

Graduate Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes



Tuesday September 30th 2025.

111F Townsend Hall

Meeting URL: <https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/99221722223?pwd=LUGm3JkoOGldiugHXXYN2ec30Pp4p6.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 992 2172 2223

Passcode: 687227

Attending in person: David Beversdorf, Erika Boerman, Emily Crawford-Rossi, Maria Fidalgo, Johanna Kramer, Abed Rabbani, Rocio Rivera, Erin Robinson, Phillip Wood, Laura Zangori, Enid Schatz, Ashley Siebenaler, Amy Rhea (admin support), Curtis Pavey (presenter), Peter Miyamoto (presenter)

Attending via Zoom: Jacqueline Limberg, Julie Miller, Kuntara Pukthuanthong

1. Call to order at 332pm
2. Approval of minutes of August 2025
 - a. Amendments: None
 - b. Motion to approve by Erin Robinson
 - c. Seconded
 - d. Disposition: Approved
3. Acceptance of the agenda
 - a. Motion to accept by Erin Robinson
 - b. Seconded by Rocio Rivera
 - c. Disposition: Approved
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Academic Affairs Committee – Prof. Julie Miller, Chair

i. Presentation of MM in Music with Emphasis in Piano Pedagogy by Dr. Curtis Pavey and Dr. Peter Miyamoto

- This program is a revival of a program that had been eliminated in 2020 due to lack of faculty in the subject and budget cuts. It is a music education degree focused entirely on piano training, and the process to update the curriculum and bring the program back began in 2023 when Dr. Pavey was hired as a piano pedagogy expert.
- The program will emphasize piano teaching, applied piano lessons, music theory, and music history. Currently these courses are offered every other year and we would change the rotation so that these courses would be offered each year.
- Students are already successful in this area even without the formal degree – they have done research projects regarding teaching those with disabilities, underrepresented composers, and AI in piano teaching. Students have presented at a national in-person conference and an international webinar conference.
- Graduate assistants would support teachers of piano courses. Mizzou has a community music program that offers private lessons to the community but with a program like this it would allow us reach more community members through that program and attract even more community members to it.
- There is a declining number of piano instructors both in the Columbia area and around the state. This program will increase number of qualified teachers and impact rural areas. Only one other place in the state offers such a degree, and that is the conservatory at UMKC, which is performance-based program rather than academic/research based program.
- This program requires no financial investment and requires no new courses, equipment, or library because all of these things are already available. It is planned as a two-year program, graduating 1-3 students every year.
- Students would be funded through assistantships or through employment in the community music program.

ii. Julie motions to suspend the rules to allow a vote on the program today. David

Beverdsdorf seconds. Motion passed.

iii. Academic Affairs Committee recommends to approve the MM in Music with emphasis in Piano Pedagogy program. Motion to approve by David Beverdsdorf, seconded by Erin Robinson, approved unanimously.

iv. Course Approvals (GFS Pres Courses p 25 25.xlsx; 23 courses: 8 added, 15 edited)

- Academic Affairs Committee recommends 23 courses be approved. Abed Rabbani moves to approve, Erika Boerman seconds, approved unanimously.

v. New Program Approvals (no new programs to approve)

- 2 new programs “in the pipeline” to be discussed at future meetings.

vi. Call list of volunteers for Ad-Hoc Dismissal Appeal committee

- 1) Laura Zangori
- 2) Phillip Wood

b. Fellowships and Awards Committee – Prof. Abed Rabbani, Chair

i. Call went out on Sep 3, due date Oct 31.

ii. Call list of volunteers for Ad-Hoc Dismissal Appeal committee

- 1) Abed Rabbani
- 2) Dan Edidin
- 3) Paul Ladehoff
- 4) Jacqueline Limberg
- 5) Rajiv Mohan

c. Policy Committee – Prof. Rocio Rivera, Chair

i. Meeting on next Monday, meeting with Dean Hart prior to discuss policy needs from her vantage point.

ii. Call list of volunteers for Ad-Hoc Dismissal Appeal committee.

i. Emailed to Maria Fidalgo.

5. Faculty Council Information Sharing – Member at large – Prof. Erika Boerman

a. No voting items in last Faculty Council meeting.

- b. AI Policy under a great deal of discussion, and the sticking point is still alternative assignments in case of objections from students who don't want to use AI for assignment.
 - c. Discussion about lawsuit against President Choi regarding who could and could not participate in Homecoming Parade.
 - d. Gen Ed committee wants everyone to keep an eye on digital accessibility. This must be in place by Summer 2026, and the committee really wants to see movement rather than perfection, so don't stress about making everything 100% accessible. There will likely not be expert assistance given in this process, as there are self-paced canvas courses, online training modules, slide decks, etc. available. Focus on the materials that you make, the lectures that you generate, and worry less about the 3rd party materials (PDFs, other webpages, etc.)
6. Report: Graduate Professional Council – Mr. Felix Oguiche, GPC Representative
- a. GPC leadership met with President Choi and discussed food security.
 - b. RCAF is coming later this semester rather than in the spring so that it doesn't compete with other campus symposia (primarily Show Me Research).
 - c. Travel awards are currently open and will close on Oct 12 with awards to follow in a couple weeks
 - d. There is around \$5000 in the Financial Assistance Fund and more funds are needed. We typically get funds from endowments and alumni donations.
 - e. Currently, about 65% of departments are represented in the general assembly – we have emails out to the DGSs to see if they can identify representatives for their departments.
7. Report: Graduate School – Associate Dean Enid Schatz for Dean Jeni Hart
- a. Please nominate folks for the awards currently open!
 - b. GSFRF call is out with a slightly different timeline this year to align with the University's fiscal year. Application are due mid-November and will be

announced in December before winter break.

- c. Regarding the H1B visa fee, the Grad School doesn't know anything different than what has been publicized. There isn't an exemption for higher education as far as we know. The International Center has published on their website about best practices.

8. Other new business

- a. None

9. Resolutions

- a. None

10. Announcements

- a. None

11. Motion to adjourn by David Beversdorf, adjourned at 4:39pm.