
Graduate Studies Council

Minutes of 27 October 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Council was called to order at 3 pm on 27 October 2022 via Webex video conferencing by Dawn Anderson, chair.

Members in Attendance: Dawn Anderson, Mohammed Asif, Upul Attanayake, Louann Bierlein Palmer (substitute for Regina Garza Mitchell), Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Carrie Cumming, Jennifer Fiore, Mahamat Abdoulaye Kerim, Dianna Sachs, Marcellis Zondag

Members Absent: Rob Lyerla, James Palmitessa, Nicolas Witschi

Advisory Members Present: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio: William Rantz

Guest(s): Eriz Hughey, Faculty Senate Office; Eleonora Philopoulos, Architect and Design; Russell Zwanka, Marketing

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was modified to add a report from the Graduate Student Association.

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Sachs, seconded by Bierlein Palmer, to approve the 22 September 2022 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Anderson provided an update on her review of last year's GSC report and 2022-23 charges, which will be handled throughout the year as time permits, with curriculum proposals. Two other items to note:

1. Charge related to reviewing graduate certificate and financial aid, based on input from the Graduate Dean and other members of the GSC, it was determined that this issue was reviewed previously, and noting more needed to be done.
2. Subcommittees to handle the awards should be added to the January agenda, and having someone from the Graduate College oversee the InfoReady review system should be added to the February agenda.

Ex Officio Rantz welcomed the two Graduate Student Association representatives. He noted that, as requested, the GSC report from last year was sent to all members.

Reports of University Representatives

Graduate College Dean Byrd-Jacobs provided an update on some regional graduate student events, the success of the recent graduate job fair, the number of students applying for graduate research and/or travel awards, and the number of doctoral associateships funded by the graduate college.

Merze Tate College Dean Martini had no updates related to graduate education to share.

Graduate Student Association President Asif provided an update on activities GSA will be engaged in for this academic year.

Unfinished Business

Zwanka and Zondag provided an overview and answered questions regarding the Food Marketing

A graduate certificate curriculum proposal that is intended to create a new graduate certificate. It was suggested that the proposal be modified to revise the catalog language to remove courses offering modality information and to include attachments.

[MOTION] It was moved by Cumming, seconded by Bierlein Palmer, to approve the curriculum proposal as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Anderson introduced the Master of Arts in Teaching: Teaching Chinese as a Second Language curriculum proposal. The proposal is to delete the MA program concentration.

[MOTION] It was moved by Sachs, seconded by Zondag, to approve the proposal as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Chair Anderson led a discussion regarding military members as students receiving credits for experience. It was agreed that the recently enacted prior learning assessment (PLA) policy would need no further revisions to support this idea for graduate programs. However, the council considered that more work at the undergraduate level could be done. Martini agreed to look at this with appropriate people from within his college, as well as the Military Science faculty, etc.

Chair Anderson led a discussion regarding posthumous degrees. It was agreed that the existing policy for undergraduate students should be modified to offer posthumous degrees for graduate students under certain conditions. Cumming and Zondag volunteered to work on drafting language to present to GSC for consideration.

Chair Anderson led a discussion regarding the appointment of a GSC representative to the Transfer of Credit Committee. It was concluded that having a GSC representative on a committee focused on undergraduate transfer credits may not be the best use of faculty time. Rantz will present the issue to the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Byrd-Jacobs, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m. The motion carried. The Graduate Studies Council will meet next on 17 November 2022 at 3 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 17 November 2022.