



**GRADUATE FACULTY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2020**

**Meeting Location:** via Zoom

*GFGC Chair* Sofield called the meeting to order at 12:03 a.m., welcoming a total of 16 attendees (roster attached).

Minutes from 03-30-2020 were approved via email on 04-01-2020 and posted to the [GFGC website](#).

**ACTION ITEMS**

A **motion** to re-elect Ruth Sofield as Chair and Elizabeth Boland as Vice-chair (moved by Robert Mitchell and seconded) **passed** by unanimous consent.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Decision Package Update:** *Interim Dean* Dave Patrick reported that he submitted answers to UPRC's questions yesterday, and UPRC will vote on the ranking of Decision Packages soon.

**Grad School Dean/Vice Provost for RSP Interview Process:** *Interim Dean* Dave Patrick discussed his motives for considering the GS Dean/VP for RSP position. He hopes to partner with GFGC moving forward to help improve graduate education at Western.

**Update on Interim Grading Policy:** Graduate students enrolled in a 400-level course will be graded according to the undergraduate grading policy because the graduate grading policy that was voted on and approved by GFGC specified course level rather than student level. Approximately 40 grad students are enrolled in 400-level courses this spring that would be graded as P/NP unless the student requests the A-F grade.

**Program Reviews:** *Chair* Sofield affirmed that program reviews are suspended for this academic year. She will communicate this fact to programs that have not already been updated by program review committee members.

**Bylaws Amendments:** *Chair* Sofield led a discussion about some points in the Bylaws that need clarification, including term limits and WAGS outstanding thesis nominations.

**Spring Quarter Goals:** *Chair* Sofield asked for feedback regarding what GFGC's priorities should be during Spring Quarter. Ideas suggested include: GRE testing; update on Study Group; procedural details for forming committees and committee chairs; program review rescheduling; collecting ideas to support the new GS Dean; and refreshing the GFGC about staff roles and changes within the Grad School. Ruth will send out a Qualtrics survey to determine committee interests among current GFGC members.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL – ROSTER 2019-2020**

<b>VOTING ATTENDEES</b>			<b>NON-VOTING ATTENDEES</b>	
Craig Dunn	Management (GS)	P	<b>Ex Officio members</b>	
Clint Spiegel	Chemistry (CSE)	P	David Patrick, <i>Interim Dean, Graduate School</i>	P
Linda Keeler	Health and Human Development (CHSS)	--	Michael Barr, <i>Associate Dean, Graduate School</i>	P
Elizabeth Boland (Vice-Chair)	Health and Community Studies (WCE)	P	<b>Recorder</b>	
Ruth Sofield (Chair)	Environmental Science (HCE)	P	Dayna Patterson, <i>Graduate School</i>	P
Patty Bourne	Music (CFPA)	P	<b>Guests</b>	
Mark Staton	Finance & Mktg (CBE)	P	Megan Spiegel, <i>Graduate School</i>	P
Gabe Gossett	Library	P		
Chris Loar	English (CHSS)	--		
Kristi Lemm	Psychology (CHSS)	P		
<b>At Large</b>				
Tammi Laninga	Environmental Studies	P		
Robert Mitchell	Geology	P		
Wayne Landis	Environmental Science	P		
<b>Student members</b>				
Jasmine Balasa, <i>GSAC</i>		--		
Preston Smith, <i>GSAC</i>		--	<b>Voting attendees</b>	12
Patrick Czichas, <i>AS</i>		P	<b>Non-voting attendees</b>	4
José Cervantes-Aguilar, <i>AS</i>		--	<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>	16