

Graduate Studies Council

Minutes of 27 February 2025

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 27 February 2025 in Walwood Hall Room 111W by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

Members Present: Upul Attanayake, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Carrie Cumming, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Maria Cristina Fava, Jennifer Fiore, Regina Garza Mitchell, Lori Gray, LuMarie Guth (substitute for Dianna Sachs), Chansheng He, Cindy Linn, Larry Simon, Marcellis Zondag

Members Absent: Louann Bierlein-Palmer, Jose Embil Jr., Jocelyn Medina

Ex Officio: David Szabla

Guest: None

Quorum

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

Agenda

The agenda was amended due to the absence of the scheduled guest, Jonathan Baker. DeChano-Cook will present the Clinical Psychology Graduate Program Proposal.

[MOTION] It was moved by DeChano-Cook, seconded by Simon, to accept the amended agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Garza Mitchell, seconded by Simon, to approve the 23 January 2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

DeChano-Cook presented the Clinical Psychology Graduate Program Proposal.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zondag, seconded by DeChano-Cook, to approve the proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

GSC was divided into two subcommittees to judge the Graduate Student Awards for Research and Teaching. The two subcommittees are:

1. Research Award – Fava/Attanayake/Lin/Garza Mitchell
2. Teaching Award – Zondag/Simon/Sachs/Bierlein-Palmer

Reports of Officers

Chair Zondag did not provide a report.

Ex Officio Szabla did not provide a report.

Reports of University Representatives

Graduate College Dean Byrd-Jacobs reported the following:

1. Thirty-nine research grant applications and 77 travel applications were submitted. Typically, 50% to 60% or more are funded. Last semester, there were 28 research grant applications compared to the current 39, and 61 travel grant applications compared to the current 77, and funded 70%.
2. The Graduate College is either still accepting applications or has just closed applications for our fellowships. Those will all be reviewed soon by either the faculty or the staff reviewers.

3. There were 21 nominations for the research and creative scholar award. There were 15 nominations for the teaching award. These are the highest awards that the university offers. This does go on their transcript. There will be a celebration of the all-university winners on 17 April from 5 to 7 p.m. Location will be announced later. Byrd-Jacobs extended an invitation to GSC.
4. The 18th research, innovation, and creative scholarship graduate poster day will be held on 10 April. Judging will occur between 9:30 and 11 a.m. Each poster needs two faculty judges. Please consider volunteering to judge. The award ceremony will begin after 11:30 a.m.
5. Every year, the Graduate College nominates students for regional or national awards. Morgan Scheiber, a Ph.D. candidate in English, for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS), the regional affiliate of graduate colleges, was nominated and will travel the first week of April to Indianapolis to receive her award at a conference. Donovan Vitale, the three-minute thesis competition winner, will participate in the regional competition. The Graduate College will cover expenses for both students to attend the meeting in Indianapolis to represent WMU. In the past five years, WMU has had three either first-place or honorable mention winners.

DeChano-Cook did not provide a report.

The Graduate Student Association representatives were not present to provide a report.

Unfinished Business

Proposed Language for Memorandum of Action (MOA) on Establishment of Credit Transfer Policy for Graduate Certificates:

A discussion was held with Byrd-Jacobs explaining the rationale for the need for the MOA. The revisions needed to the MOA were discussed. Byrd-Jacobs and chair Zondag agreed to make the revisions to the document based on the discussion held by GSC.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zondag, seconded by Dechano-Cook, to approve the MOA on Establishment of Credit Transfer Policy for Graduate Certificates with revisions and the removal of the candidacy section. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Simon, seconded by Garza Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next meet via Webex at 3 p.m. on 27 March 2025.

Approval

Submitted by Upul Attanayake, Substitute Secretary

Minutes approved on 27 March 2025