

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Minutes of 25 February 2010

Members present: Ikhlas Abdel-Qader, Michele Behr, Gary Bischof (for Suzanne Hedstrom) Louann Bierlein-Palmer, Amy Curtis, Bruce Ferrin, Leigh Ford, Michelle McWilliams (for Brandi Pritchett), Lewis Pyenson, William Rantz, Joel Raveloharimisy, David Smith, Mark Wheeler **Also present:** Marianne DiPierro and Virginia Bowlby, Graduate College

Council Chair Mark Wheeler called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Procedural Items

Acceptance of the Agenda

Ferrin moved to accept the agenda; Smith seconded. The agenda was accepted.

Approval of the Minutes of 17 December 2009

Council members proposed changes to the section of the 17 December minutes on doctoral residency requirements in order to improve the clarity of the discussion that was held. Palmer moved to accept the minutes as amended; Ferrin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Discussion/Action Items

Formation of Subcommittees for the University Graduate Student Teaching and Research Awards

Council members volunteered for one of two subcommittees for judging the Graduate Student Teaching and Research Awards. Award applications will be uploaded to a Web site by Graduate College staff, and subcommittee members will have passworded access to review applications. Subcommittees will meet at the March GSC meeting to discuss award applications.

Update on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan

Pyenson passed out copies of the final version of the plan. The previous draft was submitted in September and various Senate councils as well as other groups and departments sent in comments and suggestions. There were approximately 70 sets of comments received. Council members noted the part of the plan for the University to hire 25 faculty per year for 5 years. Strategy 3.4 regarding health programs and the medical school could have potential for development of other health related graduate programs. Some council members expressed disappointment that the final document does not give graduate students the same focus and emphasis as undergraduate students. However, the provost has indicated that the plan will be revised every year, so council members were reminded that there is ongoing opportunity for graduate student issues to be addressed. Council members were pleased to note that in the

final plan four major goals do pertain to graduate education. There was discussion of the issue of differential tuition for graduate students and how that might be implemented.

Update on the Rubric Award

Curtis, DiPierro, and David Reinhold, associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies, worked together to develop the Rubric Award. A panel of doctoral students met with each team with regard to their drafts. There are nine teams of two students who are participating in the award program. The top three teams will get a monetary award. Award winners will be announced at poster day / research day on April 9. The hope is that this will be an annual competition. Curtis would like to have suggestions from council members for a topic for the award for next year. Current suggestions are ethics, recruitment, or diversity.

Informational Items

Report of the Graduate Dean

Dean Pyenson reported that the third round of graduate student research and travel awards has been made. The committee made about 20 awards, and about 50% of applicants received awards. There will be another round of awards made in late spring. The application deadline for the Frostic Fellowship has been extended one more month. The Frostic Doctoral Fellowship awards up to \$4000 for any educational expense. The Graduate College is organizing a meeting for graduate advisors and has sent notices out. A number of workshops for graduate students are planned and will be presented.

Report of the Provost

No report.

Report of the Council Chair

Wheeler will be meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Board about the GSC proposal on the doctoral residency requirement.

Report of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee Chair

Raveloharamisy gave the report for GSAC as Pritchett was in Washington D.C. for legislative day for graduate students. The latest issue of the Hilltop Review has been published, and work is progressing for the spring issue to be published at the end of April. The "Late Night Snack" event was very successful. GSAC will be electing a new chairperson; nominations are currently being solicited.

Adjournment

Bierlein-Palmer moved to adjourn; Curtis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Michele Behr, Secretary