University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall
February 11, 2011

MINUTES

Members Present: Cadwallader, Bell, Blem, Cook, Crone, Drinkwater, Greenberg, Kalil, Mari-Beffa, Palta, Paulnock, Peterson, Ramanathan, Rindfleisch, Shapiro, Sharpless, Systma, Tejedo-Herrero, Weimer

Members Absent: Sacaridiz, Schauer

Guests: Gilles Bousquet, Division of International Studies; Cynthia Williams, Division of International Studies; Guido Podesta, Division of International Studies

Staff: Judy Bauman, Eileen Callahan, Sharon Dunwoody, Amy Fruchtman, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Kathleen Matthews-Risley, Dorothy Sanchez, Linda Scholl

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm.

The minutes of January 28, 2011 were approved as written.

Program Review:

John Sharpless presented the Institutional (10-year) Review of the Political Science program. It was noted that the previous review was sharply critical of the graduate program. However, in large part due to a series of reforms initiated in 2002, the program has had success in several areas such as improved GRE scores, increased focus on job placement, excellent morale, good advising/mentoring, improved methodological training, and the engagement of its alumni. Concerns in the recent review included the emphasis on teaching assistantships (some with 4-5 section preps) being the main source of graduate funding and minority recruitment rates. Sharpless informed the GFEC that steps were being taken to address these issues.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of the Political Science department. The motion was approved unanimously, with one technical abstention.

Discussion Items:

1. Dean Gilles Bousquet presented further information about current and future plans for international
collaborations as a follow-up to the January 28, 2011 GFEC discussion topic: Guidelines for Academic Program Collaborations with International Universities. Issues discussed included being strategic with collaborative choices such as with China, India, Brazil (and later the continent of Africa) as well as the current status of resources available for these initiatives.

2. Eileen Callahan delivered part two of an overview of the National Research Council’s recent survey of U.S. doctoral programs. Callahan presented information which traits were common among the higher and lower ranked programs at the University of Wisconsin. For example, most of the higher ranked programs were large with highly-productive faculty that provided many student support activities. Programs that ranked poorly had longer times to degree. Discussion touched on how despite the flaws of the study, that the variables explored by the NRC may be worthy of inclusion in program review.

3. Interim Senior Associate Dean Sharon Dunwoody and Michael Bell initiated conversation about the ways the University of Wisconsin-Madison currently offers breadth in doctoral training. It was agreed that the policy change regarding the PhD minor requirement will be communicated soon and that within that communication it will be noted that despite the removal of the PhD minor requirement that breadth in doctoral training will continue to be a component of program review.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 pm.