
Graduate Studies Council
Minutes of 26 January 2023**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 26 January 2023 via Webex videoconferencing by Dawn Anderson, chair.

Members in Attendance: Dawn Anderson, Julie Apker, Upul Attanayake, Michele Behr (substitute for Dianna Sachs), Louann Bierlein Palmer, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Carrie Cumming, Jennifer Fiore, Regina Garza Mitchell; Mahamat Abdoulaye Kerim, James Palmitessa, Nicolas Witschi; Marcellis Zondag,

Members Absent: Mohammed Asif

Advisory Members Present: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio: William Rantz

Guest(s): Malia Roberts, Associate Director, Graduate Enrollment Services; Diana Hearit, Graduate Awards Specialist

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Agenda

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

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Zondag, seconded by Fiore, to approve the 8 December 2022 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Hearit reviewed the application and award process using InfoReady for the upcoming graduate teaching and research awards.

Chair Anderson facilitated the creation of two teaching and research award subcommittees. They are:

1. Teaching Award: Zondag (chair); Bierlein Palmer, Fiore, Asif
2. Research Award: Regena Fails Nelson, Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies (chair); Sachs, Anderson, Attanayake, Abdoulaye Kerim

The Food Marketing Graduate Certificate proposal was approved at the previous meeting. Questions were raised regarding the catalog copy. A revised version will be provided to Witschi.

The following four proposals were approved as a package, with modifications to the catalog copy and narrative language. The information will be submitted to Witschi.

[MOTION] It was moved by Bierlein Palmer, seconded by Zondag, to approve the following curriculum proposals as amended. 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 on a meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Board regarding the GSC Memorandum of Actions (MOA).

Ex Officio Rantz noted that the ad hoc curriculum review workgroup has been seated.

Reports of University Representatives

Byrd-Jacobs reported updates on spring graduate enrollment and various Graduate College activities. She sought volunteers for the upcoming Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.

Martini addressed questions regarding HyFlex learning environment.

Abdoulaye Kerim provided an update on various Graduate Student Association issues.

Unfinished Business

Chair Anderson summarized questions from the Faculty Senate Executive Board regarding the Posthumous Degree Recommendations and MOA-22/03: *Doctoral/Specialist Credit Requirements*. For the Posthumous Degree, Byrd-Jacobs offered minor wording revisions. The council decided that there was no need to re-vote on these revisions. For MOA-22/03, Byrd-Jacobs noted that no revisions are needed. Chair Anderson will share this information with the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Witschi, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will meet next on 23 February 2023 at 3 p.m. virtually via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 23 March 2023.