
GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 27 January 2022

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 January 2022 virtually via Webex by Gene Freudenburg, chair.

Members Present: Dawn Anderson, Julie Apker, Michele Behr, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Carrie Cumming, Jennifer Fiore, Gene Freudenburg, Muralidhar Ghantasala, James Palmitessa, Candice Seifer, Nicolas Witschi, Marcellis Zondag

Members Absent: Rob Lyerla, Timothy Michael

Advisory Members Absent: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio Present: David Flanagan

Guest(s): Louann Bierlein Palmer, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology; Reza Mousavi, Business Information Systems; Malia Roberts, Interim Senior Director, Graduate College; Elena Wood, Associate Business Manager, Graduate College

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Ghantasala, seconded by Behr, to accept the agenda as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Apker, seconded by Cumming, to approve the 9 December 2021 minutes as provided. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Freudenburg reported that the Provost's attendance at a GSC meeting has been postponed. He presented data on graduate enrollment for the past five years, which was prepared by Wood. Chair Freudenburg stated that the Graduate College has agreed to prepare a report every September and present the data to GSC. As part of the new Strategic Resource Management budget model, the GA/DA data will not be available to the GSC, as it will not be distributed locally via the Graduate College but rather by each college individually.

Ex Officio Flanagan reported that MOA-19/07: Revision of the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs-Academic Policies Registration-Dropping or Adding Classes, is being discussed at the Undergraduate Studies Council. He also stated that COVID on campus is continuously monitored on a regular basis.

Reports of University Representatives

Dean Byrd-Jacobs reported that a welcome reception was organized jointly by GSA and the Graduate College for new graduate students who enrolled in spring 2022. Twenty students attended in-person and many of them were international. Byrd-Jacobs also reported that the 3-minute thesis competition is to be held on 11 February 2022. Applications for the competition are due 7 February 2022. She asked for GSC members to volunteer for judging. The winner will participate in the Midwest thesis competition. All University graduate teaching and research effectiveness award nominations are due by 21 February 2022. While GSC selects the students, the Graduate College will organize the celebration event. There will be 20 to 30 self-paying scholarships of \$2,500 each awarded for selected newly arriving graduate students in fall 2022. A ProQuest electronic supporting thesis system will be available for students next academic year.

Dean Martini reported that the WMUx website has been modified to make it easy for browsing. WMUx will be able to assist faculty with delivering High Flex courses. Martini also mentioned changes in the Federal Department of Regulations relating to tuition charges and registration for classes, which increases the University's liability if a student is enrolled by anyone other than the student themselves. Martini indicated that a new process of self-enrollment/registration of students will be put in place from summer II or fall 2022.

Seifer provided the Graduate Student Association report. She reiterated details of the graduate student welcome reception that was in collaboration with the Graduate College.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

Witschi provided an update on Curriculog. He stated that Curriculog will go live on 31 January 2022. The starting process will be for new course approvals, other than WMU Essential Studies courses. The Curriculog new program approval process is expected to be ready by spring 2023.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mousavi presented a summary of the Business Analytics certificate proposal and addressed questions.

[MOTION] It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Apker, to approve proposal GSC_HCOB21-16_BIS_New-Cert-Business-Analytics.Fall22. The motion carried unanimously.

Flanagan postponed the Curriculum Review Flowchart discussion.

Bierlein Palmer informed the council about the need to change the policy for the education degree specialist requirement. According to current program requirements, students need to complete a specialist project for six credit hours with continuous enrollment. Other universities (e.g., CMU, NMU) require a three-credit-hour thesis for this degree program. Bierlein Palmer proposed a Memorandum of Action be created to revise the requirement to a three-credit hour capstone project. Further discussion was necessary, so the topic was postponed to the next meeting.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Ghantasala, seconded by Apker, to adjourn the meeting at 5:03 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next Graduate Studies Council meeting will be 24 February 2022 at 3 p.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Muralidhar Ghantasala, secretary.

Minutes approved on 24 February 2022.