

**Graduate Studies Council
REVISED Minutes of 22 February 2024**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on 22 February 2024 via Webex videoconferencing by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

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

Member Absent: Upul Attanayake

Ex Officio: Paul Pancella

Guests: Diana Berkshire-Hearit, Graduate College; Malia Roberts, Graduate College

Quorum

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

Call to Order

GSC welcomed new student member Kristen Hodge.

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Garza Mitchell, to approve the 25 January 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Berkshire-Hearit reported the following on the All-University Research and Teaching Award Review:

1. Updated GSC on applications
2. Demonstrated process for reviewing applications using InfoReady platform
3. GSC will serve on one of two subcommittees and responsible for reviewing either the research or teaching applications
 - a. Subcommittee members should complete reviews by 15 March 2024
 - b. Chair Zondag will chair subcommittee reviewing research applications with members Garza Mitchell, He, Linn, and Sachs
 - c. Fiore will chair subcommittee reviewing teaching applications with members Attanayake, Gray, and Sanders.

Memorandum of Action (MOA) 23/02 *Drop/Withdrawal Extension* was discussed and removed during the Faculty Senate meeting on 1 February due to numerous concerns and opposition.

[MOTION] It was moved by Garza Mitchell, seconded by Pancella to withdraw MOA 23/02 *Drop/Withdrawal Extension* proposal. The motion passed.

MOA 23/03 *Accelerated Graduate Degree Programs* – Undergraduate/Graduate Dual Admission. GSC previously approved submitting. Chair Zondag will submit to Faculty Senate Executive Board for consideration by the Undergraduate Studies Council.

Reports of Officers

Chair Zondag did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Pancella did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Byrd Jacobs reported on the following:

1. Three-Minute Thesis competition took place on 7 February 2024. Fourteen graduate students participated. First place winner: Hayley Brown, PhD candidate in Psychology. She will represent WMU at the Midwest Regional competition. Second place winner: Hassan Shirzadi Jahromi, Engineering; Third place: Hellen Agbevey, Finance; People's Choice winner: Sandra Espinoza Montes, Counseling Psychology.
2. Rei Gordon, PhD student was awarded Honorable Mention for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Excellence in Teaching Award.
3. Not all graduate students have formal programs of study on file at the start of their program. However, the Department of Education (DOE) is requiring that courses must be listed in a student's program of study in order to be eligible for financial aid. The Registrar's Office and Financial Aid will decide how to monitor the DOE requirement, which may require having all graduate programs use DegreeWorks.

DeChano-Cook did not provide a report.

Solares and Hodge reported that the Graduate Student Ambassador team participated in numerous activities to promote graduate education at WMU to prospective and current graduate students, including undergraduate students interested in participating in an accelerated graduate degree program.

Unfinished Business

None.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Linn, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet on 28 March 2024 at 3 p.m. in person at Walwood Hall Room 111W.

Approval

Submitted by Dianna Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved on 28 March 2024.