University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate School Academic Planning Council
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Room 52 Bascom Hall
September 21, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present: William Karpus (chair), Yu Hen Hu, Tracy Schroepfer, John Pfotenhauer, Nicole Perna

Members Absent: Christa Olson

Staff: Lisa Martin, Parmesh Ramanathan, Joshua Morrill, Florence Hsia, Emily Reynolds, Amy Bergholz, Elena Hsu, Katie Block, Dana Baldwin

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

Introduction:

Dean Karpus led introductions and briefly described the GSAPC overview and charge.

The minutes from the May 18, 2018, GSAPC meeting were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

1. Dean Karpus led a discussion on the process of providing all PhD students annual written assessment and feedback on progress to degree. Challenges include operational structure and support, resources, lack of definition and consistency in assessment criteria, and how to measure progress on the research side. GSAPC recommended the formation of a GFEC subcommittee to explore these issues. Some areas the subcommittee might address would be defining specific components of assessment, methods of measurement, criteria to determine if a student is on track to degree, and who needs to be involved in the annual assessment process.

2. Dean Karpus led a discussion on multi-year funding guarantees. The primary goal is to make UW-Madison competitive with peer universities that provide written guarantees.

3. Dean Karpus provided an update on the Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS). The system is a tool for graduate programs to configure degree requirements and allow advisors to track student progress. The university has committed $1 million to its implementation over a 3-year period.

4. Dean Karpus led a discussion on funding for fiscal year 2019-2020. Last fiscal year, the minimum was raised to $18,350 for 2018-19 (a $4.5 million commitment). The members discussed FY20 targets.

5. Associate Dean Martin led a discussion regarding stacked appointments. The GSAPC suggested the ability to defer a fellowship could help programs and students plan better for funding over time.
6. Dean Karpus led an early-stage discussion on reducing the minimum two-credit enrollment requirement to one credit. The current policy was created in the 1950s, and there is some concern that modern students completing professional degrees take more one-credit modules and as working adults may only be able to take one credit per semester. Dean Karpus will begin discussions to identify potential financial implications.

Meeting Adjourned