

WMU Faculty Senate
Graduate Studies Council (GSC) Charges

Laura Teichert will serve as the Faculty Senate Executive Board representative/liaison.

In addition to the specific responsibilities listed in the Graduate Studies Council's role statement and the work of its standing committees if such exist, the Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the GSC to consider, as a committee of the whole or through the appropriate committee or task force, the following:

2026-27 Charges

1. Review, act, and vote on each graduate curriculum proposal that comes before GSC within 30 days and submit decisions to the WMU electronic curriculum system as well as include decisions in the council minutes.
2. In collaboration with Undergraduate Studies Council and Professional Concerns Committee, but under the direction of the Academic and Information Technology Council, review existing and emerging policy and provide best practices pertaining to integrity of academic assessment especially focused on changing technology and online education. Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.
3. In collaboration with the Undergraduate Studies Council examine best practices of peer institutions in order to create a Memorandum of Action recommending changes to the WMU grading scale, and establish an implementation plan.
4. In collaboration with the Campus Planning and Finance Council, examine the impact and develop best practices, of nonresidential tuition on graduate student recruitment and assistantships, and departmental budgets. Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.
5. Review and propose action, if necessary, regarding the Higher Learning Commission requirement of 5000 and 6000 level courses for graduate programs. Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.
6. Solicit, review, and award the All-University Graduate Student Research and Creative Scholar Awards, the All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Awards, and any other awards to promote excellence in graduate education at WMU.
7. Review the scope and description of the council's role statement and assess the effectiveness of the council's practices.

8. At the annual April GSC meeting, the council members must review the draft year-end report, to be submitted to the Faculty Senate office, by the council chair no later than May 30.
9. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as directed by the Faculty Senate Executive Board, members of the council, faculty, and/or academic administrators. Conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.

NOTE: The GSC will seek information from the Graduate College and related administrative offices to maintain communications with those offices on issues directly related to them. Council recommendations are to be submitted to the Executive Board in the form of a memorandum of action (MOA) on which the recommendation(s) is/are stated. Draft MOAs should be submitted using the [MOA](#) template.

REPORTING: The GSC chairperson shall provide a written report of the council's accomplishments and progress for the year; list the above charges noting each item's progress and current status; any other activities undertaken; and draft charges for the 2027-28 academic year, no later than May 30, 2027. Reports should be submitted using the [Year-End Report](#) template.