

Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

Computer Science 209 and via Zoom

12:00 pm Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Present: Serhat Hosder, Clayton (CJ) Lungstrum, Daniel Shank, Irina Ivliyeva, Jee-Ching Wang, Melanie Mormile, Jee-Ching Wang, Sarah Stanley, Haiming Wen, Magdy Abdelrahman, Sahra Sedighsarvestani, Gayla Olbricht, Yishu Zhou, Kyle Perry, Jeremy Maurer, Katherine Grote, Alanna Krolikowski, Vahe Permzadian, Haiming Wen, Akim Adekpedjou, Xiaodong Yang, Hyunsoo Kim, Cihan Dagli, Lijun Jiang, Peggy Lindner, John Harris, Bob Bourret, Ritwak Raj Saxena, David Borrok, Mehrzad Bouroujerdi, Robin Gore, Stephen Raper, Roger Weaver, Debra Bourdeau, Sharon Matson, Jade Winzer, Sylvia Skouby, Lauren Noris, Autumn Frazier, Derek Zboran, Madison Smith

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

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes from April 1 Meeting - Motion to approve: second: approved.
3. President's Report
 - a. a. Membership policy revision is on-going
 - b. b. Parliamentary for 2026–2027 still open
4. Dean Robert B. Bourret's Greeting Speech (see attached presentation slides)
 - a. Shared mission statement for the new Graduate School as a centralized resource to strengthen
 - b. Combines three offices: Graduate Education + Graduate Recruitment + International Student Office
 - c. Name: The Graduate School
 - d. Will operate in close partnership with the graduate academic programs
5. Appointment of the 2026–2027 Membership Committee
 - a. Must be current members of Graduate Council and include at least one representative from each of the following areas: Engineering, Science, Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and Business-related disciplines
6. End-of-Year Awards Committee Nominations
 - a. Nominations and self-nominations are requested for the 2026–2027 End-of-Year Awards Committee. Nominations should be submitted to mstgradfacpres@mst.edu.
 - b. The committee consists of five members: four Graduate Faculty members and one staff member who works with a graduate program or office
 - c. Graduate Council will vote on committee membership at the November meeting.
7. Faculty Standing Committee Election
 - a. Graduate Council must elect one member to serve on the Campus Curricula Committee. This election was not completed during the Spring 2026 semester.
 - b. Kyle Perry has volunteered to continue serving on the committee for the next term.
 - c. Motion to approve Kyle Perry as a member of the CCC: second: approved.
8. Allowing Project-Based Course (6000-Level) for Non-Thesis Programs (continued discussion from April 2026 Graduate Council meeting)

- a. We should encourage the use of the special problems courses.
- b. Discussion about University requirements for non-thesis MS students. 24 hours of lecture credits required.
- c. Clarification about this mechanism as a pathway to recruit PhD applicants.
- d. Discussion about different options for research course designations, e.g. create a university-wide course number to be used for research credit hours, separate from existing 5099/6099

9. Input requested for Graduate Student Stipend Recommendation for FY 2027–2028

10. New Business

- a. Encourage programs to create promotional material (e.g. short videos to share on social media)

Meeting adjourned by President Jiang, 12:50 pm.