WMU Faculty Senate
Graduate Studies Council (GSC)
Charges for 2016-17

Carla Chase will serve as the Faculty Senate Executive Board representative on GSC

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

1. Review the scope and description of the council’s role statement and assess the effectiveness of the council’s practices. Address any continuing or outstanding issues or initiatives as directed by the Faculty Senate Executive Board.

2. From the viewpoint of faculty and graduate student “users,” review the effectiveness and efficiencies associated with university-wide required policies, practices, and forms related to graduate students, including:
   a. Conducting a survey of graduate students to assess any needed changes to relevant policies, practices and forms.
   b. Conducting a survey of graduate faculty to assess any needed changes to relevant policies, practices and forms.
   c. Investigating ways to engage faculty in recruitment and/or retention of graduate students with intentional focus on under-represented groups. Gathering information on best practices and ideas; providing opportunity for discussion.

3. Solicit, review, and award the All-University Graduate Student Research and Creative Scholar Awards, and the All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Awards, and other means to promote excellence in graduate education at WMU.

4. Review and align, as necessary, Higher Learning Commission (HLC) criteria for graduate faculty status.

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 report (see the template for preparing reports included in the Faculty Senate Council/Committee Chair Handbook). After review, the Executive Board may invite the council to initiate a memorandum of action (MOA) on which the recommendation(s) is/are stated. Any draft MOAs requested by the Executive Board should be submitted using the DRAFT MOA template included in the Faculty Senate Council/Committee Chair Handbook.

The GSC chairperson shall provide a written summary of the council’s 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 2017-18 academic year, no later than June 30, 2017.