

Graduate Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes



Tuesday August 26th, 2025 3:00pm – 4:30pm
111F Townsend Hall

<https://umsystem.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 934 4315 5567

Passcode: 555219

Attending in person: Erika Boerman, Emily Crawford-Rossi, Dan Edidin, Maria Fidalgo, Timothy Haithcoat, Johanna Kramer, Leslie Lyons (partial), Felix Oguche, Rose Osnaya, Abed Rabbani, Rocio Rivera, Erin Robinson, Yi Shang, Phillip Wood, jeni hart, Amy Rhea, Enid Schatz, Ashley Siebenaler

Attending via Zoom: Zezong Gu for David Beversdorf, Julie Miller, Jacqueline Limberg, Cristina Mislan, Laura Zangori, Kuntara Punkthuanthong, Leslie Lyons (partial), Paul Ladehoff.

1. Call to order at 3:02pm
2. Approval of minutes of May 2025
 - a. Deferred to September 2025 meeting
3. Acceptance of the agenda
 - a. Motioned, seconded, approved.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, chair
 - i. Course Approvals
 - Changes to existing (edited) and new (added) courses
 - Backlog of approvals, please let us know if you're going to cycle off the committee so we can fill spots and get through that backlog ASAP
 - Approved through AA Committee and recommended to be approved by GFS (28 courses)
 - Disposition: Approved unanimously
 - ii. Program Approvals
 - One new program identified who will be invited to present at September meeting (Masters of Music in Music with emphasis in Piano Pedagogy)
 - iii. Approvals on edits of existing programs

- Approved through AA Committee and recommended to be approved by GFS (3 programs)
 - Disposition: Approved unanimously
- b. Fellowships and Awards Committee – Prof. Abed Rabbani, chair
 - i. Committee awards for Fall 2025
 - i. No report for this meeting.
 - ii. Fall award nominations (usually 10-12 total submissions) due Nov 1 by 5pm through InfoReady application. See call for nominations announcement from Enid Schatz.
 - c. Policy Committee – TBD, chair
 - i. Requested that Policy Committee topics from Senators be sent to Maria who will collect them and pass them along to committee chair when one is identified.
5. Ad-Hoc Appeal Committee
 - a. Committee chairs to provide order in which members would serve, if needed.
 6. Faculty Council Information Sharing – Prof. Erika Boerman, GFS Member-at-large
 - a. AI Policy – different from GFS’s AI Policy (provost’s standing committee on AI), supposed to be a vote this meeting but vote has been pushed to next month, item #2 is where all the contention is (regarding alternate assignments)
 - b. Show-Me AI – blurb in the Mizzou newsletter – apply to be approved for a limited number of AI licenses (educational use for faculty and students), Aug 31 is application deadline, helps with access equity, hopefully have decisions by end of September. This is separate from the ‘walled garden’ AI that the university has enterprise licenses for but costs users to access.
 7. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Mr. Felix Oguiche, GPC Representative
 - a. First dedicated, separate Graduate Tiger Walk was a success! Had one last year with the undergrads and it was very chaotic because UGs outnumbered Grads. Welcome party off-campus this year, lots of recommendations for future involvement. Want to give each student a Mizzou/GPC shirt.
 8. Report: Graduate School – Dean Jeni Hart
 - a. Federal legislation that will likely have impact on grad students and enrollment in the future

- i. Big Beautiful Bill: supposed to start July 2026 but in order for Dept of Education to implement changes they don't have enough time to have public comment, so it will likely July 2027. End of grad plus loans (which are federal loans, no cap on borrowing). At MU grad students are 2nd most numerous users after med students. In addition new caps on total loans from beginning of higher ed career is \$257,500. Grad loan limit used to be \$138,500, now is \$100,000. Real implications for full-pay students: if students are going to get loans they have to go thru private lenders, we'll see an increase in predatory loans, it will be more difficult to qualify for those loans, and will shape our student demographics as a result.
- ii. In addition to medical school, nursing program will be affected due to requirement for MS to enter PhD program and also higher fees. Education has a similar issue.
- iii. New accountability metrics, need to provide new metrics to Dept of Ed regarding calculating earnings by degree compared to working adults with a bachelor's degree. If bachelor's degree makes more money than grad degree 2 years in a row, the program would be ineligible for federal funding (social work, music, some of the fine art may possibly emerge as at-risk) – compared both in-state and nationally
- iv. Other institutions in MO being able to grant doctoral degrees – mission creep – could be a concern but other institutions want to be able to do this.
- v. International students – waiting for visas for 90 graduate students (about half of new international graduate students), 20 of them are from Iran and will not get visas, students social media is being vetted and that is stressful because they don't know what is being looked for, caused significant delays in students getting visas both new and returning, 12 countries suspended visas including Iran; visa reciprocity – if they are granted, they are single-entry and are issued for 3 months, Nigeria and Ghana are part of this group and we get a lot of students from that area.
- vi. We want students to be applying for programs in a transparent way so encourage international programs website and should definitely review that page before they apply.
- vii. Updating offer letters in January 2026 to include possible loss of funding clause, and if grant is terminated then we may terminate employment. For fac and staff it's 30 days, for students it could be end of semester. The department has to find the money for bridge funding.
- viii. Grad School website relaunched this morning! If you are searching the

website with the search function, give the search function about a week because it's Google's indexer that's taking time.

9. Other new business

- a. None

10. Resolutions

- a. None

11. Announcements

- a. None

12. Motion to adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Boerman, seconded by Osnaya, 420pm adjourned