

MFT Program Policy on Faculty and Student Governance

This policy is available to the public via the [Program Handbook and Policies](#) link on the [MFT website](#).

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

The MFT Graduate Program faculty has a history of embracing student participation in 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. Some of the topics that will be covered in open faculty meetings include these:
- Students are encouraged to attend these meetings whenever possible. The process for this is as follows:
 - The date of the open meeting is announced a month in advance. Students should confer with each other (by GroupMe, email, or at an in-person meeting) in advance of the meeting to identify any concerns, questions, ideas, suggestions that they would like to present to the faculty.
 - Select a student who will stand as the main presenter at the meeting.
 - After the meeting, per usual, PD or a faculty member will compose 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. You are invited and encouraged to send the faculty an email response to the meeting minutes noting your 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 you disagree with something that was said.
 - If there is disagreement between students or between students and faculty, we will schedule another open faculty meeting and continue the discussion. We will continue to schedule open meetings as long as necessary, until consensus is reached.
- Respond thoughtfully to program surveys (exit, alumni, etc.) and evaluations (practicum, supervisor, SOIs, etc.). We encourage you to discuss survey questions more fully with a faculty member when you have more to say that a survey can accommodate. Your 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 your 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 are 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.