
**Graduate Studies Council
Minutes of 25 January 2024****Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on 25 January 2024 in Walwood Hall Room 111W by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

Members Present: Upul Attanayake, Carrie Cumming, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Jennifer Fiore, Regina Garza Mitchell, Lori Gray, Chansheng He, Cindy Linn, Malia Roberts (substitute for Christine Byrd-Jacobs), Dianna Sachs, Tova Sanders (substitute for Louann Bierlein-Palmer), Leslie Solares, Marcellis Zondag

Member Absent: None.

Ex Officio: Paul Pancella

Guest: Amy Schreiner, Blindness and Low Vision Studies

Quorum

A quorum was present with 14 members in attendance, of the eight needed to establish quorum.

Sanders joined the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Linn, seconded by Fiore, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Linn, seconded by Fiore, to approve the 16 November 2023 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Schreiner presented the curriculum proposal for Blindness and Low Vision Studies VI Certificate.

[MOTION] It was moved by Pancella, seconded by Cumming, to approve the Blindness and Low Vision Studies VI Certificate for Teachers. The motion carried.

Reports of Officers

Chair Zondag reported on Cross-Level Courses Initiative with Undergraduate Studies Council. Chairs of Graduate Studies Council and Undergraduate Studies Council requested from the deans to provide a list of courses that would be impacted by any forthcoming initiative. This will inform of a forthcoming Memorandum of Action between GSC and USC.

Ex Officio Pancella did not provide a report

Reports of University Representatives

Roberts reported on the following:

1. Three-Minute Thesis Competition will be held Wednesday, 7 February from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Waldo Library Graduate Student Commons. May be seeking judges for competition. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dr. Roberts or Dr. Byrd-Jacobs.
2. Byrd-Jacobs will be facilitating a bi-annual advising meeting during week of 29 January to 2 February 2024.
3. Graduate enrollment is up.
4. WMU recently signed an agreement with Hope College to create a 4+1 master's program leading to a master's degree in School of Communication. Other programs may inquire about developing a similar agreement by contacting Byrd-Jacobs.

DeChano-Cook did not provide a report.

Solares reported that there will be a welcome event for graduate students and friends/families on 27 January at the Student Center. To date, over 200 students and guests have registered to attend.

Unfinished Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Garza Mitchell, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet on 22 February 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex videoconferencing.

Approval

Submitted by Dianna Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved on 22 February 2024.