University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee  
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall  
February 10, 2012  

MINUTES  

Members Present:  
Martin Cadwallader, Steve Ackerman, Susan Cook, Ron Kalil, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Donna Paulnock, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, Parameswaran Ramanathan, Paul Sacaridiz, John Sharpless, Kevin Shinners, Marc Silberman, Kenneth Sytsma, Susan Thibeault, David Weimer  

Members Absent:  
Michael Bell, Norman Drinkwater, Jan Greenberg, James Schauer, Larry Shapiro  

Guests:  
Thomas Dale  

Staff:  
Judy Bauman, Eileen Callahan, Alissa Ewer, Steve Hahn, Kelly Haslam, Jennifer Martin, Mary Butler Ravneberg, Dorothy Sanchez, Linda Scholl  

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm.  

The minutes of December 16, 2011 were approved as written.  

Discussion Item:  

Dean Martin Cadwallader introduced a discussion on graduate student learning outcomes, noting that the GFEC will be considering case studies of programs that are working to provide graduate student learning assessment measures. Thomas Dale from Art History, representing the Arts and Humanities division, described his department’s use of a “portfolio approach” in assessing academic progress. In the Art History graduate programs, students are asked to assemble portfolios of their scholarly output at the end of their first year; advisors then use the portfolios to provide constructive feedback to the students. Art History has found that providing this framework for student learning assessment has resulted in better academic guidance and a greater collective responsibility among the students, advisors and committee members.  

Information Item:  

1. Dean Martin Cadwallader announced the following appointments and searches:  
   - Wendy Crone has been named the Associate Dean for Graduate Education  
   - Steve Ackerman has been named the Interim Associate Dean of Physical Sciences  
   - The search for the permanent Associate Dean of Physical Sciences position is underway  
   - The search for the permanent Associate Dean of Social Studies position is underway  
   - The search for the Associate Dean of Research Policy position is underway
2. Associate Dean Susan Cook announced that the Graduate School now offers graduating doctoral students the option to deposit their dissertations electronically; the Graduate School assisted with the first electronic dissertation deposit last semester.

3. Mary Butler Ravneberg, from the Office of Academic Assessment and Funding, announced the new look for the online graduate program profiles. The profiles are available on the web to help prospective students, graduate coordinators, GFEC members, and the University community at large to better interpret and use this program-specific data.

4. Alissa Ewer, from the Office of Admissions and Academic Services, informed the GFEC of the October 2011 prospective graduate student online chats hosted by admissions and funding experts from the Graduate School. Ewer and the A&AS office will invite and support graduate programs in hosting their own online chats, which have the potential to increase the yield between offers and acceptances.

Program Reviews:

1. Interim Associate Dean Steve Ackerman introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the newly merged Geoscience MS/PhD program. (The MS and PhD programs in Geophysics and Geology were consolidated and renamed “Geoscience”, approved at the December 16, 2012 GFEC meeting.) Addressed in the Geoscience review were the program’s strengths, including its strong national ranking, good external funding, high morale among graduate students and the department’s significantly successful asset, the Geology Museum. The GFEC also learned of issues arising from perceived different degree requirements across subgroups within the program, the rigid funding rules that result in unfunded MS students after two years, and some questions on how the old Geophysics and Geology PhD minors now fit within the context of the merged program. A strategic plan that is in development may address some of these issues.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of the MS and PhD programs in Geoscience, with a request that the program address the review committee’s issues and recommendations in a written response to GFEC. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Associate Dean Susan Cook and GFEC member Pamela Potter introduced the Joint (5-Year) Review of the MA in Gender and Women’s Studies. The review committee found the program to be flexible, responsive to students’ needs and sincere in its continual evaluation of its features as it continues as a permanent program. Short-term goals of the program highlight improving graduate student funding (including a perceived need for more AOF funding) and providing a “course release” for the Director of Graduate Studies; long-term goals include developing a doctoral degree in the field and developing joint MAs with other programs.
Action: Moved and seconded that by accepting the review and the report, the GFEC endorses the review committee’s recommendation to continue the program. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock introduced the Joint (5-Year) Review of the Doctor of Audiology (AuD). The review committee was asked to make a recommendation as to whether the AuD program should be administered as a program in the Graduate School, rather than as a program in the College of Letters and Science. The review committee supports this recommendation and commends the program on its excellence. The review also concluded that the program has met the goals and objectives established at its inception, and that it is a high-quality program with regular student assessments and excellent graduate job-placement rates.

Action: Moved and seconded to endorse and implement the recommendation to move the Doctor of Audiology (AuD) from the College of Letters and Science to the Graduate School. The motion passed unanimously.

Action: Moved and seconded that by accepting the review and the report, the GFEC endorses the review committee’s recommendation to continue the program. The motion was passed unanimously.