

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

GRADUATE STUDIES COUNCIL
Minutes of Thursday, 19 April 2018, 3 p.m.
Faculty Lounge, Bernhard Center

Members present: Michele Behr, Louann Bierlein Palmer, Carla Chase, Michael Duffy, Clifton Ealy, Jennifer Fiore, Tim Michael, Amaury Pineda, David Reinhold (designee for provost), Zahra Ameli Renani, Silvia Rossbach, Linda Shuster, Brian Young, and Zahir Quraeshi (substitute for Alhassan Mumuni)

Member absent: Christine Byrd-Jacobs

Advisory member absent: Edwin Martini

Guests: Kim Ballard, Director, WMU Writing Center; Eva Copija, Faculty Specialist II, Center for English Language and Culture for International Students; Thomas Marks, Director, CELCIS; Marianne Di Pierro, Graduate College; Richard Gershon, Faculty Senate President Elect

A. Procedural / Information Items

Council Chair Louann Bierlein Palmer called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Welcome

Those present were welcomed.

Acceptance of the Agenda

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda, and the motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of 22 March 2018

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of 22 March, and the motion passed with a vote of 12 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain.

An update was provided on the past graduate procedures and policies addressed in the December meeting. Three procedural changes completed by the Graduate College through catalog review are going into effect for fall 2018. Christine Byrd-Jacobs will inform graduate advisors about change to no longer require the Permission to Elect form so departments can create their own tracking system.

Other recommendations to be heard as memoranda of action by the Faculty Senate in the fall are: Continuous enrollment requirement, minimum credits for Masters in Route, and clarifying number of credits required for a specialist degree.

Greetings from Incoming Faculty Senate President – Richard Gershon
Gershon requested that GSC members consider charges for next year that would be the most impactful for graduate education.

B. Reports and Discussion

1. *Report of the Acting Graduate Dean – Christine Byrd-Jacobs*

A written update provided by Byrd-Jacobs regarding Graduate College events was read by Chair Bierlein Palmer. Research and Creative Activities Poster and Performance Day was held April 12. It included 31 posters and one performance. The Honors Convocation will be held April 26 when the All-University and departmental awards will be presented.

2. *Report of the Graduate Student Association*

Amaury Pineda provided updates on various activities of the GSA.

C. Information / Discussion Item

1. *Presentation on graduate student writing support by Kim Ballard, WMU Writing Center Director; Thomas Marks, CELCIS Director; and Marianne Di Pierro, Graduate College (in response to charge #5: "Review the level of support available to graduate students from WMU's Writing Center and Career and Employment Services and offer recommendations as appropriate").*

A presentation regarding support available for graduate level writing services was provided by the Writing Center, the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students, and the Graduate College, with discussion related to needs, challenges and ideas. An immediate idea is for all information regarding services currently sent to department chairs, to also be sent to graduate advisors (using the email list maintained by the Graduate College). A discussion on other information shared will be discussed by GSC members at a future meeting.

D. Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Jennifer Fiore
Secretary