Graduate Council Meeting Minutes
Computer Science Building Room 209 and via Zoom
12:00pm Wednesday, November 05, 2025

Present: Serhat Hosder, CJ Lungstrum, Amy Belfi, Irina Ivliyeva, Melanie Mormile, Jee-Ching Wang, Sarah Stanley, Haiming Wen, Magdy Abdelrahman, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Satish Puri, Yishu Zhou, Katherine Sharp, Rui Bo, Peggy Lindner, Kyle Perry, Chris Ketcherside (representing Michael Meagher), Vahe Permzadian, Cecil Chua, Frank Liou, Lana Alagha, Ayodeji Alajo, Hyunsoo Kim, Edward Malone, Jeffery Winiarz, John Harris, Iheanyichukwu Ajoku, David Borrok, Mehdi Ferdowsi, Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Robin Gore, Stephen Raper, Roger Weaver, Debra Bourdeau, Autumn Frazier, Tina Balch, Jordan Hannah, Sharon Matson, Jade Sinnott, Sylvia Skouby, and Jodi Hasekamp

Secretary J. Winiarz called the meeting to order, 12:00 pm

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2025 Meeting - Motion to approve: second: approved.

3. President's Report

   a. Parliamentarian Update
      i. Invitation will continue to be sent

4. The next Graduate Faculty Meeting
   a. Monday, December 1, 2025, at 4:00pm
   b. Carver/Turner Room at the Havener Center
   c. Attendance of all faculty members would be greatly appreciated

5. Provost John Harris
   a. discussed dual PhD programs – An information discussion was provided with some additional details concerning the eventual implementation of dual PhD programs.
      i. There has been some interest expressed in collaboration from several universities in India
      ii. We wouldn't need to fund those students for the first two years - We'd only fund them the second two years here
      iii. Requiring a master's degree to get into the program
      iv. Every department that wants to participate is welcome to participate
      v. There are some details that need to be worked out on students that start at S&T and move to a different institution
      vi. The concept was received positively by the council and further planning will proceed
   b. There was additional discussion concerning the need for graduate students to go to one advisor for the department requirements and one for the university requirements, and how that may be a little bit confusing
      i. There are ongoing efforts to address this confusion by combining these aspects of advising

6. Stipend X Recommendation Vote - Recommend to increase Stipend X by 4% for the 2026–2027 academic year - Motion to approve: second: approved. (21 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain)

7. Two motions were provided by the representative of Applied Mathematics (Additional background information is contained in the addendum)
    a. Reduce the number of 6000 level hours to 6 credit hours for MS – So moved and seconded
    b. Change the required 6000 level hours for PhD students from 0 to a minimum of 9 hours credit – So moved but not yet seconded
        i. There was some discussion about adjusting the required number of 6000-level lecture credit hours from nine to six for a non-thesis MS, unfortunately there were technical problems with the zoom and much of the online discussion could not be understood by those in the room
    c. There was a motion to postpone further discussion to provide councilors with the opportunity to bring these motions to their departmental membership as well as in hopes that there might be improvement with some aspects of the technology

8. Status report from Kathryn Northcut, Chair of the Personnel Committee – Tabled due to time constraints

9. New Business - none

Meeting adjourned by Secretary Winiarz, 1:00 pm.

Addendum - Additional background information concerning the two motions provided by the representative of Applied Mathematics

Discussion to adjust the required number of 6000-level lecture credit hours from nine to six for a non-thesis MS and to adjust the required number of 6000-level lecture credit hours for PhD students from zero to a minimum of nine

The 6000-level courses, often referred to as Ph.D.-level courses, if taught at the designated level, serve as advanced knowledge-building components of the graduate curriculum. They are designed primarily for doctoral students, and, to some extent, master's students with appropriate preparation. These courses equip students with a set of advanced tools to support research and critical thinking skills, especially for PhD students

Missouri S&T, per the graduate catalog, requires 9 credit hours of 6000 level courses in the MS curriculum, and no 6000 level courses are required in the PhD curriculum. I do not see the rational in requiring 6000 level courses for MS students (regardless of the number), and none for those for which the courses are primarily designed for.

Additional considerations

Right now the nine-hour 6000-level requirement only applies to non-thesis students
If this changes to six hours, would the thesis option also stay at six?

Also, our master of engineering and second master's programs currently require six hours of 6000-level coursework—would those remain the same or be adjusted as well?

Since Ph.D. students without a master's need 30 total lecture hours and those with a master's only need 12, would the nine-hour 6000-level requirement apply to both?
That might create an imbalance for students who earned their master's at S&T or be challenging if 6000-level course offerings are limited.