March 20, 2017

Bill,

Elaine Klein sent me the memo you wrote to Ananth Seshadri regarding the Economics MS program. I didn't realize that GFEC reviews of 131 programs would encompass their finances (and in particular, their revenue-sharing agreements). Given that I'm responsible for monitoring L&S 131 programs, it might be helpful for me to share some background.

Toward the end of every fiscal year, I conduct a financial review of all L&S 131 programs. As one component of that review, I consider the credits taken by 131 students outside their home department. Once these enrollments start to exceed a handful of credits, I impose revenue-sharing agreements. Initially, I handled this through bilateral MOUs between departments. (In particular, I required an MOU between Economics and Math to address Econ MS students taking Math courses.) More recently, to avoid an ever-growing number of bilateral MOUs, I established a uniform policy within L&S encompassing the 5 departments (Economics, Math, Statistics, Computer Sciences, ESL) that are collectively responsible (on either the sending or receiving end) for almost all of these enrollments. Under this policy, sending departments pay $300 per credit hour to receiving departments. I’ll review this policy at the end of the current fiscal year to determine whether this payment level remains appropriate and whether the policy should be expanded to include other departments.

I know from my past annual reviews that cross-college enrollments of 131 students (either to or from L&S) are currently small. However, given existing enrollment pressure on the L&S ESL program from regular (non-program) students, and anticipating future growth in demand for ESL courses by non-L&S 131 students, L&S does require MOUs with other schools or colleges whose 131 program students might take ESL courses. (In particular, I recently signed ESL agreements with Engineering and the Nelson Institute.) MOUs between other L&S departments and non-L&S 131 programs are also created as warranted (e.g., recent agreements that Nelson signed with Geography and URPL). To date, the need for these agreements has been monitored through the L&S APC and the UAPC.

Please let me know if further information would be helpful. Best,

James Montgomery
Associate Dean L&S
March 17, 2017

Ananth Seshadri, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Economics
College of Letters and Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Sent Electronically

Dear Professor Seshadri,

I write to convey the appreciation of the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC) for your three-year progress report for the Economics M.S. Named Option in Graduate Foundations.

At its March 10, 2017, meeting, the GFEC had a substantive discussion of the Graduate Foundations progress at the three-year mark. Committee members were impressed by the faculty’s commitment to teaching in the program and the scale to which it has grown in just three years. It is obvious that the program is serving the needs of a student population different from that of your Ph.D. degree program. Moreover, we want to acknowledge how substantially the program’s faculty, courses and financial contributions benefit the department’s overall teaching mission.

Upon learning more about your curriculum, however, the committee requests that you clarify two points by May 1, 2017, so the update can be presented before the last GFEC meeting of the academic year:

- The progress report states that the curriculum “allows students to take three electives of their choosing.” Please clarify if these are advanced electives within the Department of Economics, electives from other departments with which you have revenue-sharing agreements or if students can take any courses of their choice, either within the College or across campus.
- For students that require English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, does the department have a financial memorandum of agreement with the administration of this service?

In conclusion, the GFEC will join the Provost in expecting the program to undergo a full review, including a self-study, at the five-year mark from the first term of student enrollment.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education,

Sincerely,

William J. Karpus
Dean of the Graduate School
Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Cc:  John Karl Scholz, College of Letters and Science  
Greg Downey, College of Letters and Science  
Elaine Klein, College of Letters and Science  
Jack Porter, Department of Economics  
Stacey Sykes, Department of Economics  
Katherine Duren, Division of Continuing Studies  
Jocelyn Milner, Office of the Provost  
Sarah Kuba, Office of the Provost  
Marty Gustafson, Graduate School  
Emily Reynolds, Graduate School