University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall
December 16, 2011

MINUTES

Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Michael Bell, Susan Cook, Wendy Crone, Norman Drinkwater, Jan Greenberg, Ron Kalil, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Donna Paulnock, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, Parmeswaran Ramanathan, Larry Shapiro, John Sharpless, Kenneth Sytsma, Susan Thibeault, David Weimer

Members Absent: Paul Sacaridiz, James Schauer, Kevin Shinners, Marc Silberman

Guests: Jocelyn Milner, Javier Nieto, Mary Schneider, Brad Singer, Wendy Way, Shep Zeldin

Staff: Eileen Callahan, Alissa Ewer, Kelly Haslam, Maya Holtzman, Daniel Howard, Jennifer Martin, Kathleen Matthews-Risley, Linda Scholl

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

The minutes of November 11, 2011 were approved as written.

Information Item / Status Update:

Associate Dean Susan Cook reintroduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the MS/PhD in Linguistics, approved at the April 9, 2010 GFEC meeting. The GFEC approved the Review and asked that Linguistics create a committee to discuss the organization and future of their field. Cook reported that this committee fulfilled its charge and that they submitted a report to the Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences in June 2011.

Program Review:

Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Norman Drinkwater introduced the Institution (10-Year) Review of the MS/PhD in Plant Pathology. Addressed were the program’s strengths, including its strong national reputation, a significant outreach mission through UW-Extension, and a positive department climate. The GFEC also learned of a mycologist faculty vacancy (though the committee was pleased to hear that the vacancy was recently filled) and of the program’s need for more professional development for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. The review committee commends the program on its excellence and asks it explore the review committee’s recommendations.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of the MS and PhD programs in Plant Pathology. The motion was passed unanimously.
Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Brad Singer from Geoscience presented the request to consolidate and rename the graduate programs in the department of Geoscience. The MS and PhD programs in Geophysics and Geology will consolidate and be renamed “Geoscience.” Geophysics and Geology currently function more like options of the same program than separate programs; combining the two will more accurately represent the program’s true size, breadth and nature, and will in turn garner more favorable national rankings.

   Action: Moved and seconded to approve the consolidation of the MS and PhD programs in Geophysics and Geology, and to rename the combined program “Geoscience.” The motion was passed unanimously, with one abstention.

2. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Javier Nieto Department Chair of Population Health Sciences introduced the request to approve authorization to implement the MS and PhD programs in Epidemiology in the School of Medicine and Public Health. Nieto described the shortage of and need for epidemiologists in the state, informed the GFEC that 18 of the 23 faculty set to teach the core courses have expertise specifically in epidemiology, and noted that the School of Medicine and Public Health considers these programs in Epidemiology necessary to the success of the school.

   Action: Moved and seconded to approve the authorization to implement the MS and PhD programs in Epidemiology. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Associate Dean Susan Cook introduced the request to discontinue the Masters of Science in Therapeutic Science. Mary Schneider, from the School of Education, informed the GFEC of the program’s low-enrollment, and that there will still be post-baccalaureate programs in the School of Education for those who wish to continue their education in fields related to the therapeutic sciences.

   Action: Moved and seconded to approve the request to discontinue the Master of Science in Therapeutic Science. The motion was passed unanimously, with one abstention.

4. Dean Martin Cadwallader, Associate Dean Susan Cook, and School of Human Ecology representatives Wendy Way and Shep Zeldin introduced the request to create a named option in the Human Ecology PhD program, titled “Civil Society and Community Research.” The named option would afford PhD students in Human Ecology a more clear application process, a more specific identity within their program, and the notation “Human Ecology: Civil Society and Community Research” on their transcript.

   Action: Moved and seconded to approve the request to create a named option in the Human Ecology PhD program, titled “Civil Society and Community Research.” The motion was passed unanimously, with three abstentions.