University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall
November 12, 2010

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Peterson, Sacaridiz, Schauer, Shapiro

Guests: Javier Nieto; Population Health Sciences, Marty Kanarek; Population Health Sciences, Hal Skinner; Population Health Sciences

Staff: Judy Bauman, Eileen Callahan, Sharon Dunwoody, Alissa Ewer, 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 the October 8, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

Information Items:

Dean Martin Cadwallader mentioned future intentions to present and discuss the NRC report.

Discussion Items:

1. Senior Associate Dean Sharon Dunwoody gave a quick overview of the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s PhD minor requirement. She provided data from the PhD student exit survey, the informal survey of graduate programs, the current breakdown of minors across campus, the history of programs with exceptions to the PhD minor requirement, and the existence of PhD minors on other campuses. The following motion was introduced:

   Departments and other units that supervise doctoral programs may opt out or opt in of the Ph. D. Minor Requirements by making a request to the Graduate School. The request must be based on a majority vote by the relevant executive committee. Units that have opted out may subsequently opt in by a request to the Graduate School that exempts currently enrolled students.
Action:  After discussion, a new motion to table the original motion until colleges and departments had an opportunity to discuss the issue. Motion was seconded. The motion did not pass: seven in favor, nine against.

After discussion, original motion was amended to:

Departments and other units that supervise doctoral programs may opt out of or into the Ph. D. Minor Requirements by making a request to the Graduate School. The request must be based on a majority vote by the relevant executive committee. Units that have opted out may subsequently opt in by a request to the Graduate School that exempts currently enrolled students. Departments and other units that wish to opt out must fill out a template indicating the following: the rationale behind their decision, the impact (if any) to overall program requirements, and how they will ensure students still interested in a Ph.D. minor will have the ability to pursue it.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve amended motion. The motion passed as amended: nine in favor, seven against.

2. Dean Martin Cadwallader detailed the level of financial support pledged to the Graduate School from WARF and UW Foundation. He opened discussion asking for input regarding allocation of these funds. Discussion centered on first-year funding versus funding later in a student’s career, the level of financial support allocated to Tech Transfer, and allocation of funds via peer-review competitive environments.

Program Review

Jan Greenberg commented that this review covered only the MS and PhD in Curriculum and Instruction and that a review of the other graduate programs in the department (MA in Education and Mathematics and MS in Science Education) is needed. Aric Rindfleisch, GFEC representative on the External Review Committee, described the graduate programs as successful with a chance of problems on the horizon. The external review committee had the following recommendations: possible program consolidation, upgrade the department website, greater structure and transparency in department decisions, and an increase in student diversity.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of Curriculum and Instruction with the recommendation to apply attention to the External Review Committee’s above counsel and the need to still review the other graduate programs in the department. The motion was approved unanimously.
Requests for Approval

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock presented the request for permission to plan MS/PhD majors in Epidemiology and introduced three department representatives from Population Health Sciences: Javier Nieto, Marty Kanarek and Hal Skinner. Nieto, Kanarek and Skinner stressed the need for an Epidemiology degree separate from the Population Health degree in order to remain competitive with other institutions and to meet the need for epidemiologists in the workforce.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve permission to plan MS/PhD majors in Epidemiology. The motion was unanimous but for one technical abstention.

2. Associate Dean Jan Greenberg introduced the request to discontinue the Certificate in Teaching and Learning Scholarship (TALS) in Higher Education. No students have completed the certificate since 2002.

Action: Moved and seconded to discontinue the Certificate in Teaching and Learning Scholarship (TALS) in Higher Education. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Committee was adjourned at 3:25 pm.