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

MINUTES

Members Present: Steve Ackerman, Duncan Carlsmith, Cynthia Czajkowski, Aparna Dharwadker, Ted Golos, Mary Louise Gomez, Robert Howell, Lea Jacobs, Daniel Kleinman, Lisa Martin, Donna Paulnock, José Pincheira, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, Kevin Shinners, Fernando Tejedo, Susan Thibeault

MembersAbsent: Martin Cadwallader, Michael Bell, Norman Drinkwater, Gloria Mari-Beffa

Guests: Gary Henderson, Doug Reindl, Jocelyn Milner

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

Dean Martin Cadwallader arranged for Associate Dean Wendy Crone to lead the meeting in his absence.

Associate Dean Wendy Crone called the meeting to order.

The minutes of February 14, 2014 were approved as written.

Information Items:

1. Associate Dean Wendy Crone informed the committee of the possibility of an extra GFEC meeting in June to accommodate the growing number of items in queue for GFEC consideration, and asked committee members to hold Friday, June 6 in their calendars.

2. Associate Dean Wendy Crone and Jocelyn Milner from the Office of Academic Planning and Institutional Research spoke regarding the Provost’s and UAPC’s prioritization of completing the accumulated back-log of past-due program reviews. The Provost asks that as programs bring forward new proposals, they provide the status of any past-due program reviews in the academic home of the new proposal; program review is an important indicator that an academic unit can meet the required commitments for a newly proposed program. Program review requirements are in keeping with UAPC policy, UW System Board of Regents policy and federal financial aid regulations. Milner asked for the GFEC’s cooperation in bringing past-due program reviews up-to-date.

Program Review

1. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman and GFEC member Pamela Potter introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.A. and Ph.D. in Communication Arts. Addressed were the programs strengths, including selective admissions, excellent student support packages and good rate of placing program graduates in academic teaching positions. The GFEC also learned that the program has no graduate handbook, an inconsistent and outdated website, student dissatisfaction with orientation and
dissemination of information, and little clarity regarding student funding specificities and opportunities. The GFEC requested the program respond to the review committee’s recommendations regarding improved overall communication to graduate students, especially in creation of a graduate student handbook and updated website to reflect current practices, a more comprehensive and informative orientation for incoming graduate students, and improved communication regarding funding levels, anticipated salary levels and teaching and fellowship opportunities. The GFEC commends the program on its excellence and requests the program provide written follow-up to the March 2015 GFEC meeting regarding progress on implementing the review committee’s recommendations.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to accept the review of the M.A. and Ph.D. in Communication Arts, with a request the program address the review committee’s recommendations in a written memo to GFEC. The motion was passed with 16 votes for and 1 abstention.

2. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Ted Golos introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Ph.D. in Biochemistry. Addressed were the program’s strengths, including prominent national rankings, high student productivity, low time to degree and excellent student satisfaction. The GFEC discussed the program’s limited core curriculum, discussed the model of student support via NIH grants and training in instruction earned while thus supported, and learned that few teaching assistant positions are provided to the program by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). Golos noted that the program has been responsive to the review committee’s recommendations, and that the review committee further recommends the program work with CALS in establishing teaching assistant support. The GFEC commends the program on its successes and asks the program continue to explore the review committee’s recommendations.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to accept the review of the Ph.D. in Biochemistry. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Approvals:**

1. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and Doug Reindl and Gary Henderson from the Department of Engineering Professional Development presented the request to rename the named option titled “Professional Practice” to “Engineering Management” in the Engineering M. Engr. degree. Reindl and Henderson noted that the name change more accurately reflects the program’s curriculum and better describes the program to students’ prospective employers.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to rename the named option titled “Professional Practice” to “Engineering Management” in the Engineering Master of Engineering degree. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced the request to discontinue the M.S. in Community and Environmental Sociology, noting that students in the Sociology doctoral program may earn a M.S. in Sociology in lieu of the M.S. in Community and Environmental Sociology. There are currently no students enrolled in the Community and Environmental Sociology M.S. The doctoral minor in Community and Environmental Sociology will remain an active, available choice for doctoral students on campus.
Action: Moved and seconded to discontinue the Master of Science in Community and Environmental Sociology. 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. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman noted that reactions to feedback from campus were incorporated into a new draft of the working group's report; the report is scheduled to be submitted to the University Committee in March, after which it will go to the April Faculty Senate meeting.