University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall
December 11, 2015

M I N U T E S

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Susan Babcock, Cynthia Czajkowski, Kristin Eschenfelder, Michael Graham, William Karpus (Chair), Daniel Kleinman, Lisa Martin, Nicole Perna, Pamela Potter, Parmesh Ramanathan, Patricia Rosenmeyer, Tracy Schroepfer, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Susan Thibeault

Members Absent: Mary Louise Gomez, Robert Howell, José Pincheira, Ray Vanderby

Guests: Ted Golos, Elaine Klein, Jocelyn Milner

Staff: Judy Bauman, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, LaRuth McAfee, Mary Butler Ravneberg

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of November 20, 2015 were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Approval:

Dean Karpus introduced Emily Stanley and Jeff Hardin from the Department of Zoology, who presented the request to change the academic home for the Freshwater and Marine Sciences M.S./Ph.D. from the College of Engineering to the Department of Zoology in the College of Letters and Science. Stanley noted that the switch of academic home for the interdisciplinary program is the result of the College of Engineering no longer providing financial support needed to run the program; the switch will not affect Freshwater and Marine Sciences graduate students’ experiences in either funding or student services availability.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the change of academic home for Freshwater and Marine Sciences M.S./Ph.D. from the College of Engineering to the Department of Zoology in the College of Letters and Science. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Reviews and Program Review Updates:

1. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced the program review follow-up update for the Physics M.A./M.S./Ph.D. program, in response to the program’s GFEC review on September 12, 2014. The GFEC thanked the program for their efforts thus far, but agreed that the low levels of diversity in the program’s student population remains an area of concern. The GFEC requests that the program undertake a more developed plan to improve diversity, perhaps borrowing from similar diversity-improving efforts among peer universities’ physics programs and drawing from similar graduate
programs’ efforts undertaken at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced the program review follow-up update for the Special Education M.S./Ph.D. program, in response to the program’s GFEC review on March 13, 2015. The GFEC thanked the program for the positive changes they have implemented in response to their review.

3. Former GFEC member Ted Golos introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Forestry M.S./Ph.D. program and the Wildlife Ecology M.S./Ph.D. program, both housed within the merged Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Golos noted the programs’ successes, including the Forestry program’s high national rankings, and the Wildlife Ecology students’ high productivity in journal publications. Both programs employ competitive direct-admit admissions procedures. Golos also noted the review committee’s concerns, including students’ difficulty in securing committee meetings, high attrition, lack of core curricula or elsewise common foundational experiences in the Forestry program, and lack of a common qualification/preliminary examination formats in Forestry. The GFEC commends the programs on their strengths, and also requests the programs provide a program faculty member representative to speak at the April 2016 GFEC meeting regarding a developed and concrete strategy for addressing the review committee and GFEC concerns.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D. in Forestry and the M.S./Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology, with request the programs send the faculty Director of Graduate Study of each program to the April 2016 meeting in response to the GFEC and review committee recommendations. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. GFEC member Caroline Alexander presented the First (5-Year) Review of the Clinical Investigation M.S./Ph.D. program. Alexander noted the program’s strengths, including success in attracting and graduating students, high quality research projects, and having met their initial enrollment and degree award projections. Alexander also noted the review committee’s recommendations, including that the program increase awareness, publicity and active recruiting into the program, that they assess student outcomes to more explicitly align outcomes and NIH goals, and they consider ways to improve inclusion of women, under-represented minorities and first generation students’ enrollment in the program. The GFEC commends the program on its successes and recommends the program consider the review committee recommendations.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the First (5-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D. in Clinical Investigation. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced for discussion the updated three-year progress report check-in of the named option Sustainable Systems Engineering in the Engineering M.Eng. degree, noting that since the program’s report was first presented to the GFEC at the October 9, 2015 meeting, the program has updated the document to provide additional discussion of learning, and provided data to support assertions made in the document. The GFEC noted that the Sustainable Systems Engineering named option has earned revenue below projections, and acknowledged that the program has received
a grace period from the College of Engineering until the time of their First (5-Year) Review to make the budget work to fit budget needs. The First (5-Year) Review of the option will be initiated by the Provost in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Discussion Item:
The GFEC discussed updates to the three-year check-in document; Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman noted that he and Assistant Dean Marty Gustafson had made improvements to the document as a result of the GFEC discussion on October 9, 2015. The three-year check-in was developed in response to the GFEC interest in ensuring quality in new graduate programs given the proliferation of non-pooled (revenue-generating) programs. GFEC members Kristin Eschenfelder and Tracy Schroepfer then led the committee in discussion of evaluation of non-pooled (revenue-generating) programs, noting that the nature of many non-pooled programs (offered at a distance, online, at alternate campus locations, or on nights/weekends) presents distinct challenges to assessment and support for those programs.

Adjournment:

Motion: Moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.