WMU Faculty Senate
Graduate Studies Council (GSC)
Charges for 2020-21

David Flanagan 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 including but not limited to the All-University Graduate Student Research and Creative Scholars Award Subcommittee; the All-University Graduate Student Teaching Effectiveness Award Subcommittee; and the Transfer of Credit Subcommittee, 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:

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. To the extent possible, conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.

2. 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.

3. Complete review of graduate education policies, procedures, and forms to ensure they are supportive of student success.

4. Review current practices and develop recommendations regarding graduate University issued certificates.

5. In consultation with the Office of Service Learning, develop a process to designate service-learning status for graduate courses.

6. Review the Research and Creative Activities Day and determine if there are any issues that need to be addressed concerning the structure, implementation, responsibility for and ways to increase student involvement. To the extent possible, conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.

7. Review the use of standardized tests as they are used for acceptance and/or required elements of graduate applications. To the extent possible, conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.

8. Collaborate with the International Education Council and Undergraduate Studies Council to provide recommendations on how to best support faculty in the area of global learning (e.g. global classrooms, virtual study abroad, internationalized curriculum). To the extent possible, conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.

9. Identify and address policies, programs, and practices that will ensure considerations of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Faculty Senate and the University. To the extent possible, conclude the initiative by producing a report to the Executive Board or a Memorandum of Action.
10. Identify approaches and methods used to increase civility and respect in order to create a safe environment both within the Faculty Senate and at the University. To the extent possible, 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. Any draft MOAs requested by the Executive Board should be submitted using the MOA template.

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 2021-22 academic year, no later than June 30, 2021.