University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall
January 12, 2018

MINUTES


Members Absent: Lara Collier, Alex Dressler, Steffen Lempp, Christopher Livanos, Christa Olson, Parmesh Ramanathan, Monica Turner, Earlise Ward

Guests: Barbara Duerst, Greg Downey, Elaine Klein, Jocelyn Milner, Lisa Naughton, Andrea Poehling, Lauren Ritters, Fernando Tejedo-Herrera

Staff: Judy Bauman, Katie Block, Eileen Callahan, Meghan Chua, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, Michelle Holland, LaRuth McAfee, Emily Reynolds

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order. Since the committee did not have quorum at the start, Dean Karpus proposed moving forward with the presentations and delaying voting. The committee agreed.

Dean Karpus announced Associate Professor Alex Dressler as a new member of the GFEC.

Approvals:

1. Dean Karpus introduced Policy and Planning Analyst Andrea Poehling from the SMPH Dean’s Office and Faculty Associate Barbara Duerst from the Department of Population Health Sciences, who presented a request to suspend admissions to the Capstone Certificate in Leadership for Population Health Improvement effective Fall 2018 and a request to discontinue it effective Fall 2019. The certificate has consistent low enrollment and can no longer be supported by the department, which has already informally stopped admitting students. There are three students currently in the certificate and they have been notified they must finish by Fall 2019 to receive the certificate; they are on track to finish their coursework by then.

2. Dean Karpus introduced Professor Lauren Ritters from the Department of Integrative Biology, who presented a request to discontinue the Zoology M.A. effective Fall 2018. The M.A. has no enrollments or awards; all students pursuing master’s level-work in Zoology are in the M.S.

3. Dean Karpus introduced Professor and Chair Lisa Naughton from the Department of Geography, who introduced a request to suspend admissions to the Capstone Certificate in Geographic Information Systems effective Fall 2018 as well as a request to discontinue it effective Spring 2020. This is a follow-up from the November 2017 GFEC approval to create a new named option and two new capstones in geographic information systems-related areas. Students currently in this capstone certificate will need
to complete the certificate by Fall 2019 or be moved to either one of the new capstone certificates or the new named option.

4. Dean Karpus introduced Professor Kristin Eschenfelder, who introduced a request to approve a new Capstone Certificate in Data Analytics for Decision Making from the Information School effective Spring 2019. The staff supporting this certificate is already in place. The certificate is coordinated with current offerings from the Department of Statistics to ensure there is no competition for students. The certificate has participation from the Department of Communication Arts and Wisconsin School of Business. Associate Dean Martin pointed out that currently the proposal language allows students to use credits taken at other institutions toward the certificate, but this is not allowed by UW-Madison policy. The implementation form for the certificate will be amended to reflect this.

Program Reviews and Updates:

5. Former GFEC Member Fernando Tejedo-Herrera introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.A./Ph.D./Specialist Certificate/Doctoral Minor in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA). Tejedo-Herrera noted strengths of the program, including high national rankings, good representation of underrepresented minority students, strong mentoring for students, support for professional development, high rates of career placement of graduate students into relevant fields and a thorough up-to-date student handbook. Tejedo-Herrera also discussed review committee recommendations, including discussing the future of the Specialist Certificate, which is a low-award degree; developing an annual department-wide evaluation of students in line with institutional assessment efforts; exposing graduate students to possible resources available in the Graduate School including the Individual Development Plan (IDP); developing the degree specializations into formal named options; and enhancing interaction between full-time and professional students. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and recommends it engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

Dean Karpus announced to the committee that as two additional members had arrived, the meeting now had quorum and voting on approvals could be conducted. Recently arrived members were apprised of summaries of the presentations on approvals.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.A./Ph.D./Specialist Certificate/Doctoral Minor in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. GFEC Member Nicole Perna introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology. Perna noted the strengths of the program include a dedicated director and coordinator highly valued by students, strong support for diversity recruiting, demanding curriculum that is clear and appreciated by students, diverse post-degree career opportunities, excellent alumni relations networking and professional development opportunities and strong junior faculty recruitment and productivity. Perna noted review committee recommendations, including updating the graduate handbook, strategizing a backup plan in the event of a T32 grant non-renewal, addressing concerns about degree completion and time to degree, formalizing trainer recruitment processes, addressing uneven TA/preceptor workloads and the student-reported curriculum gap in risk assessment. Some issues that the committee brought up that the program has since addressed are developing a leadership transition plan and lightening the coordinator workload. The
committee recommended the continuation of the doctoral minor. Associate Dean Martin has followed up with the program regarding their students teaching without receiving course credit or having T.A. appointments and will continue to work with the program on this issue. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and recommends it engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. GFEC Member Caroline Alexander introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Medical Physics. Alexander noted the strengths of the program include a strong reputation for scholarly activities and innovation, exceptional career placement, good representation of students in department decision-making, and active efforts to recruit and matriculate underrepresented minority and women students. Alexander noted enrollment levels are consistent with plans, program resources and career outcomes; that students have clear and simple access to information, especially the choice of CAMPEP (Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs) accreditation; and that the CAMPEP review includes continuous assessment metrics. Alexander discussed the review committee recommendations, which included balancing evolving coursework to accommodate specializations with fundamentals, protecting time for clinical faculty to teach and developing financial strategies to overcome flat-line funding from federal and local sources. The review committee also noted that the Doctoral Minor is awarded 1–3 times a year and is supported at the request of other programs. The review committee recommended continuation of the doctoral minor. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and recommends it engage in efforts to address the review committee’s suggestions.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Medical Physics. The motion was passed unanimously.

The minutes of December 1, 2017, were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to suspend admissions to the Capstone Certificate in Leadership for Population Health Improvement effective Fall 2018. The motion was passed with two abstentions.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to discontinue the Capstone Certificate in Leadership for Population Health Improvement effective Fall 2019. The motion was passed with two abstentions.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to discontinue the Zoology M.A. effective Fall 2018. The motion was passed with two abstentions.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to suspend admissions to the Capstone Certificate in Geographic Information Systems effective Fall 2018. The motion was passed with two abstentions.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to discontinue the Capstone Certificate in Geographic Information Systems effective Spring 2020. The motion was passed with two abstentions.
Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the creation of the Capstone Certificate in Data Analytics for Decision Making effective Spring 2019. The motion was passed with three abstentions.

Adjournment:
Motion: Moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.