
GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL

Minutes of 21 April 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 21 March 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, Timothy Michael, James Palmitessa, Candice Seifer

Members Absent: Rob Lyerla, Nicolas Witschi, Marcellis Zondag

Advisory Members Present: Edwin Martini

Ex Officio Present: David Flanagan

Guest(s): Mary Anderson, Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology; Janet Hahn, Interdisciplinary Health Programs; Malia Roberts, Interim Senior Director, Graduate College

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Agenda

Two curriculum proposals were added to the agenda.

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

Election of Officers

Flanagan asked for nominations for officer positions. Anderson was nominated for chair. No other nominations came forward. Elections were postponed to the next meeting.

Minutes

One correction was made to note Lori Gray as present at the meeting.

[MOTION] It was moved by Ghantasala, seconded by Flanagan, to approve the 24 March 2022 minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports of Officers

Chair Freudenburg reported that the next meeting will be 26 May 2022. It has yet to be determined by the Executive Board if future meetings will be held in-person or virtually. The year-end report is being finalized.

Ex Officio Flanagan explained that there is a special meeting of the Faculty Senate scheduled for 21 April to conclude the unfinished business from the 7 April meeting.

Apker attended the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Martini joined the meeting at 4 p.m.

Reports of University Representatives

Graduate Dean Byrd-Jacobs reported that there were 45 graduate student travel and 25 graduate student research grant applications received for spring. Following the Graduate College review, 32 travel and 16 research grant awards were made. The Graduate College organized the Research Presentations Week from 11 to 14 of April. With 12 of the 22 presentations won cash awards. The All University Graduate Research and Creative Scholar and Teaching Effectiveness awardees will have photos taken with the Graduate College dean. Of the 160 applications received, the Graduate College is awarding 26 Welcome

Scholarships for incoming graduate students joining Fall 2022. The WMU three-minute thesis competition winner, Tabitha DiBacco, represented WMU at the Midwest Regional Competition and took first place. Students from 40 universities competed in the event. DiBacco will be participating in the National Three-Minute Thesis Competition in San Diego.

Associate Provost for WMUx Martini reported that WMUx and the Graduate College are expanding their offerings for faculty and graduate student instructors. The fall2022 Graduate Assistant training schedule will go online by mid-May. WMUx's summer 2022 professional development series is offering graduate students the option of taking a workshop to brush up on teaching skills and earning a certificate of completion or a signature designation for having a teaching portfolio that can appear on transcripts. So far, 464 students (181 Ph. Ds and 121 graduate students) signed up for the programs.

Seifer provided the Graduate Student Association report. GSA has elected new officers. The joint GSA and WAS mental health week offered activities and resources to promote mental health awareness across campus.

Reports of Council/Committee Standing Committees

None.

Unfinished Business

Chair Freudenburg reviewed the 2021-22 council charges. Charge 3: review of graduate faculty status was discussed in different meetings this year. It was determined that no changes were necessary for the current policy at this time. The GSC chair, vice chair, and secretary, in consultation with the Graduate College Dean, will finalize recommended GSC 2022-23 charges and will be included in the council's year-end report.

New Business

Anderson presented a summary of the GSC_CEHD1098_CECF_Other-Master-Accelerated-MA-CounselingPsychology curriculum proposals and addressed questions.

[MOTION] It was moved by Michael, seconded by Behr, to approve proposal GSC_CEHD1098. The motion carried unanimously.

Hahn presented a summary for the GSC_CHHS23-21R_SIHP_Change-Program-IntegrativeHolisticHealth curriculum proposals and addressed questions.

[MOTION] It was moved by Anderson, seconded by Michael, to approve proposal GSC_CHHS23-21R. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Ghantasala expressed concern with respect to the guidelines for the All-University Graduate Student Research and Creative Scholars Award. To ensure that one nomination per program for the department criterion is followed, Chair Freudenburg and Dean Christine Byrd-Jacobs will work together to modify the guidelines to bring further clarity to the guidelines for this concern.

Adjournment

[MOTION] It was moved by Ghantasala, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously. The next Graduate Studies Council meeting will be 26 May 2022 at 3 p.m. via Webex.

Approval

Submitted by Muralidhar Ghantasala, secretary.

Minutes approved on 26 May 2022.