

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council & Undergraduate Studies Council Charge to Review the Framework for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Program Planning Document</p>
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Preamble

In winter semester 2002, the administration introduced a document titled "Framework for Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Program Planning." The document had been introduced to the Faculty Senate and several of its councils as an informational item. However, neither the Senate nor its councils were asked to formally review or comment on the document and its necessity, feasibility, or potential effects.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils with the task of reviewing the program planning document and presenting a formal recommendation for acceptance, modification, or non-acceptance. The councils are advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report and/or recommendation to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

Graduate Studies Council & Undergraduate Studies Council Charge regarding Accelerated Master's Programs

Preamble

As undergraduate degree programs become more complex, an increasing number of programs are requiring more than four academic years for completion. Students are often required to attend classes in summer sessions, or enroll for a fifth year of instruction. In addition, many undergraduate students are interested in graduate courses that would enhance their undergraduate education. However, due to undergraduate classification, they are limited to 500-level courses, which many departments have eliminated. Although the University allows dual undergraduate and graduate enrollment at the senior level, a greater number of students may benefit if they were able to plan a program in which they could obtain both a bachelor's and a master's degree concurrently.

Concurrent degree programs have proven to enhance a student's education, while increasing opportunities for research and job placement. The advanced education in a concurrent degree program also has been proven to increase performance on state licensing exams, such as the CPA or state bar exams. The University also may benefit in enticing its top students to obtain their master's degrees and keeping them at the University for an additional year – a year they may have otherwise spent finishing their bachelor's degrees.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies Councils with the task of developing a recommendation regarding the establishment of accelerated master's degree programs. The councils are advised to consider, but not limit deliberations, to the following questions:

- What departments are best suited to establish concurrent programs?
- What would the minimum admission requirements be for the programs?
- What tuition rate would be applicable – undergraduate or graduate?
- What research opportunities are available for these programs?
- What are the potential employment benefits for students?

The councils also are advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 October 2003**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **November 2003** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council Charge regarding Diversity</p>
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Preamble

As the graduate student body at the University continues to grow, the need for an increasingly diverse student body parallels the growth. A diverse student body not only benefits the University and the students, but also society as a whole. Diversity initiatives may improve students' relationships on campus and positively affect their satisfaction with the University. When opportunities for interaction with diverse groups present themselves, they produce increases in understanding and decrease prejudicial attitudes. They also positively affect academic success. However, in light of the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the use of race in college admissions, WMU's diversity policies may need to be reviewed.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies Council with the task of reviewing the University's policies regarding diversity of the graduate student body and making a recommendation to leave as is or revise them. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council Charge regarding Graduate Certificate Programs</p>
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Preamble

Graduate certificate programs contribute to the mission of the University and enhance the education of matriculated graduate or professional students. They also provide a form of continuing education for professionals seeking to enhance their work or career. Currently, the University does not maintain guidelines for development and creation of new graduate certificate programs.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies Council with the task of developing guidelines and policies for the establishment of new graduate certificate programs. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council Charge regarding Graduate Student Annual Reviews</p>
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Preamble

In order to ensure students are making adequate progress, several institutions of higher education maintain an annual review of their graduate students – doctoral and master's. Although several programs at Western Michigan University may have incorporated similar reviews as part of their programs, the University as a whole does not have such a review system.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies Council with the task of determining if a University-wide policy for reviewing the progress of graduate students is necessary. If the council determines that such a policy is requisite, then the council also is charged with the development of a draft policy.

The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council Charge regarding Graduate Faculty Status</p>
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Preamble

“The graduate faculty is responsible for graduate education at Western Michigan University. Activities include teaching graduate courses, advising students within their graduate degree and certificate programs, serving on examination and thesis, project, and dissertation committees, directing theses, projects, and dissertations, and providing service to the Graduate Studies Council and its subcommittees, departmental graduate committees, and other University committees relating solely to graduate education.

University policies establish general criteria for appointment to the graduate faculty and academic units are free to develop more specific criteria that interpret the general criteria for their own purposes. When academic units have established such criteria, it is employed by the Graduate College in reviewing appointments. When no such statement exists, the Graduate College employs the general criteria (<http://www.wmich.edu/grad/gradfaculty/index.html>).”

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies Council with the task of reviewing the current graduate faculty status policies and procedures and recommending any necessary changes. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Studies Council Charge to Review the Permission to Take (PTG) Classes Policy</p>
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Preamble

The University's Permission to Take Classes (PTG) Policy allows students not enrolled in a graduate program to take a maximum of nine credit hours. However, according to the Graduate College, there have been occasions when students have been allowed to nearly complete a program before actually submitting an application. There also have been situations in which the student never applied to the program, yet was granted a degree.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate Studies Council with the task of reviewing the current PTG policy and recommending any necessary changes. The council is advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2004**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at the **October 2004** meeting.

<p style="text-align: center;">Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils Charge regarding University Honor Code</p>

Preamble

As faculty, we seek an environment in which members of a diverse student body can live together, interact, and learn from one another in ways that protect both personal freedom and community standards. One tool to help accomplish this might be the establishment of a University honor code, which would hold students accountable for their actions and words, both in the classroom and outside of it. By encouraging respectful conduct, we can create an atmosphere conducive to learning and growing.

Charge

The Faculty Senate Executive Board charges the Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Councils with the task of considering the potential effectiveness of an honor code. If the councils find that a code should be developed and implemented, then they should propose the text for the code. The councils are advised to include in its discussions any parties affected by or responsible for any recommendations for change or suggested implementation.

Report Date

Please submit your final report to the Faculty Senate Executive Board by **1 September 2006**, for presentation to the Faculty Senate at its **October 2006** meeting.