

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Bertelsmeyer Hall Room B12A and via Zoom

12:00pm Wednesday, March 04, 2026

Present: Serhat Hosder, Irina Ivliyeva, Melanie Mormile, Jee-Ching Wang, Sarah Stanley, Manashi Nath, Magdy Abdelrahman, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Katherine Sharp, Rui Bo, Peggy Lindner, Kyle Perry, Haiming Wen, Lana Alagha, Ayodeji Alajo, Hyunsoo Kim, Cihan Dagli, Edward Malone, Lijun Jiang, Jeffery Winiaz, John Harris, Iheanyichukwu Ajoku, Robin Gore, Stephen Raper, Cecil Chua, Roger Weaver, Debra Bourdeau, Sharon Matson, Jade Sinnott, Sylvia Skouby, Alexa Fineran, Tina Balch, Autumn Frazier

President L. Jiang called the meeting to order, 12:00 pm

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2026 Meeting - Motion to approve: second: approved.
3. President's Report
 - a. Subcommittee for the Graduate Faculty Rules and Regulations change to be formed
 - i. volunteers solicited
 - ii. Areas to be looked at include
 - membership renewal requirements (particularly for full members)
 - consistency of departmental/program representation and voting
 - b. Nominations solicited for...
 - i. The 2025-26 Awards Committee
 - ii. End of the Year Awards to be presented at May Graduate Faculty Meeting
 - Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education
 - Graduate Staff Excellence Award Nomination
 - iii. Representation on the Budgetary Affairs Committee
 - iv. Representation on the Personnel Committee
 - v. Representation on the Curriculum Committee
 - c. Parliamentary Appointment
 - i. Nominations and volunteers still being accepted
4. New graduate tuition waiver procedure – Provost Harris
 - a. The large number of students being transferred between grants poses a compliance issue
 - b. To promote student and staff fairness, appointments will be required to be made in a timely way
5. GRE requirement – Provost Harris
 - a. Only 1/15 top PhD programs require GRE
 - b. Data indicate no correlation between GRE scores and success in PhD program
 - c. Departments should consider the value of such a requirement
6. Remove the section from the graduate catalog concerning the Comprehensive Examination for the Master of Science Degree without Thesis (see addendum)
 - a. The master's comprehensive exam is no longer required by any department
 - b. Please bring this proposal to your department

- c. A motion will be made at the next meeting
- 7. Suggestion: Invite course-based Master Program students to labs to do research projects
 - a. Make it a mandatory part of the program with mutual selection
 - b. Project report evaluation by mentors
 - c. Students showing research potential can be considered for the PhD candidacy
 - d. Significant discussion indicated the representation was not in favor of instituting such a mandatory program
 - i. concerns raised about resources, faculty workload, online programs, and equity
 - ii. general sentiment favored optional rather than mandatory implementation
 - iii. suggestion that such research experiences may be better handled at program/department level
- 8. New Business: there was no new business

Meeting adjourned by President Jiang, 1:00 pm.

Comprehensive Examination for the Master of Science Degree without Thesis

Some departments require candidates to successfully complete a comprehensive examination, which will be administered by an examination committee, typically in their final semester. The candidate must be enrolled at the time of the examination. If the examination is administered during the intersession, the student must have been enrolled in the immediately preceding semester/session; or, prior to the examination date, they must enroll in one credit hour of Oral Examination, 5040/6040 (charged as an examination only fee). The candidate will receive a passing grade if all, or all but one, of the members vote based on the departmental set criteria when the exam is administered. For candidates whose department requires a comprehensive examination, a committee will be designated by submitting the Form 1- B, first to the department chair and then to the vice provost of graduate education. The committee must consist of at least three members. The chair and at least half of the committee members must be members of the Missouri S&T graduate faculty. If a committee member is not a member of graduate faculty, a vita verifying equivalent level (or higher) of education must be provided with the Form 1-B.

Results of the comprehensive examination must be submitted on the Form 3, first to the department chair and then to the vice provost of graduate education. A student who fails the examination twice will no longer be eligible to receive a graduate degree from that program. However, the student is still eligible to pursue a graduate degree from any other graduate degree program willing to accept them.