University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall
December 10, 2010

MINUTES

Members Present: Cadwallader, Bell, Bleam, Cook, Drinkwater, Greenberg, Kalil, Mari-Beffa, Millar, Palta, Paulnock, Peterson, Ramanathan, Rindfleisch, Sacaridiz, Sharpless, Tejedo-Herrero, Weimer

Members Absent: Schauer, Shapiro, Sytsma

Guests: David Demets, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics; Jed Frees, School of Business; Amy Quan Barry, Creative Writing; Jane Schimmel, Institute for Clinical and Translational Research; Joan Schmit, School of Business; Christine Sorkness, School of Pharmacy

Staff: Sharon Dunwoody, Steve Hahn, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Kathleen Matthews-Risley, Jocelyn Miller, Linda Scholl

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

The minutes of November 12, 2010 were approved as written.

Information Items:

1. Dean Martin Cadwallader presented the topic of the PhD Minor Option Communication Plan, distributed an email from Michael Bell concerning the recent ruling, and provided information detailing “Robert’s Rules of Order” in reference to “Reconsideration”. It was decided to suspend the PhD Minor Option Communication Plan in anticipation of a future motion to reconsider at the next GFEC meeting in January 2011.

2. Associate Dean Terry Millar explained that the Master of Engineering (MEngr) was created as an umbrella degree in 1998 with an Oversight Committee. The GFEC requested that the Oversight Committee provide an update since their last program review (when the Committee was just beginning to play an active role). Jake Blanchard, chair of this Oversight Committee, described the MEngr degrees and the Oversight Committee’s role in making MEngr program decisions and annual reviews.
Approvals

1. David Demets, Jane Schimmel and Christine Sorkness presented a request to create a Graduate Certificate in Fundamentals of Clinical Research. Associate Dean Paulnock mentioned that a Capstone Certificate in Fundamentals of Clinical Research currently exists; the Graduate Certificate would allow graduate students to pursue the certificate program. The curriculum would be the same for capstone and graduate certificate students.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the request to create a Graduate Certificate in Fundamentals of Clinical Research.

2. Jed Frees and Joan Schmit presented a request to Suspend Admissions of MS in Actuarial Science as well as a request to Create a Capstone Certificate in Actuarial Science. Frees and Schmit request the MS degree to be suspended (for three years) because the program currently lacks resources to run properly. The Capstone Certificate is a way to offer focused training for post-baccalaureate students who are seeking to pass actuarial professional exams.

Action: Moved and seconded to suspend admissions for the MS in Actuarial Science for three years. The motion was approved unanimously.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the creation of a Capstone Certificate in Actuarial Science. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Amy Quan Barry presented a request for an exemption of 4-member MFA Committee Requirement for Creative Writing from four members to two members. Associate Dean Susan Cook explained that Creative Writing had been granted a temporary exemption from the 4-member MFA Committee requirement since last year. Barry detailed how the 4-member MFA committee request does not match what other top Creative Writing programs have in place (they also limit to two members), that there is the small number of Creative Writing core faculty available to serve on committees, and how a 4-member committee presents pedagogical difficulties for thesis completion.

Action: Moved and seconded to extend the Creative Writing exemption through the 2010-2011 academic year, during which the GFEC will want to see the L&S APC’s approval, as well as the English Department’s upcoming review, and after which GFEC will consider a permanent request. The motion was approved unanimously.

Program Review:

David Weimer, GFEC representative on the review, described the Economics department’s biggest issue was the experience for first-year students versus second-year students. First year students receive no funding and feel the pressure to pass the qualifying exams in order to be eligible for second-year funding. Second-year students have more funding opportunities, can begin concentrating on topic of
interest, and find their morale improves. The department’s admission policy is to accept a wide range and large pool of students and then allow for a high rate of attrition.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of the Economics Department, with a written recommendation that the department evaluate the integrity and perceived fairness of its qualifying exams as well as consider the differential rates of persistence with respect to gender, ethnicity, and international student status. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.