

---

**Graduate Studies Council**  
Minutes of 26 September 2024

**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 26 September 2024 via Webex by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

**Members Present:** Upul Attanayake, Louann Bierlein Palmer, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Carrie Cumming, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Jennifer Fiore, Regina Garza Mitchell, Lori Gray, Chansheng He, Cindy Linn, Dianna Sachs, Larry Simon, Marcellis Zondag

**Members Absent:** Leslie Solares

**Ex Officio:** David Szabla

**Guest(s):** Malia Roberts, Graduate College; Amy Naugle, Faculty Senate Chair; Linda Borish, History

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 13 members in attendance.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Cumming, and seconded by Fiore, to approve the 18 April 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Curriculum Proposals

Master of Arts in History, Public History Option (conversion of concentration to program) – Borish presented an overview of this curriculum proposal and answered questions.

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Bierlein Palmer, and seconded by Simon, to accept the proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

Note: It was discussed that for future program conversions and deletions, there is no need for a program representative to come to the GSC meeting.

GSC 24-25 Charges. Naugle reviewed the charges issued to the GSC for this academic year.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Zondag welcomed the council members.

Ex Officio Szabla also welcomed the members and indicated he was new in this role and was looking forward to working with the council.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Graduate College Dean Byrd-Jacobs reported on several issues, including an update on marketing efforts, graduate certificate growth, and other graduate issues of interest.

Curriculum Manager DeChano-Cook reported on recent concerns raised regarding prior learning assessments (PLA). An ad-hoc subcommittee, including DeChano-Cook, Cumming, Byrd-Jacobs, Bierlein Palmer, and Zondag, was formed to look into the issues.

Graduate Student Association Representative Embil, Jr., updated the council on recent and planned GSA activities

### **Unfinished Business**

Byrd Jacobs reported on an MOA that had been approved by GSC last Fall and signed by the president at the end of July 2013. This MOA modified the WMU policy to allow the use of the most recent grade for repeated graduate courses. It was noted by Cumming that since this did not make it into the 2024-25 catalog, it would not go into effect until Fall 2026. Bierlein Palmer questioned this since the MOA language indicated it became effective upon the president's signature. A decision was made to seek HLC input as to its potential effective date.

### **Announcements**

Bierlein Palmer reminded the group that the next meeting was Thursday, October 24, from 3-5 pm in Walwood Hall, while the November 21 meeting will be virtual, and the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting would be back in Walwood Hall.

### **Adjournment**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Garza Mitchell, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet in person on 24 October 2024.

### **Approval**

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 24 October 2024