
GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
REVISED Minutes of 10 September 2026

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 10 September, via Webex by Janet Hahn, Faculty Senate President

Members Present: Stephanie Althoff, Upul Attanayake, Christine Byrd-Jacobs, Micky Carignano, Lisa DeChano-Cook, Jennifer Fiore, Michael Harnar, Cindy Linn, Meghann Meeusen, Larry Simon, Marcellis Zondag

Members Absent:

Advisory Members Present: Carrie Cumming

Ex Officio: Laura Teichert

Guest(s): Janet Hahn, Faculty Senate President, Sue Brodasky, Faculty Senate Administrator; Luis Jacobo Mejia, President, Graduate Student Association; Krithyna Fermin, Vice President, Graduate Student Association

Quorum

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

Agenda

[MOTION] It was moved by Teichert, seconded by Fiore, to accept the agenda as provided. The motion carried.

Minutes

[MOTION] It was moved by Linn, seconded by Simon, to approve the 23 April 2026 minutes as presented. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Leadership Training

President Hahn led the training with support of Brodasky. A question was raised regarding whether quorum, once established at the beginning of a meeting, remains in effect if attendance subsequently falls below the number required for quorum. It was clarified that quorum is lost when attendance falls below the required threshold and that quorum requirements must be maintained throughout the meeting for the committee to conduct business requiring action.

Officer Elections

[MOTION] It was moved by Simon, seconded by Linn, to elect Michael Harnar as Chair. With one abstention, the motion carried.

[MOTION] It was moved by Simon, seconded by Harnar, to elect Marcellis Zondag as Vice Chair. With one abstention, the motion carried.

[MOTION] It was moved by Zondag, seconded by Simon, to elect Jennifer Fiore as secretary. With one abstention, the motion carried.

Committee 2026-27 Charges

President Hahn charged the committee and gave an overview of the committee's actions should they have recommended changes. Questions were raised regarding the removal of the prior year's artificial intelligence charge. President Hahn clarified that the work has been incorporated into Charge #2. It was noted that the Graduate Studies Council had previously considered a broader syllabus statement addressing assessment of student writing and final products. President Hahn explained that the council may recommend revisions to its charges as its work progresses. Proposed revisions should be forwarded through the Executive Board Liaison Teichert for consideration by the Executive Board.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Chair Harnar adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m. The next GSC meeting will be held 24 September in Walwood Hall-Bertha Davis Room-111W.

Approval

Submitted by Sue Brodasky, attending recording secretary

Minutes were approved 24 September 2026.