University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate School Academic Planning Council
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Room 334 Bascom Hall
November 21, 2019

MINUTES

Members Present: William Karpus (chair), Yu Hen Hu, Christa Olson, Monica Turner, Steph Tai (via phone)

Members Absent: Earlise Ward

Staff: Jenna Alsteen, Amy Bergholz, Florence Hsia, Parmesh Ramanathan

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

Introduction

The minutes from the April 20, 2019 GSAPC meeting were approved unanimously.

Dean Karpus introduced committee member and discussed the committee charge

Discussion Items

GSTS Update

Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan gave an update on the status of the progress of the Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS) development project. The Student Information System enhancement will allow faculty and students to track academic requirements and progress to degree. Tests have been performed with several programs. Within the next couple of months, it will roll out to approximately 100 programs. The rest of the programs (approximately 250) will follow.

No action sought.

Funding FY21 Update

Dean Karpus led a discussion regarding funding for Graduate Assistants. Individual UW-Madison programs can offer stipends above the minimum Graduate School rate. The Graduate School is currently compiling information on the various stipends throughout the university to compare to peer institution stipends. The University has adjusted minimum assistantships rates for 2020-21 to remain at or above the median of peer institution rates. Additionally fellowships have been increased by $1,000 for FY21.

No action sought.
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Report

*The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEMM*

Dr. Angela Byars-Winston, a UW-Madison faculty member, was a lead author of The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEMM report. The report presents strategies that universities can implement to create quality, evidence-based mentoring programs. UW-Madison has opportunities and access to resources to enhance its mentoring programs. GSAPC members discussed methods that may be most effective in rolling out the strategies at a departmental level. The UW-Madison Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER) is available as a resource.

No action sought.

**Academic Leave Policy Committee**

The Graduate School currently has continuous enrollment policies, but does not have a uniform academic leave policy. There are currently barriers for students to take a leave of absence and return to their academic studies. Students need to either re-apply or pay for minimum credit requirements. A committee has been established to make a policy recommendation, which will remove these barriers for students needing to take an academic leave. The committee has broad campus representation, to and will begin meeting on November 26, 2019.

No action sought.

**Set Future Meeting Schedule**

GSAPC meeting has traditionally been held the 3rd Friday of the month. GSAPC members discussed the possibility of setting a regular meeting time that would fit into their schedules and did not come to consensus.

No action sought.

Meeting Adjourned by Dean Karpus.