

Graduate Faculty Senate  
**Meeting Minutes**



February 25, 2025 10:30am-noon  
Memorial Union S203 - Arvarh E Strickland Rm.

Zoom: <https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/92044082032> (passcode 657438)

Attending: Zezong Gu for David Beversdorf, Erika Boerman, Matt Easter, Petros Valettas for Dan Edidin, Maria Fidalgo, Jeni Hart, John Kerns, Paul Ladehoff, Julie Miller, Christina Mislán, Rajiv Mohan, Jessica Osaze, Abed Rabbani, Amy Rhea, Erin Robinson, Enid Schatz, Yi Shang, Chi-Ren Shyu, Ashley Siebenaler, Jeff Wood.

1. Call to order at 10:36am by Chi-Ren Shyu.
2. Approval of minutes of January 2025
  - a. Motion by Boerman
  - b. Second by Valettas
  - c. Disposition: Approved unanimously
3. Acceptance of the agenda
  - a. Disposition: Accepted by consensus
1. Special business 1 for the day: Member At Large Election – Interim VP Prof. Erin Robinson (Nominees: Prof. Erika Boerman)
  - a. Disposition: Approved unanimously
2. Committee Reports:
  - i. Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, chair
    - a. Course Approvals  
Changes to existing (edited) and new (added) courses
      - Disposition: Approved unanimously
    - b. New Program Approvals
      - Graduate Certificate in School Social Work (presented in January)
        - o Disposition: Approved unanimously
      - Presentation of PhD in the Textile and Apparel Management by Dr. Jung Ha-Brookshire. (for vote in March)
        - o Currently Human Environmental Science has four emphasis areas. This request is to essentially make each emphasis area its own program and restructure HES to reflect current industry expectations. It would also give TAM its own CIP code.
        - o Completed PhD's in the current program account for 10% market share each year. Looking for quality over quantity in

cohort volume – it's always going to be a small program. Each year 20-25 apply and 3 are admitted.

- o Funding scheme would not be particularly affected by the proposed change – as it stands, 9 PhDs are funded under general operating funds and 1 is funded by gift account. Each PhD has a TA and research with faculty, some go on to become Graduate Instructors.

c. Approvals on edits of existing programs

- PhD in Public Affairs
  - o Disposition: Tabled for April meeting
- MS in Nursing with Emphasis in Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - o Disposition: Tabled for April meeting
- MHA in Health Administration (accelerated MHA opportunity for the BHS undergraduates)
  - o Disposition: Approved unanimously

b. Fellowships and Awards Committee – Prof. John Kerns, chair

- i. Report: Spring reviews underway, March 12 due date. Currently Anderson Awards have 9 TA nominations and 4 RA nominations.

c. Policy Subcommittee – Prof. Maria Fidalgo, chair

- Generative Artificial Intelligence Guidelines for Graduate Education
  - o Report: A discussion ensued regarding this issue. It was decided that more flexibility should be allowed at the department level since different disciplines would use GenAI in different ways. Primary research advisor can decide what is/isn't allowed. For qualifying exam, thesis, and dissertation, all students should be on the same rules. Guidance outlines four different experiences which give a framework for what might be appropriate.
  - o Official wording of guidance to be brought to the March meeting.
- Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy for Graduate Education
  - o Report: It was discussed that three elements should be included in the policy: (1) goal of the educational experience, (2) whether GenAI is allowed and, if yes, what specifically is allowed, (3) how to disclose AI use in final product.
  - o Official wording of policy to be brought to the March meeting.

3. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Ms. Jessica Osaze, GPC Representative
  - a. Report: Osaze reported that GPC needs GFS to advocate with the Provost's Office regarding funding for Tiger Pantry's swipes program. Shyu will work with Osaze on drafting a letter.
4. Report: Graduate School – Dean Jeni Hart
  - a. Report: Regarding Anthem negotiations, the process is wrapping up by the end of March. Students will be covered with MU Health Care as in-network until July 31 or Aug 14 (depending on whether they're domestic or international students). This is a systemwide negotiation, but if Anthem becomes out-of-network for MU Health care, MU's intention would be to break contract and find a new insurer.
  - b. There is a rumor of extensive layoffs of PhDs with assistantships – but this is false. Only two PhDs have had their contracts cancelled by various executive orders, and they're being taken care of by campus.
  - c. There is a rumor that 30+ campuses across the US are pausing PhD admissions – but this is false. Some individual programs have stopped, but not entire campuses.
  - d. The message from our campus is to be mindful of possible budget cuts.
  - e. The Dear Colleague Letter discussed previously is not a legally binding document, only guidance. But it could become legally binding if additional executive orders are enacted.
5. Other new business
  - a. None
6. Resolutions
  - a. None
7. Announcements
  - a. We will continue with hybrid meeting format in April.
8. Motion to adjourn
  - a. Motion by Mohan
  - b. Second by Fidalgo
  - c. Meeting Adjourned at 11:57am.