University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee Meeting
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, 52 Bascom Hall
November 12, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Robert Asen, Chris Choi, Alex Dressler, Tullia Dymarz, Emily Fletcher, Florence Hsia, William Karpus, Mark Mandel, Lisa Martin, Manish Patankar, Julie Poehlmann-Tynen, Parmesh Ramanathan, Morgan Robertson, Sissel Schroeder, Leslie Smith III, Shannon Stahl

Members Absent: Kevin Black, Gail Robertson, Donna Neumann, Bret Shaw

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

Automatic Consent

1. The following items were approved as a matter of automatic consent:
   a. Minutes from October 8, 2021

   Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approvals

2. Dean Karpus introduced Associate Dean Kristin Eschenfelder who presented a request to approve a Notice of Intent for new degree Master of Science in Data Science. The new degree is responsive to high student and market demand. The program’s focus is entirely on data science as a discipline and will help other programs with courses that complement their curriculum. The new degree is highly supported by other programs on campus.

   Motion: Moved and seconded to approve a Notice of Intent for new degree Master of Science in Data Science. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Dean Karpus introduced Associate Dean Kristin Eschenfelder who presented a request to suspend effective Fall 2022, and discontinue effective Fall 2022, the PhD in Library and Information Studies. Students have transitioned to the new degree PhD in Information which has updated curriculum.

   Motion: Moved and seconded to approve a request to suspend effective Fall 2022 and discontinue effective Fall 2022 the PhD in Library and Information Studies. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Dean Karpus introduced Professor Tina Salzman who presented a request to approve a mode of delivery change to distance education (100% online) for the MS in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis named option “Wisconsin Idea Principal Preparation” effective Fall 2022. The principal license is foundational to other Wisconsin DPI administrative licenses. The program will provide weekend instructional delivery for educators that are currently employed. Online modality is responsive to student demand. The program has a distinctive focus on social justice and equity in comparison to other online programs.
Motion: Moved and seconded to approve a mode of delivery change to distance education (100% online) for the MS in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis named option “Wisconsin Idea Principal Preparation” effective Fall 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Dean Karpus introduced Assistant Faculty Associate Makayla Schuchardt who presented a request to suspend effective Fall 2021 and discontinue effective Fall 2022 the Capstone Certificate in Clinical Nutrition-Dietetic Internship. It has been a low-award program due to increased education requirements to become a licensed dietitian. Former students have opted to enter the Master’s program due to new requirements. There are no students currently enrolled in the program.

Motion: Moved and seconded to suspend effective Fall 2021 and discontinue effective Fall 2022 the Capstone Certificate in Clinical Nutrition-Dietetic Internship. The motion passed unanimously.

Three-year Check-Ins

6. GFEC member Associate Dean Lisa Martin summarized the three-year check-in for the MS in Environmental Conservation named option “Environmental Observation and Informatics.” The highlights of the check-in included substantial curriculum adjustments, a high number of international students, and an ESL course incorporated into the curriculum.

No action sought

7. GFEC member Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan summarized the three-year check-in for the MS in Materials Science and Engineering named option “Nanomaterials and Nanoengineering”. The highlights of the check-in included a smaller enrollment than targeted and plans to explore a rebrand to attract more students.

No action sought

8. GFEC member Associate Dean Lisa Martin summarized the three-year check-in for the MS in Mechanical Engineering named option “Modeling and Simulation in Mechanical Engineering.” The highlights of the check-in included a successful pivot to online instruction during pandemic which may lead to more courses being offered online, no underrepresented minorities currently in program, and a plan to work on diversity initiative.

No action sought

Program Review Responses

9. GFEC member Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan summarized the Program Review Response for the Economics MS/PhD/Doctoral Minor 10-year program review. Highlights of the response included improvement in gender diversity, efforts to further recruit a diverse student population, incorporating a diversity and inclusion statement in the website, development of coursework that signals a commitment to diversity, and increase in transparency regarding open positions in the department.

No action sought
10. GFEC member Associate Dean Lisa Martin summarized the Program Review Response for the MS in Curriculum and Instruction named options: Secondary English Education, Secondary Mathematics Education, Secondary Science Education, Secondary Social Studies Education 5-year program review. Highlights of the response included a recertification process for the English program, clarification of teacher faculty status, and a recruitment plan to increase diversity.

No action sought

11. GFEC member Associate Dean Parmesh Ramanathan summarized the Program Review Response for the Power Conversion and Control Capstone Certificate 5-year program review. Highlights of the response included an expansion of program focus and challenges to recruiting a diverse pool of students.

No action sought

Program Review

12. Former GFEC member Vice Provost Beth Meyerand presented the Institutional 10-year program review of the Genetics MA/PhD/Doctoral Minor. Meyerand noted strengths of the program include attraction of a strong student pool, dedication to continuous improvement and implementation of substantive changes when needed.

The review committee recommendations include a process to determine if assessment is being used to improve the mentoring experience, continued practice of requiring first-year students to participate in diversity workshops in their first semester, identifying funding mechanisms to increase stipends for PhD students to remain competitive with other institutions, communication of 5-year time-to-degree goal to help keep student on track, altering the timing of the TA component so students have more opportunity to teach and clarification of plans and purpose of the MS and Doctoral Minor programs.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the 10-Year Program Review of the Genetics MA/PhD/Doctoral Minor. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Dean William Karpus.