University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 350 Bascom Hall  
February 14, 2014

MINUTES

Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Steve Ackerman, Michael Bell, Duncan Carlsmith, Cynthia Czajkowski, Aparna Dharwadker (arrived at 1:55), Norman Drinkwater, Ted Golos, Mary Louise Gomez, Robert Howell, Daniel Kleinman, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Lisa Martin, Donna Paulnock, José Pincheira, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, Kevin Shinners, Fernando Tejedo, Susan Thibeault

Members Absent: Lea Jacobs

Guests: Mark Craven, Chuck Lauhon, Eneida Mendonca, Jocelyn Milner (departed at 3:10), David Mott, Paul Rathouz, Whitney Sweeney

Staff: Wendy Crone, Steve Hahn (arrived at 2:55) Kelly Haslam, Michelle Holland, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Mary Butler Ravneberg, Linda Scholl, Alexandra Walter

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order.

The minutes of January 31, 2014 were approved as written.

Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Paul Rathouz and Mark Craven from the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics presented the request to approve notice of intent for a new M.S. degree in Biomedical Informatics. The online program is intended to provide working professionals with broad training in computational methods in biomedical informatics. The GFEC discussed the program’s small cohort size, enrollment and curriculum overlap with the graduate/professional and capstone certificates in the department, and whether there were rigorous enough research and ethics requirements in the proposed curriculum. The GFEC advised the program consider strengthening research and ethics training in the curriculum, address how the new degree will intersect with the current certificate offerings in the department, and develop plans for a larger, more sustainable cohort.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the notice of intent for the new Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics. The motion was passed with 19 votes for and 1 abstention.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman introduced the request to consolidate and rename the Geophysics and Geoscience doctoral minors; the minors will consolidate and be renamed “Geoscience.” The request transitions the minors in a similar way to which the associated major programs had been consolidated and renamed in the December 2011 GFEC meeting. Further discussion of doctoral minors resulted in agreement that the GFEC, by manner of a discussion item in a subsequent GFEC meeting or
creation of a GFEC subcommittee, evaluate the efficacy of how distributed minors meet the spirit of breadth in doctoral education and clarify the status quo of how doctoral minors manifest.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to consolidate and rename the Geophysics and Geology doctoral minors, including discontinuation of the Geophysics doctoral minor and renaming the Geology doctoral minor “Geoscience”. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Chuck Lauhon and David Mott from the School of Pharmacy presented the request to approve a dual degree in Pharmacy Pharm.D. and Social and Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy M.S., an arrangement intended to diversify student training with practice and research experience. A dual degree is two degrees, each earned in a separate career – in this case, pairing the Pharm.D. program in the Pharmacy career and the Social and Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy M.S. program in the Graduate career. The GFEC noted that students in the dual degree program may sense pressure to graduate before they had done the amount of research typical in the stand-alone Social and Administrative Science in Pharmacy M.S. degree. The GFEC suggested that the program ensure a more rigorous research path throughout the dual degree program – including requiring more research components in the curriculum and pairing students with mentors at the beginning of the program.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to approve the dual degree in Pharmacy Pharm.D. and Social Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy M.S., with a request the dual program be reviewed in five years. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Program Review:**

Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Norman Drinkwater introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.A., M.S. and Ph.D. in Kinesiology. Addressed were the programs strengths, including a strong national reputation, a collegial and collaborative culture, and diverse areas of study available. The GFEC also learned of the heavy course load required for completion of the doctoral major, timeliness of notification of students’ financial support opportunities, and a need for an articulated graduate student appeals process. The GFEC requested the program respond to the review committee’s recommendation regarding need for a stronger, more consistent department oversight of the program, including assurance that department committee meetings occur annually. The GFEC commends the program on its excellence and asks it explore the review committee’s recommendations.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the review of the M.A., M.S. and Ph.D. in Kinesiology. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Discussion Item:**

The GFEC discussed leadership changes in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and the Dean of the Graduate School. Dean Martin Cadwallader informed the GFEC that the Working Group on Leadership Changes will provide a working draft of their recommendations to the University Committee, discussion of which will be scheduled for the March 3 Faculty Senate meeting, and that there will be two town hall meetings (March 4 and March 5) in which campus community members can discuss the
working group's working draft. The working group will then forward a revised report to the April 7 Faculty Senate meeting.

GFEC members expressed concerns regarding the amount of time between when the draft report will be released and when responses to the working group are due as well as the close clustering and daytime hours of the town hall meetings. It was noted that timing and related process concerns may be addressed to the chair of the University Committee.

The GFEC discussed a variety of issues related to potential leadership changes including evidence outlining the need for a change, matching perceived weaknesses with justifiable solutions, maintaining the integrity of and resource prioritization for graduate education, and matching the right structure to the right resources and with the right people.