

MFT Program Policy on Faculty and Student Governance

Policy Availability

The Policy on Faculty and Student Governance is available to the public via the [MFT Homepage > Accreditation > Policies and Handbook](#).

MFT Program Faculty Participation in Program Governance

The MFT Graduate Program faculty has a history of governing the program collaboratively. Decisions about program governance are made exclusively by program faculty consensus. No decision of import is made by any one faculty member, including the Program Director.

MFT Student Participation in Program Governance

Additionally, the MFT Graduate Program faculty has a history of embracing student participation in aspects of the governance of the program and is dedicated to student-faculty collaboration. MFT faculty value student opinions, perceptions, concerns, and creative ideas for improvement and invite students to take an active role in the governance of the program. Informally, students are always welcome to discuss ideas or concerns with any program faculty member and can expect them to be responsive. Formal mechanisms are available to students to become directly involved in the governance of the program:

- Once or twice a semester, the faculty opens a weekly faculty meeting to the entire student body. Students are encouraged to attend these meetings whenever possible.
- After the meeting, per usual, the PD composes a minute of the open faculty meeting, including the student presentation, any discussion and/or resolution, and send it to the faculty and the student body (thus capturing those students unable to attend the meeting). The meeting minute will be composed and distributed within a reasonable time period, not to extend beyond four weeks. Students are invited and encouraged to send the faculty an email response to the meeting minutes noting their observations, perceptions agreement or disagreement about whether 1.) the minute accurately reflects the discussion that took place, 2.) editing is required (for example, add something we left out), or 3.) if there is disagreement with something that was said.
 - If there is disagreement between students or between students and faculty, another open faculty meeting is scheduled and the discussion is revisited. Additional open meetings are scheduled as long as necessary, until consensus is reached.
- Respond thoughtfully to program surveys (exit, alumni, etc.) and evaluations (practicum, supervisor, SOIs, etc.). We encourage students to discuss survey questions more fully with a faculty member when you have more to say that a survey can accommodate. Student feedback is invaluable and can provide the impetus for improvements as well as tell us when the program is achieving its mission, goals, and student learning outcomes.
- Seek to become a representative on the Graduate Student Advisory Board, a university committee encompassing all graduate programs.

- Attend Community Meetings and/or open faculty meetings and talk about their experiences and perceptions of the program, both positive and negative. Raise concerns and offer suggestions for how the program can be better. Community Meetings are the gathering where we review the program's teaching/learning practices and curriculum, physical, fiscal, and academic resources, and atmosphere of safety, respect, and appreciation (particularly as it is related to diversity), and whether these are sufficient to meet the program mission, goals, and student learning outcomes.
 - Consider starting an MFT student organization. Many past classes have organized themselves and initiated an MFT Student Advisory Council. While faculty cannot initiate or lead such an endeavor, the faculty is highly supportive and willing to share by-laws written by past students, consult with students about what such an organization might look like, and talk about how to begin.
- 