
Graduate Studies Council
Minutes of 8 December 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate's Graduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on 8 December 2022 via Webex videoconferencing by Dawn Anderson, chair.

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

Members Absent: Rob Lyerla, Nicolas Witschi

Advisory Members Present: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio: William Rantz

Guest(s): Malia Roberts, Associate Director Graduate Enrollment Services, Graduate College; James Springstead, Associate Professor, Chemical and Paper Engineering

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was modified to address new business of curriculum proposals immediately following approval of minutes.

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Rantz, seconded by Zondag, to approve the 17 November 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

The Doctoral Program Credit Requirements MOA was amended to add the Registrar's Office as oversight and to fix a typo.

[MOTION] It was moved by Bierlein Palmer, seconded by Zondag, to approve the Doctoral Program Credit Requirements MOA as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

[MOTION] It was moved by Sachs, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Food Marketing Graduate Certificate curriculum proposal as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering curriculum proposal was amended to include a letter from the library and to remove the language regarding the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) requirement from the catalog copy.

[MOTION] It was moved by Sachs, seconded by Zondag, to approve the Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering program proposal as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- 1) MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Assistive Technology –
- 2) MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Orientation and Mobility for Adults
- 3) MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Orientation and Mobility for Children
- 4) MA in Blindness & Low Vision Studies: Concentration in Vision Rehabilitation Therapy

Reports of Officers

Chair Anderson reported that Curriculog is generally working well.

Ex Officio Rantz reported that the subcommittee working on curriculum process revisions has been starting slowly.

Chair Anderson recommended GSC review adding Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE) and University Library approval within the Curriculog system for proposals that require them. Cumming noted that catalog copy within Curriculog is not coming through cleanly at this point, so faculty are encouraged to attach a Word document.

Reports of University Representatives

Byrd-Jacobs reported on graduate travel grants, the upcoming commencement, and a recent meeting in Lansing with graduate deans from other Michigan universities.

Martini clarified HyFlex learning environment.

Asif provided an update on various GSA issues.

Unfinished Business

The Posthumous Degree MOA was amended to add the Specialist Degree in the language as appropriate.

[MOTION] It was moved by Byrd-Jacobs, seconded by Rantz, to approve the Posthumous Degree Memorandum of Action as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Chair Anderson announced the need for a new secretary starting in January 2023, since Bierlein Palmer was serving as a substitute committee member just for the fall semester. Zondag agreed to serve in this role for the January 2023 meeting.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Fiore, seconded by Rantz, to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. The motion carried. The Graduate Studies Council will meet next on 26 January 2023 at 3 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 26 January 2023.