, Jennifer Randall, Caleb Rounds, Sylvia Salas, Tigran Sedrakyn, Barry Spence, Patrick Sullivan, Laura Vandenberg, Jack Wileden, Kate Woodmansee

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION
The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal
Background information:
Clear, qualitative definitions of courses offered at UMass are lacking. This proposed policy aims to address this deficiency by clarifying the definitions of the types of courses offered at UMass.

Upon adoption of this proposal, the University of Massachusetts Amherst will adhere to the following course definitions:

*Experimental*: A course where full information may not be determined until the course has been taught on a trial basis. Quantity of offerings should be limited, generally three at most. Experimental courses represent opportunities for faculty to try out innovative and imaginative ideas and to test potential new courses.

*Field experience/practicum/internships*: Activities outside the classroom, which correlate to and supplement other course material. Generally used for research or other practical experience, as an introduction to a range of professional experiences.

*Honors*: Enriched courses designed to support students in an environment conducive to significant in-class interaction. Generally, a small course with limited student enrollment.

*Independent research/study*: A course designed between faculty and student on a topic of mutual interest. Largely self-directed and limited to a one-to-one teacher-student ratio.

*Lab*: First-hand experiential learning, practical application of course concepts/theories. Students are directly engaged in the learning through hands-on experimentation and exploration.

*Lecture*: Especially good for sharing large quantities of information and summarizing key points. Lectures may include material presented by the instructor, may include discussions, class participation, and/or interactive activities.

*Seminar*: Small classes, driven by discussion and active learning. Students take on greater responsibility for the process of learning.

*Special topics course*: An opportunity to teach a course that might address a timely current-events issue. Subject matter or content may vary from semester to semester.

**MOTION**: That the Faculty Senate approve the Policy Regarding Definitions of 39-22 Courses, as presented in Sen Doc. No. 22-080.