

Graduate Studies Council

Minutes of 24 October 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 24 October 2024 in Walwood Hall, Bertha Davis Room 111W by Jennifer Fiore, vice chair.

Members Present: Upul Attanayake, Louann Bierlein Palmer, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Carrie Cumming, Jose Embil Jr., Jennifer Fiore, Regina Garza Mitchell, Lori Gray, Chansheng He, Cindy Linn, Jocelyn Medina, Larry Simon

Members Absent: Lisa DeChano-Cook, Dianna Sachs, Marcellis Zondag

Ex Officio: David Szabla

Guests: Malia Roberts, Associate Director, Graduate Enrollment Services, Graduate College

Quorum

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

Agenda

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

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Gray, seconded by Simon, to approve the 26 September 2024 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Due to Chair Zondag's absence, there was no chair report.

Ex Officio Szabla did not have any updates to report.

Reports of University Representatives

Byrd-Jacobs reported on recent graduate travel and research awards, professional development support via the "compass" website, recent graduate student survey, and other graduate issues of interest.

Due to DeChano-Cook's absence, there was no curriculum report.

Embil Jr. and Medina updated GSC on recent and planned GSA activities.

New Business

Curriculum Proposal – Master of Arts in Secondary Teaching Accelerated

[MOTION] It was moved by Garza Mitchell, and seconded by Linn, to accept the Master of Arts in Secondary Teaching Accelerated proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

The Prior Learning Ad-Hoc Committee met to review issues. The biggest concern is the lack of clarity surrounding the use of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) for transfer credits, which may require a revision to the current policy via a Memorandum of Action (MOA). Future work will continue.

Repeated Graduate Course Policy – Bierlein Palmer reported that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) was consulted about the effective date of the policy approved at the end of July, and it was determined that this policy could be implemented by the Registrar's Office even though it did not make it into the 2024-25 graduate catalog. Cumming noted that testing of the system was occurring, with a likely implementation date of the Spring 2025 semester.

Announcements

The GSC 21 November meeting will be on Webex, and the 12 December meeting will be in-person.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Linn, seconded by Cumming, to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet via Webex teleconferencing at 3 p.m. on 21 November 2024.

Approval

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 21 November 2024.