

Graduate Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes



March 18, 2025 10:30am-noon
Memorial Union S203 - Arvarh E Strickland Rm.

Zoom: <https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/96735740662> Passcode: 972157

Attending: Chi-Ren Shyu, Amy Rhea, Erika Boerman, Maria Fidalgo, John Kerns, Paul Ladehoff, Jacqueline Limberg, Julie Miller, Jessica Osaze, Enid Schatz, Asley Siebenaler, Jeff Wood, Ashlie Lester, Kevin Gillis, Jeni Hart. Via Zoom: Abed Rabbani, David Beversdorf, Matt Easter, John Frymire.

Quorum (11): Met

1. Call to order at 10:35am by Chi-Ren Shyu
2. Approval of minutes of February 2025
 - a. Motion to approve by Frymire
 - b. Seconded by Fidalgo
 - c. Disposition: Approved with 1 abstention.
3. Acceptance of the agenda
 - a. Disposition: Approved by unanimous consent.
4. Committee Reports:
 - i. Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, chair
 - a. Course Approvals
Changes to existing (edited) and new (added) courses
 - b. New Program Approvals
 - Vote on PhD in the Textile and Apparel Management (presented in February)
 - Disposition: Approved unanimously.
 - Presentation of MS and PhD degrees in Biomedical Engineering, Dr. Kevin Gillis (Chair of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering)
 - Proposing these degrees because that's what students are looking for when they are searching for graduate degrees – they want an emphasis/degree in Biomedical. This is also to be congruent with existing MS and PhD programs in Chemical Engineering and Biological Engineering (also provided by the department)
 - Aside from Computer Science, the MS programs in ChBME are most stable in the College of Engineering. No additional resources would be needed to develop this program as all core

courses are the same and the electives are what differentiates each degree from one another.

- Can be completed fully online or in-person.
- For the MS, projecting ~12 enrollment within 4 years, anticipating growth because students are specifically looking for Biomedical Engr and once we have that degree title this will come up in searches.
- For the PhD, projecting ~15 enrollment within 4 years but we currently have 33 PhDs in other programs in the department so some may shift over to the PhD BME.
- Intention is to add an accelerated program after this program is approved.
- Vote will be made at April GFS meeting.

c. Approvals on edits of existing programs

- Disposition: Approved unanimously.

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

- i. Anderson TA and RA Awards have been picked out and will be announced at the April Awards Reception on April 17 at the State Historical Society.

c. Policy Subcommittee – Prof. Maria Fidalgo, chair

- Artificial Intelligence Guidelines and Policy
 - The policy is that each unit should have their own policy to reflect the individuality of each program and the acceptable use of AI in each discipline. Each unit should plan to have their specific policy in place by December 2025.
 - Committee decided to remove “Generative AI” from the guidelines so that all AI tools could be covered.
 - Templates will be offered covering four broad categories of AI use in graduate education.
 - Disposition: Approved unanimously.
- Modification of bylaws to include Policy Committee as a third standing committee
 - “Section 4: C. Standing Committees. Standing Committees of the Senate shall be the following: Academic Affairs Committee, Fellowships and Awards Committee, and Policy Committee. The method of selection, duties, and responsibilities of these standing committees is detailed in Article 3.”
 - “Article 3: Section 2:
D. The Policy Committee shall be responsible for the development, review and update of policies and procedures that affect graduate education.”

- Approved unanimously by GFS. Will be sent on to all Graduate Faculty for approval by Erin Robinson.

5. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Ms. Jessica Osaze, GPC Representative

- a. New GPC president is incoming for next year. International students are concerned about rescinded postdoc positions, now worried they need to prolong their PhD program. Jeni is of the opinion that they need to graduate as soon as they are eligible to do so.

6. Report: Graduate School – Dean Jeni Hart

- a. We have 31 Fulbright students, 17 of which received a pay cutoff. There is a contingency plan in place for them to receive no-interest loans from the University to cover their missed pay until such time as the Fulbright funding is reinstated. All staff at IIE, which administrates Fulbright, have been furloughed. If Fulbrights have an assistantship, then they can move to a J-1 visa – contact Jillian Collins at Intl Student and Scholar Services. It is unlikely that new Fulbrights will be awarded.
- b. 54 institutions with an affiliation with the PhD Project (a DEI program) are under investigation for failing to comply with the Dept of Education's Dear Colleague Letter. Mizzou was affiliated previously but ceased affiliation after the SCOTUS and MO Attorney General decisions and did not make the list.
- c. We are also not a member of the GEM Consortium anymore.
- d. There are extensions for TT faculty going up for P&T if they were affected by the NIH overhead issue. Contact Jeni for more information.
- e. If new financial aid legislation for PhDs passes then MU's budget will be affected. It does not change the process for approval and there is a comment period at the Missouri Dept of Higher Education level. Essentially, all Pell Grants and Grad Plus Loans could be privatized, which accounts for \$3M in tuition just at the graduate level. It will be higher if professional programs are included.

7. Extra meeting in May

- a. Meeting set for May 9 (Reading Day) at 10:30am in the Grad Hub 111F Townsend Hall.

8. Other new business

- a. None

9. Resolutions

- a. None

10. Announcements

- a. None

11. Motion to adjourn

- a. Motion by Wood
- b. Second by Beversdorf
- c. Adjourned at 11:44am by Chi-Ren Shyu.