

**Graduate Studies Council**

Minutes of 28 March 2024

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Western Michigan University Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Council was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on 28 March 2024 in Walwood Hall Room 111W by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

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

**Members Absent:** Lisa DeChano-Cook, Lori Gray

**Ex Officio:** Paul Pancella

**Guests:** Diane Riggs, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Council

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance of the eight needed to establish quorum.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Sanders, seconded by Linn, to approve the 22 February 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Undergraduate Studies Council Chair Riggs provided information on Memorandum of Action (MOA) 24/04 *Definition and Procedures for Cross-Level Linked Courses*

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Cumming, seconded by Linn, to approve MOA 24/04. With one abstention, the motion passed.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Zondag requested content to report to the Faculty Senate meeting on 4 April 2024.

Ex Officio Pancella reminded GSC that the end-of-the-year report is due by 30 June 2024 and may include suggestions for future charges.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Roberts reported on the following:

1. Graduate Professional Student Appreciation Week is 1-5 April. The Graduate College is recognizing WMU graduate students with a graduate education trivia contest on social media all week. Students who participate will be entered into a drawing for gift baskets from the WMU Graduate College and the Office of the Provost.
2. During Research, Innovation, and Creative Scholarship Celebration Week, the Graduate College is hosting the annual poster presentation event on 11 April, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., poster displays 9 a.m. to noon and awards presentation from noon to 1 p.m. in Waldo Library. There are currently 34 submissions. Please contact [Paige Warner](#), to volunteer to serve as a faculty judge.
3. The All-University Award Ceremony will be held on 24 April, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Fetzer Center. This ceremony recognizes exceptional graduate students in the areas of teaching and research, and is the highest award given by the university. GSC members are invited to attend. GSC vice chair Fiore will be participating in the award ceremony.
4. The spring 2024 cycle for the Graduate College travel and research grants closed with all applicants notified of the outcome of their submission. The Graduate College awarded 59%

- of submissions for the travel grant and 78% of the submissions for the research grant, for a total award amount of approximately \$57,000.
5. The Graduate Student Association (GSA) election closed and all executive board positions were filled. The board will begin working over the summer on plans for the upcoming academic year.
  6. The Graduate Student Ambassador team has openings for new hires in 2024-25. Responsibilities include graduate student recruitment, outreach, and service. [More information is available.](#)
  7. We are excited for Hayley Brown, a graduate student in the department of psychology, to represent WMU in the three-minute thesis regional competition in St. Louis, Missouri at the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools annual meeting.

Solares and Hodge reported that the Graduate Student Ambassadors hosted various events for current and potential graduate students.

### **Unfinished Business**

The Graduate Research and Teaching Awards subcommittees decided on the winner for each award class.

### **Announcements**

WMU Authors Celebration will be held on 9 April from 4 to 6 p.m. in Waldo Library Meader Room.

### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Fiore, seconded by Pancella, to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet on 18 April 2024 at 3 p.m. via Webex.

### **Approval**

Submitted by Dianna Sachs, Secretary

Minutes approved on 18 April 2024.