University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 260 Bascom Hall
April 13, 2018

MINUTES

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Alex Dressler, Michael Graham, Yu Hen Hu, William Karpus, Steffen Lempp, Lisa Martin, Christa Olson, Nicole Perna, John Pfotenhauer, Parmesh Ramanathan, Tracy Schroepfer, Steph Tai, Monica Turner, Earlise Ward

Members Absent: Lara Collier, Kristin Eschenfelder, Leslie Smith III

Guests: Monika Chavez, Max Collier, Greg Downey, Julie Karpelenia, Sarah Kuba, Pete Miller, Art Rainwater, Patrick Sheehan, Steve Smith

Staff: Judy Bauman, Meghan Chua, Alissa Ewer, Kelly Haslam, Michelle Holland, Peter Kinsley, LaRuth McAfee, Emily Reynolds

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of March 9, 2018, were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Information Item
1. Dean Karpus introduced Office of Human Resources Director of Talent Acquisition and Retention Patrick Sheehan and Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (OVCRGE) Assistant Vice Chancellor Julie Karpelenia, who presented an update from the Graduate Assistant Policies & Procedures (GAPP) Workgroup. The goal of the committee was to transition the language from the former Teaching Assistant Association (TAA) contract into easily-accessible policies for current students.

Approval:

2. Dean Karpus introduced Professor Pete Miller and Clinical Professor Art Rainwater, who presented a request from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis to approve a new non-pooled named option “Wisconsin Idea Principal Preparation Program” in the MS in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. The new named option would be offered in part at a distance in Green Bay to meet the needs of the area for producing K-12 education leaders. The program is 14 months in length and would allow graduates to pursue certification as principals or superintendents. This program would utilize a $500,000 allocation in the state budget to support a forgivable loan program for school leaders.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the named option “Wisconsin Idea Principal Preparation Program” in the MS in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. The motion passed unanimously.

Program Reviews and Updates:
3. Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan presented an update from the graduate programs in Agronomy following their institutional program review. The department will require an agronomy seminar for all of their students as part of efforts to build community and forge an identity for Agronomy students.

4. Professor Monika Chavez introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the MA/PhD in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies. The GFEC representative assigned to the review, Patricia Rosenmeyer, is no longer at UW–Madison; Chavez served as the chair of the program review committee. Chavez noted strengths of the program include historically high placement rates into the academic community and a good national reputation. Chavez also noted that challenges to the program include the struggle of being an interdisciplinary program, that they continue to work through their separation from Theatre & Drama with a new governance structure and students who perceive a loss of identity and confusion about their place in the Department of English. Chavez discussed review committee recommendations, including improving the sense of community among ITS graduate students, expanding their online presence and connecting with alumni to support recruiting and career placement, creating a program-specific subject listing for classes (currently the committee notes that course offerings are unpredictable), and making sure the new governance structure is clear and organized while involving a greater number of faculty. Dean Karpus noted the program has low numbers of domestic targeted minority students enrolled, long time-to-degree, and low completion rates; the GFEC would like a response from the program on these issues. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and recommends it develop actionable plans to address the review committee’s concerns.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the MA/PhD in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies. The motion passed unanimously.

5. GFEC Member Christa Olson presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the MS/Doctoral Minor in Life Sciences Communication. Olson noted this is a strong program with significant faculty investment; other strengths include engaged and well-supported students with a strong sense of community, good career outcomes and placements into PhD programs, loyal and involved alumni, and nationally-renowned faculty. Olson also discussed the review committee recommendations, which included better recruitment of targeted domestic minority students and better grievance and disciplinary procedures documented in the graduate program handbook. The program is also greatly interested in retaining their doctoral minor to help bench scientists on campus develop communications skills, and they believe they have several students in the pipeline. 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 MS/Doctoral Minor in Life Sciences Communication. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion:**

6. Graduate School Policy and Planning Analyst Peter Kinsley presented on the Graduate School Explorer, a new data tool. Among other uses, GFEC members should refer to the Graduate School Explorer during program review committee work.
Policy Approval:

7. Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan introduced a request to approve a new policy on Annual Assessment and Feedback (AAF) on Progress Towards Degree. By the end of the Spring 2019 semester, all doctoral programs must develop a procedure for providing (approximately) annual assessment and feedback to doctoral students on their progress towards degree. Effective in the Fall 2019 semester, all programs must implement their procedures. The GFEC expressed a need to reexamine the actual problem this policy would be trying to address and come up with solutions that meet those challenges. The GFEC also wanted to spend more time revising the policy language.

Motion: Moved and seconded to lay on the table consideration of the Graduate School policy on Annual Assessment and Feedback (AAF). The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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