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

MINUTES

Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Michael Bell, Wendy Crone, Norman Drinkwater, Jan Greenberg, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Donna Paulnock, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, John Sharpless, Kevin Shinners, Marc Silberman, Kenneth Sytsma, David Weimer

Members Absent: Susan Cook, Ron Kalil, Parameswaran Ramanathan, Paul Sacaridiz, James Schauer, Larry Shapiro, Susan Thibeault

Guests: Jocelyn Milner

Staff: Eileen Callahan, Alissa Ewer, Kelly Haslam, Jennifer Martin, Dorothy Sanchez, Linda Scholl, Mary Butler Stone

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

The minutes of October 14, 2011 were approved as written.

Information Items/Status Updates:

1. Dean Martin Cadwallader led discussion on the following Graduate Education items:
   - Interim Associate Dean Jan Greenberg informed the GFEC that admissions have been suspended for the School Counseling track in the Masters of Science in Counseling, effective Summer 2011.
   - Graduate Academic Services Coordinator Alissa Ewer informed that graduate students may serve on graduate program admission committees with the following caveats: the students must be FERPA trained and the students may only have a non-voting, advisory role within the admission committee.
   - Graduate Fellowships Director Linda Scholl noted that Advanced Opportunity Fellowships have new eligibility guidelines; now all Hispanic groups will be AOF eligible. In the past, eligibility among Latino groups was limited to Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a, Puerto Rican and Cuban.

2. Interim Associate Dean Wendy Crone presented the Statistics MS/PhD program review follow-up update, which responded to the April 2011 review committee’s findings of cultural division and uneven teaching loads for faculty. The program is attending to these issues, and the GFEC is satisfied with their follow-up memo.
3. Assistant Dean Kelly Haslam gave an overview of the new, online resources for GFEC members, found at http://go.wisc.edu/4000q2. Included is a list of current GFEC members, GFEC Agendas and Minutes from 2010-2012 and GFEC Member Resources. GFEC members and University colleagues may visit for information about GFEC, Program Review and Approval resources, Graduate Education Policies and Announcements, Data Resources and Tools, and a succinct description of the University Academic Planning Council’s relation to the GFEC.

4. Assistant Dean Kelly Haslam presented the updated Self-Study and Program Review Guidelines. Highlights of the changes to the guidelines are: inclusion of professional/practice programs, inclusion of NRC variables, an increased emphasis on breadth and student learning outcomes, and updated guidelines for supplementary reviews. Dean Cadwallader asked GFEC members to keep these guidelines in mind for future program reviews.

Approval:

Interim Associate Dean Jan Greenberg introduced the request to approve a graduate certificate for Transdisciplinary Study of Visual Cultures. Greenberg noted that a PhD minor of the same name was approved by GFEC last year; this graduate certificate is intended to offer a Transdisciplinary Study of Visual Culture program to graduate students who are not enrolled in a doctoral program.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to approve the request to approve a Graduate Certificate in Transdisciplinary Study of Visual Cultures. Motion approved unanimously.

Program Review:

Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Kenneth Sytsma introduced the Institutional (10-year) Review of the MS/PhD in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics. Addressed were the program’s high NRC rankings and good international visibility, but also admissions done primarily by individual faculty in lieu of an admissions committee and a restrictively low level of administrative support for the program. The review committee commends the program on its excellence and recommends that, in order to maintain their high standards of success, they consider ways to provide for more dedicated administrative support and other best practices given their interdepartmental structure.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to accept the review of the Planting Breeding and Plant Genetics MS PhD program, with a recommendation the program address the review committee’s concerns in a written memo to GFEC.

Discussion Item:

Eileen Callahan, Director of Graduate Student Professional Development, led a discussion on graduate student learning outcomes. The discussion highlighted the Graduate School’s growing interest in including learning outcomes in both program reviews and continual assessment measures within programs. By developing a set of learning outcomes at both program and institutional levels, the University of Wisconsin-Madison hopes to ensure a continuous process of program improvement, clear
expectations and goals for students, and a set of common but varied skills expected from graduating students. The Graduate School encourages conversation around learning outcomes to continue and grow as programs develop more ways to document and provide evidence of learning and teaching effectiveness.