

**Graduate Studies Council**

Minutes of 25 January 2024

**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 25 January 2024 in Walwood Hall Room 111W by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

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

**Member Absent:** None.

**Ex Officio:** Paul Pancella

**Guest:** Amy Schreiner, Blindness and Low Vision Studies

**Quorum**

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

Sanders joined the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Linn, seconded by Fiore, to approve the 16 November 2023 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Schreiner presented the curriculum proposal for Blindness and Low Vision Studies VI Certificate.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Pancella, seconded by Cumming, to approve the Blindness and Low Vision Studies VI Certificate for Teachers. The motion carried.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Zondag reported on Cross-Level Courses Initiative with Undergraduate Studies Council. Chairs of Graduate Studies Council and Undergraduate Studies Council requested from the deans to provide a list of courses that would be impacted by any forthcoming initiative. This will inform of a forthcoming Memorandum of Action between GSC and USC.

Ex Officio Pancella did not provide a report

**Reports of University Representatives**

Roberts reported on the following:

1. Three-Minute Thesis Competition will be held Wednesday, 7 February from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Waldo Library Graduate Student Commons. May be seeking judges for competition. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dr. Roberts or Dr. Byrd-Jacobs.
2. Byrd-Jacobs will be facilitating a bi-annual advising meeting during week of 29 January to 3. 2 February 2024.
4. Graduate enrollment is up.
5. WMU recently signed an agreement with Hope College to create a 4+1 master's program leading to a master's degree in School of Communication. Other programs may inquire about developing a similar agreement by contacting Byrd-Jacobs.

DeChano-Cook did not provide a report.

Solares reported that there will be a welcome event for graduate students and friends/families on 27 January at the Student Center. To date, over 200 students and guests have registered to attend.

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Garza Mitchell, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet on 22 February 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex videoconferencing.

**Approval**

Submitted by Dianna Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved on 22 February 2024.