University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall
May 12, 2017

M I N U T E S

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Susan Babcock, Kristin Eschenfelder, Mary Louise Gomez, Yu Hen Hu, Lea Jacobs, William Karpus (Chair), Lisa Martin, Nicole Perna, John Pfotenhauer, Jose Pincheira, Parmesh Ramanathan, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Monica Turner

Members Absent: Cynthia Czajkowski, Christa Olson, Tracy Schroepfer, Stephanie Tai, Kirstin Wolf

Guests: Michael Bernard-Donals, Nikki Bollig, Jim Davis, Sam Dennis, Greg Downey, Elaine Klein, Jocelyn Milner, Sue Zaeske

Staff: Judy Bauman, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, LaRuth McAfee, Meghan McMackin, Emily Reynolds

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

Dean Karpus introduced Professor Yu Hen Hu as a new member of the GFEC.

The minutes of April 14, 2017, were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Approval Updates:

1. Associate Dean Ramanathan introduced the three-year new program check-in for the Capstone Certificate in Leadership for Population Health Improvement in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health. Ramanathan noted that the program is not meeting expected enrollment numbers, lost faculty, and waivered between offering a one- or two-year program. Dean Karpus noted it would be useful to see an articulated plan on overcoming these obstacles and Dean’s Office endorsement of the program. Associate Dean Martin added that the program should engage in strategic planning on if they still want to offer the capstone certificate.

Approvals:

1. Dean Karpus introduced College of Engineering Professor Jim Davis, who presented the request to suspend admissions to the Master of Engineering in Engineering named option “Technical Japanese.” Professor Davis noted that he teaches all of the courses in the program and will be retiring in 2020.
There are no plans to replace him in this area of expertise. A teach out plan is in place for all current students to complete the degree.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to suspend admissions to the Master of Engineering in Engineering, named option Technical Japanese. The motion was passed with 13 for, 1 abstention.

2. Dean Karpus introduced Department of Landscape Architecture Associate Professor and Chair Sam Dennis, who presented the request to discontinue the Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture. There are currently no students in the M.A. or faculty to support its focus. The department also offers a Master of Science which has more robust enrollment. This request is related to the department’s forthcoming merger with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to discontinue the M.A. in Landscape Architecture. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Program Reviews and Updates**

1. Associate Dean Ramanathan introduced the responses from African Cultural Studies and Educational Psychology to the GFEC’s discussion regarding the Institutional (10-Year) Reviews of the M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in African Cultural Studies and the M.S./Ph.D./Professional Educator Named Option in Educational Psychology, respectively.

   - **African Cultural Studies:** The committee would like to request the program attend an upcoming GFEC meeting to outline their admissions and recruiting plans for underrepresented minority students.
   - **Educational Psychology:** The committee would like to emphasize the importance of a graduate handbook for students, and make sure the program knows how to access data provided to them by the Graduate School, including the underlying data related to the completion rate and time-to-degree.

2. GFEC member Fernando Tejedo-Herrero introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Graduate Programs in the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic, which include the German M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor, the Scandinavian Studies M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor, and the Slavic Languages and Literature M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor and Doctoral Minor in Russian. Tejedo-Herrero noted the strengths of each program, including connected faculty with exceptional reputations in their fields, an excellent undergraduate program in Scandinavian Studies, the successful Russian Flagship program, good assessment practices in Slavic, and a positive climate with strong support for graduate students and award-winning teaching assistants. Tejedo-Herrero also discussed review committee recommendations, including making a handbook available to students, strengthening assessment practices and learning goals in German and Scandinavian and standardizing them across all three programs, improving racial diversity in the student body, and leveling teaching assistant workload and salaries across the department. The GFEC agreed with the review committee’s suggestions to find ways to build connections for graduate students between programs, including developing a shared language...
pedagogy course in the graduate curriculum in Scandinavian Studies and a department pro-seminar on professional development. The GFEC also expressed concern regarding the average time to degree, and 10-year doctoral completion rates lower than peers, especially in Slavic Languages & Literature. The committee acknowledges the review report was prepared almost a year ago and the department may have addressed some of these issues. The committee commends the programs on their strengths and recommends the department engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns or confirm the concerns were addressed.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Graduate Programs in the Department of German, Nordic and Slavic. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. GFEC member Jose Pincheira introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Astronomy. Pincheira noted the program’s strengths, including strong recruiting practices and student funding rates, satisfaction with course offerings, a high level of engagement in department governance by graduate students, successful job placement after graduation, and a friendly and open student-faculty environment. Pincheira also noted a few challenges facing the department, including a declining number of academic positions in astronomy that make the post-graduation career path outside of academia unclear for some students, and an organizational structure that is largely informal, with no formal grievance procedure and some confusion among students concerning the purpose and acceptable coursework toward the minor. Pincheira also discussed review committee recommendations, including developing a process and focusing efforts on better connecting Ph.D. students with a broader range of career options, improving the student handbook, and formalizing the advising/mentorship process. The committee wants to acknowledge this is a strong program with time-to-degree and completion rates above its peers. The committee commends the program on its strengths and recommends that the program engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

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

4. Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Urban and Regional Planning. Ramanathan noted the program’s strengths, including being in the mid- to mid-to-top tier of American planning programs, good collegiality among the students, and a strong connection to city government. Ramanathan also discussed review committee concerns, including the lack of a student handbook and documented grievance procedures, low rates of student funding, a very low Ph.D. completion rate, a less racially diverse student and faculty body, and accusations of sexism against program faculty. The committee recommended either co-locating Urban and Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture (which are merging into the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture effective July 1, 2017) or reshuffling the faculty offices as soon as possible to ensure a more collaborative, successful merger. The GFEC expressed grave concern that actions taken by the department and College of Letters & Science on issues of climate and diversity must be immediate, and that the GFEC would like to receive a copy of their one-year progress report to L&S, in addition to regular semester updates. The committee commends the program on its
strengths and strongly recommends that the program engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Urban and Regional Planning. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

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