University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall
December 13, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Duncan Carlsmith, Cynthia Czajkowski, Aparna Dharwadker, Norman Drinkwater, Ted Golos, Robert Howell, Lea Jacobs, Daniel Kleinman, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Lisa Martin, Donna Paulnock, José Pincheira, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, Kevin Shinners, Fernando Tejedo

Members Absent: Steve Ackerman, Michael Bell, Mary Louise Gomez, Susan Thibeault

Guests: Roseanne Clark, Mark Ready, Ananth Seshadri, Linda Tuchman-Ginsberg

Staff: Eileen Callahan, Wendy Crone, Alissa Ewer, Kelly Haslam, Michelle Holland, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Mary Butler Ravneberg, Linda Scholl

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order.

The minutes of November 8, 2013 were approved as written.

Information Items:

1. Dean Martin Cadwallader informed the committee that a new GFEC subcommittee has been charged with reviewing additional policies and practices related to the Higher Learning Commission’s (HLC) criteria for accreditation. The charge of the subcommittee is to recommend to the GFEC a set of overarching learning goals for graduate, post-baccalaureate, post-graduate and graduate certificate programs; a report to GFEC on the work of the subcommittee is expected at the March 2014 GFEC meeting.

2. Dean Martin Cadwallader informed the GFEC of developing discussions across campus concerning Chancellor Blank’s proposed vision for the Graduate School’s structure; Chancellor Blank has proposed splitting the current Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School position into two unique positions. Cadwallader spoke briefly concerning possible implications for such a split of Graduate School administrative leadership, asked the GFEC to provide feedback, and noted that a taskforce has been created to assess the proposed split.

Program Review Update

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock introduced the program review follow-up update for the M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology, in response to the program’s GFEC review follow-up on April 12, 2013. Paulnock indicated that the program’s graduate handbook and grievance procedure need strengthening, revision, and formalization. The GFEC requests the program strengthen these resources, post them online, and report back to the GFEC concerning these recommendations in a written memo by March 2014.
Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman and Ananth Seshadri from the Department of Economics and Mark Ready from the Department of Finance, Investment and Banking presented the request for a joint Ph.D. degree in Economics and Business. A joint degree consists of one graduate degree with two programs; students completing a joint doctoral degree complete all requirements of both degrees, but write one dissertation and receive one diploma. The Economics and Business joint Ph.D. arrangement has already been offered ad-hoc and has been successful; the departments of Economics and Business would like to formalize the collaboration as a powerful recruiting tool and a more efficient administrative arrangement. The GFEC encourages the innovation and collaboration of the joint arrangement, and suggests the programs develop clearer guidelines for how students qualify for the joint appointment, clarify any contingencies of funding for students should one program remove support/interest, and provide additional clarification regarding how the joint aspects of the program manifest.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the joint Ph.D. degree in Economics and Business. The motion was passed with 16 votes for and 1 abstention.

2. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Roseanne Clark and Linda Tuchman-Ginsberg from the Department of Psychiatry introduced the request for a Capstone Certificate in Infant, Early Childhood, and Family Mental Health. The capstone certificate, a program revenue program under the Educational Innovation guidelines, is intended for practicing professionals seeking to gain an enhanced understanding in infant, early childhood and family mental health. Clark and Tuchman-Ginsberg informed the GFEC that the capstone certificate will require 10 credits for all enrolled students, plus an additional 2 credits for those students who are mental health professionals. The certificate will be a one year, onsite, face-to-face program.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the Capstone Certificate in Infant, Early Childhood, and Family Mental Health. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Review:

Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Kevin Shinners presented the Institutional (10-Year) review of the M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. Discussed were the program strengths, including excellent national rankings, strong employment opportunities for graduates, and a robust graduate handbook, as well as review committee concerns, including little breadth of options for the first-year core courses, non-uniform application of policies regarding advisor involvement in preliminary exams, little flexibility for make-up of dissertation committees to include participation from disciplines outside of the department, and unequal distribution of student teaching responsibilities. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths, and recommends the program consider increasing breadth of core first-year course requirements, monitor the preliminary exam process to ensure appropriate and equitable mentoring, review current policies regarding the make-up of thesis committees, and review the highly variable teaching assignments to ensure a more balanced experience across courses.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the review of the M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, with a request the program address the review committee’s concerns and GFEC recommendations in a written memo to GFEC by April 2014.