

**Graduate Studies Council**

Minutes of 27 March 2025

**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 27 March 2025 via Webex by Marcellis Zondag, chair.

**Members Present:** Upul Attanayake, Louann Bierlein-Palmer, Jose Embil Jr., Maria Cristina Fava (substitute for Jennifer Fiore), Regina Garza Mitchell, Lori Gray, Jocelyn Medina, Malia Roberts (substitute for Christine Byrd-Jacobs) Dianna Sachs, Larry Simon, Marcellis Zondag

**Members Absent:** Carrie Cumming, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Chansheng He, Cindy Linn

**Ex Officio:** David Szabla

**Guest:** None

**Quorum**

A quorum was present with 12 members in attendance of the eight needed to establish a quorum.

**Agenda**

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

**Minutes**

**[MOTION]** It was moved by Simon, seconded by Attanayake, to approve the 27 February 2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

Chair Zondag reported that Byrd-Jacobs will be presenting the recently adopted Memorandum of Action (MOA) to the Faculty Senate Executive Board, and then the MOA will be brought before the Faculty Senate's April meeting.

Ex Officio Szabla reported that members of the Faculty Senate Executive Board have been involved in interviews related to the next WMU president.

**Reports of University Representatives**

Roberts reported on several issues, including graduate student research and travel grants, and upcoming graduate student activities.

Embil, Jr. and Medina reported on several graduate student issues, including the upcoming elections of new board members and other and other events.

**New Business**

GSC members divided into two subcommittees and made final decisions regarding the all-university graduate student research and creative activities awards, and the all-university graduate student teaching awards. The following students were selected as the winners:

**All University Graduate Student Research and Creative Activities Award Winners**

**Doctoral level:**

- Ethan Coffin, Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences
- Vivek Sricharan Iddum, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Himanaga Rama Krishna Manoj Emani, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

- A Ranasinghe Midiyanselage Harsha Badraka Amunugama, Department of Civil and Construction Engineering

***Master's level:***

- Marie Humburger, Irving S. Gilmore School of Music
- Donovan Vitalte, Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences

**All University Graduate Student Teaching Award Winners**

***Doctoral Level***

- Enas Aref, Department of Industrial & Entrepreneurial Engineering Management
- Jamie Bienhoff, Department of English
- Bincy Binny, Department of Chemistry

***Master's Level***

- Zachary Zielinski, Irving S. Gilmore School of Music

**Unfinished Business**

None.

**Announcements**

GSC 24 April meeting will be in-person in Walwood Hall.

**Adjournment**

***[MOTION]*** It was moved by Simon, seconded by Linn, to adjourn the full GSC meeting at 3:40 p.m. to move into subcommittees. The motion carried unanimously. The Graduate Studies Council will next at 3 p.m. on 24 April 2025.

**Approval**

Submitted by Louann Bierlein Palmer, Secretary

Minutes approved on 23 April 2025.