University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall
March 11, 2016

M I N U T E S

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Duncan Carlsmith, Cynthia Czajkowski, Kristin Eschenfelder, Michael Graham, Robert Howell, William Karpus (Chair), Daniel Kleinman, Lisa Martin, Nicole Perna, José Pincheira, Patricia Rosenmeyer, Tracy Schroepfer, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Susan Thibeault, Ray Vanderby, Kirsten Wolf

Members Absent: Susan Babcock, Mary Louise Gomez

Guests: Karl Broman, Greg Downey, Jocelyn Milner, Andrea Poehling, Paul Rathouz, Whitney Sweeney

Staff: Judy Bauman, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Michelle Holland, Jennifer Martin, LaRuth McAfee

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of February 12, 2016 were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Approval:

1. Dean William Karpus introduced professors Paul Rathouz and Karl Broman from the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, who presented the Notice of Intent for a new M.S. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Data Science. Rathouz and Broman noted the department’s existing commitments and productivity in the field of biomedical data science which include a recently-approved M.S. in Biomedical Informatics, a capstone and graduate/professional certificate in Bioinformatics, and diverse faculty research collaborations across campus. Rathouz and Broman noted that the new degree program in Biomedical Data Science will focus on applications in biomedical investigation, and averred the department’s strong relationship with the existing computer science and statistic departments, which will be core discipline areas of the proposed degree. Rathouz and Broman noted that the future authorization proposal will request a new Ph.D. in Biomedical Data Science, and the renaming of their existing M.S. in Biomedical Informatics to become an M.S. in Biomedical Data Science. The GFEC expressed desire to learn more about the new program when the Department comes back to the GFEC with the program authorization proposal, which may occur after obtaining final UW-Madison and UW System approval to plan. The GFEC will look for a description of the new program’s unique contribution to graduate education and the intended learning goals for those students completing the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the Notice of Intent for the new M.S./Ph.D. degrees in Biomedical Data Science. The motion was approved unanimously.
Program Reviews:

1. Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Paul Rathouz presented the program review follow-up for the low-awarding graduate/professional and capstone certificate programs in Bioinformatics, in response to the certificate programs’ GFEC meeting review on November 20, 2015. Rathouz noted that his department has recently voted to suspend admissions to the capstone certificate and to reinvigorate interest and marketing for the graduate/professional certificate via cultivating relationships with larger graduate programs which may have currently-enrolled students who may value the certificate. The GFEC thanked the Department for their work in response to the program review, and noted that the proposal for suspension of admission of the capstone certificate will need to come to GFEC for approval at a future meeting.

2. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced discussion of the program review follow up for the graduate/professional certificate titled Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), in response to the program’s GFEC meeting review on April 10, 2015. The GFEC thanks the program for their work in response to the review, and encourages the program to continue work on development of the TESOL graduate/professional certificate student handbook.

3. Motion: Moved and seconded to take from the table the acceptance of the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D., Ph.D. Named Option titled Architectural History and Graduate/Professional Certificate in Material Culture Studies. The motion was passed unanimously.

Dean William Karpus reminded the GFEC that during the February 2016 GFEC meeting they laid on the table the review of the graduate programs in the Department of Art History until a time in which they have had reviewed the Department’s response to the program review committee’s recommendations. The GFEC members noted that the Department’s response to the review committee’s recommendations clarified questions they had regarding the programs in the Department, but emphasized concerns regarding the long Art History Ph.D. time to degree, the high percentage of students not funded in their first four years, the high attrition percentage and the low enrollment in the graduate/professional certificate in Material Culture Studies. The GFEC recommended the program consider reducing program offerings like the low-awarding Material Culture Studies graduate/professional certificate in efforts to address stretching their resources to fit department need. The GFEC agreed with the College of Letters and Science APC recommendation that the program revisit the memorandum of understanding between the Department and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; a partnership between the two institutions supports the Ph.D. named option titled Architectural History.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D., Ph.D. Named Option titled Architectural History and Graduate/Professional Certificate in Material Culture Studies. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. GFEC member Tracy Schroepfer introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of M.S. and Ph.D. in Sociology. Schroepfer noted the programs’ strengths, including robust national rankings, a strong
curriculum, attention given to recruiting underrepresented students and faculty, and that the cross-
department and school/college partnership is a model in collaborative administration of a Ph.D.
program. Schroepfer and the GFEC discussed program review recommendations, including that the
program continue to develop useful mentorship policies, seek ways to assess and provide more
consistency and clarity regarding preliminary examination requirements across foci, and provide more
nuanced and integrated professional development support reflecting the changing job market. The
review committee and GFEC also recommended the program address and develop support for
mechanisms that encourage underrepresented student inclusion, improved and integrated climate,
guard against Ph.D. student attrition, and promote completion. Schroepfer’s presentation revealed that
students have significant concerns regarding divisions by area foci as well as need for a safe and
grievance-rich resourceful program climate and culture. The GFEC urged the Sociology M.S./Ph.D.
program to work with the Graduate School to work to improve areas of concern raised in the course of
the program review.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D. in
Sociology. The motion was passed with 16 votes for and one abstention.

4. GFEC member Duncan Carlsmith introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of M.S. and Ph.D. in
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Carlsmith noted the program’s strengths, including well-
developed core graduate coursework, strong student morale, funding and developmental opportunities, as well as
the review committee recommendations, including that the program develop a streamlined graduate
program handbook, and work to improve recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority
students. The GFEC joined the review committee in requesting the program address review committee
recommendations, and especially emphasized that the program develop a strategic plan to improve
graduate student diversity, including gender and underrepresented student categories.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D. in
Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Discussion Item:**
Dean William Karpus led discussion regarding GFEC meeting procedures, and asked the membership for
guidance regarding a process for recognizing guests not scheduled to speak at meetings. The GFEC
agreed that if any guest not on the agenda attends a meeting and wishes to speak, introduction of the
agenda item, motions and membership discussion would occur first. The guest would then raise his or
her hand and wait to be acknowledged by the Chair. Once the Chair recognizes the guest, he or she will
be limited to a three-minute comment restricted to the agenda item at hand. After three minutes have
passed, the Chair will proceed with the meeting agenda.

**Adjournment:**

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