

# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Bertelsmeyer Hall Room B12A and via Zoom

12:00pm Wednesday, April 01, 2026

Present: Serhat Hosder, Irina Ivliyeva, Melanie Mormile, Jee-Ching Wang, Sarah Stanley, Haiming Wen, Manashi Nath, Magdy Abdelrahman, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Katherine Sharp, Rui Bo, Peggy Lindner, Kyle Perry, Katherine Grote, Cecil Chua, Frank Liou, Xiaodong Yang, Hyunsoo Kim, Cihan Dagli, Edward Malone, Lijun Jiang, Jeffery Winiarz, John Harris, Iheanyichukwu Ajoku, Mehdi Ferdowsi, Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Robin Gore, Stephen Raper, 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 March 4, 2026 Meeting - Motion to approve: second: approved.
3. President's Report
  - a. President Jiang reported on two key discussions involving the subcommittee reviewing changes to the Graduate Faculty Rules and Regulations
    - i. Addressing imbalanced graduate faculty representation on the council
    - ii. Exploring more effective membership renewal processes
  - b. Nominations update
    - i. Nomination periods for Faculty Senate standing committees, Graduate Faculty officer positions, and the 2025–2026 Graduate Faculty Awards and Awards Committee have now closed
    - ii. No nominations were received for the Curricula Committee, however Kyle Perry offered to continue serving if no other nominations were received
  - c. Parliamentary update: nominations and volunteers are still being accepted
4. Removal of the Comprehensive Examination for the Master of Science Degree without Thesis section from the Graduate Catalog (see addendum), as departments no longer require the master's comprehensive examination. Motion to approve: second: approved by unanimous vote
5. Discussion: clarifying course organization – Provost Harris
  - a. The discussion centered on the need to better separate undergraduate and graduate courses
  - b. Suggested that 1,000-4,000 level courses should be reserved for undergraduates while 5,000-6,000 level courses should be for graduate students
  - c. It was noted that current practices at the university differ from standard practices at other institutions and could potentially violate accreditation standards
  - d. It was pointed out that at least in some departments there is the practice of using 5,000 level courses as technical electives for undergraduates and that treating all students equally in the same class would be more effective than creating separate versions of courses
  - e. Additional concerns were raised based on some past experiences such as taking the same course twice as an UG and then as a grad
  - f. Questions were raised about potential administrative pushback due to lower enrollment numbers in separate sections, but the provost clarified that while courses could be split, they would still receive credit for the combined enrollment and would not face penalties for having low enrollment in one section

- g. It was noted that the proposed four-section structure would be cumbersome for faculty who already manage both distance and in-person sections for 5,000 level classes, and that this approach had previously led to faculty frustration with multiple Canvas sections
6. Discussion: new graduate tuition waiver procedure – Provost Harris
- a. The discussion focused on the need to inform graduate students of their situation as early as possible and certainly prior to the start of the semester
  - b. The provost proposed switching from strict deadlines to cutoff dates for submitting tuition waiver information, while still encouraging early submissions for student clarity
7. Discussion: GRE requirement – Provost Harris
- a. It was emphasized that many top-ranked schools no longer require GRE scores for PhD
8. Discussion: project-based course (6000-level) for course-only master's students
- a. Discussion initiated around a proposed single semester 6000-level project-based course for course-only master students
  - b. If the student performs well, they may continue to be a Ph.D. student or earn a prestigious addition to their CV should they decide to immediately gain employment
  - c. The student can choose the lab, and the mentor has the right to accept or reject it
  - d. Performance shall be evaluated by the mentor
  - e. It was suggested that the allowance for 6099 courses to be used towards a non-thesis master's degree might be easier than creating a new course
9. 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.