

# Crypto & Hacking

## Systems

You are enmeshed in dozens of systems simultaneously. Choose one and describe it. You and your team will present your findings during the last week of class.

### Team 1. Curriculum A.

UMass requires you to take certain courses for *general education* (gen-ed). Why? What purpose does it serve? And what is the rationale behind the courses on the gen-ed curriculum? Who decides? Which committees, personnel, offices, and organizations decide what a good general education is?

### Team 2. Curriculum B.

The Department of English at UMass requires you to take certain courses for a *B.A. in English*. What is the rationale behind the courses on the English curriculum? Who decides? Which committees, personnel, and/or program directors decide what a good English education is? And how does that curriculum compare to the requirements for English teachers in Massachusetts middle and high schools?

### Team 3. Books.

Textbooks are a massive business in the US and in Massachusetts. Who publishes them? What very specific markets do they serve? How do your professors get to know about the books they assign? Are they encouraged (by book reviews or by catalogues) to choose one over another? What options do they reject? Why?

### Team 4. Libraries.

Our W. E. B. DuBois Library is one of the largest libraries in New England. Who buys books for it? Who chooses which books to buy? Who sells them? What about books that don't get read or checked out? How does the library keep track of them? How do they decide which books to throw out? Are electronic books a better buy than hard-copies? What are the upsides and downsides of library e-books?

### Team 5. Personal Information.

Which administrative units at UMass have your personal data? How many data points (e.g., name, address, social, etc.)? Who is authorized to access that data? How is your identity verified? What data do you own, what can you delete, who decides?