
Graduate Studies Council
Minutes of 17 November 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Council was called to order at 3 p.m. on 17 November 2022 via Webex videoconferencing 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, James Palmitessa, Dianna Sachs, Nicolas Witschi, Marcellis Zondag

Members Absent: Rob Lyerla

Advisory Members Present: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio: William Rantz

Guest(s): David Burnie, Professor, Finance and Commercial Law; Susan Carlson, Associate Professor, Sociology; Carla Chase, Interim Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Matthew Mingos, Professor, School of Public Affairs and Administration; Malia Roberts, Associate Director, Graduate Enrollment Services, Graduate College

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was amended such that curriculum proposals would be addressed following approval of minutes.

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Rantz, seconded by Bierlein Palmer, to approve the 10 October 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

[MOTION] It was moved by Bierlein Palmer, seconded by Palmitessa, to approve the Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility and Graduate Certificate in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy curriculum proposals. The motion carried unanimously.

It was recommended that the following curriculum proposals be postponed.

1. MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Assistive Technology
2. MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Orientation and Mobility for MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Orientation and Mobility for Children
3. MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy
4. Master of Arts in Blindness & Low Vision Studies

[MOTION] It was moved by Witschi, seconded by Bierlein Palmer, to approve the Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance curriculum proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zondag, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Graduate Certificate Program in Finance and the Graduate Certificate Program in Financial Technology curriculum proposals. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zondag, seconded by Cummings, to approve the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies and Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Studies (Accelerated) curriculum proposals. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Anderson did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Rantz reported on input from the Faculty Senate Executive Board, whereby it was understood why there is no GSC representative on the Transfer Credit Committee since that committee deals almost exclusively with undergraduate issues. No additional information was available related to charge #3, and the minutes should reflect the committee's work related to this.

Reports of University Representatives

Byrd-Jacobs offered various updates, including the moving of two programs from the graduate college to other locations in the University.

Martini offered various updates, including that the Office of Faculty Development Advisory Board is now operational.

Graduate Student Association Chair Asif provided an update on various GSA issues.

Unfinished Business

Witschi reported that he attends the Transfer Credit Committee as a representative and will report on graduate-level issues that GSC might address in the future.

Cumming and Zondag presented a draft Memorandum of Action on Posthumous Degree for consideration, which included provisions under which a posthumous degree could be awarded to a graduate student. GSC will review and consider the MOA at the next meeting.

New Business (continued)

Byrd-Jacobs shared information on Doctoral Program Credit Requirements. An ad hoc committee was formed to review the issue and report back. Committee members include Byrd-Jacobs, Bierlein, Palmer, and Asif.

Based upon information provided by Byrd-Jacobs, it was determined by GSC that no further work is needed on Charge 3 (MOA 14/15 and MOA 19/11 reference).

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Fiore, seconded by Bierlein Palmer, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion carried. The Graduate Studies Council will meet next on 8 December 2022 at 3 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 8 December 2022.