University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC)
Subcommittee on Graduate Program Reviews (GPR)

Monday, October 5, 2015
12:30-1:30 p.m.
245 Mitchell Hall

Minutes

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:33 p.m.

Present: David Allen, Barbara Bales, Martha Carlin, Sheila Feay-Shaw, Shelleen Greene, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Tracey Heatherington (ex officio), Seyed Hosseini, Jennifer Jordan, Hamid Ouali, Alfonzo Thurman

Absent: Jenny Kehl, Mo Zell

Guests: Vicky Everson, Michael Zimmer

II. Elect Chair of Subcommittee
Barbara Bales indicated her willingness to serve as Chair provided the Subcommittee meetings can be scheduled on the same date as the monthly GFC meetings. The self-nomination was seconded and Barbara was unanimously elected Chair.

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska reviewed the initiative to add an executive summary to external review reports. In addition to the executive summary, it had been recommended that the external reviewers add a grade (four possible categories) to the review report. That language was nearing completion when it was decided to hold on the implementation of the recommendations due to the budget cuts and potential new budget model. While this is a political situation, the Chair may want to consider restarting the discussions.

III. Approve minutes from May 4, 2015, meeting
A motion was made and seconded to accept and approve the minutes as recorded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Information Studies PhD Program Review Report
Michael Zimmer, Director of the Information Studies PhD Program, provided background information and indicated that many of the recommendations made in the external review report are being implemented. Martha Carlin suggested that the
GRE percentiles be added to the raw scores in the report. Discussion regarding external accreditation and financial support followed. Michael Zimmer indicated that the budget cuts within SOIS and UWM are creating challenges for the program. There are few external grants, so the program is looking for ways to restructure and shift financial support for students. Sheila Feay-Shaw expressed concern about the overall sustainability of the program given the current budget situation. Discussion followed. Seyed Hosseini served as one of the internal reviewers. He explained the rationale for the recommendations made by the internal reviewers. Barbara Bales stated that the current budget situation will come up repeatedly. She offered three options:

- Add a comment in this review report regarding financial issues
- Make a recommendation at the GFC regarding financial situation discussed in program review reports
- Determine how to reconcile budget recommendations with current situation

A motion was made to move the report forward with the addition of GRE percentiles and to bring the budget constraints and faculty numbers “statement” to the attention of the GFC. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The “statement” also can be added to the transmittal letter sent to the Provost.

V. 2015-16 Graduate Program Review Site Visit Assignments
Barbara suggested that Vicky add a document to OneDrive so that Subcommittee members can sign up to be internal reviewers for the scheduled program review site visits. Discussion and final assignments will occur at the November GPR meeting.

VI. 2015-16 Graduate Certificate Program Review Assignments
Vicky also will add a sign-up document to OneDrive for the certificate program reviews. Discussion and final assignments will occur at the November GPR meeting.

VII. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.