

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Graduate Faculty Committee

Minutes

September 24, 2012, 3:00 p.m.
Union E 240

I. Call to Order

GFC Chair Michael Brondino called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Sukanya Banerjee, Michael Brondino (Chair), Anoop Dhingra, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (*ex officio*), Laretta Henderson, Jerry Kaster, Kathleen Koch (*ex officio*), Michael Liston (*ex officio*), Edward Mabry, Maria del Pilar Melgarejo-Acosta, Devendra Misra, Aaron Schutz, Mark Schwartz, Valeriy Sibilkov, Kristene Surerus, Carrie Truebenbach, Luc Vanier, Douglas Woods (*ex officio*), David Yu (*ex officio*)

Members Absent: Avik Chakrabarti, Don Hanlon, Christine Larson, Anthony Ross, Amanda Seligma, Regina Smith, Virginia Stoffel, Peter Tonellato, Jon Welstead, Shangping Xu

Guests:

Peter Hansen, Erin Fox, Mark Harris, Graduate School; Amber Tucker, Benjamin Klammen, Graduate Student Advisory Council

III. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IV. Welcome and Introductions

All members and guests introduced themselves, and new members were welcomed.

V. Special Order of Business – Election of the Secretary of the Graduate Faculty Committee

No nominations were received; this item will be postponed until the October meeting.

VI. Automatic Consent: Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Committee meeting of May 14, 2012

were approved as distributed.

VII. Reports

1. Interim Dean of the Graduate School David Yu

Important progress for the Graduate School has been made after a very challenging 2011-'12:

- New hires: Director of Graduate Education (Erin Fox) and PAWS specialist (Ellen Daly). Hires in process: Associate Dean for Administrative and Financial Services and positions in Web development, marketing, and public relations.
- Development or continuation of programs to assist the campus:
 - Graduate School Road Show, as a way to communicate with constituents on campus.
 - Electronic submission for theses and dissertations.
 - Online system for submitting recommendation letters is being explored.
 - Professional development programming for faculty and graduate students.
 - PI management tool for their funded research.
- Will seek guidance from GFC to see what the Graduate School can do better.

Graduate School reorganization

- The Graduate School Organizational Working Group met several times throughout the summer and has fulfilled its duties. The group was tasked with recommending three or four models based on review of organizational structures at peer/aspirational universities. A total of 14 different models, including the current model, were examined.
- A new Task Force for the Graduate School Reorganization will select one - chosen after input from various governance committees—to forward to the chancellor and provost. The chancellor will make the final decision, expected in November. This first meeting for this group has been scheduled.

2. Chair's Report

GFC Chair Michael Brondino distributed [his report](#) to those assembled, and requested that they rank the potential discussion items and submit additions for future agendas in time for the next meeting (Oct. 15). Other information not included in the written report:

- Mark Harris, Interim Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Research, will be invited to the October meeting to provide an update on Graduate Assistant stipend restructuring.
- Erin Fox reported that Graduate Program Representatives were surveyed regarding interest in having an online system for submitting letters of recommendation for admission, and the desired features of that system. Based on responses, an RFP will be developed, with a target implementation date of fall 2013.
- The following individuals volunteered to participate in a small working group to revise policies related to graduate assistants: Kristene Surerus, Jerry Kaster, Erin Fox.

3. Research Policy Committee Report

No one from the Research Policy Committee was in attendance.

VIII. General Good and Welfare

Structure of GFC Meetings

The Chair would like to replace oral reports with written reports, but still allow for questions. He sought input on other ways to allow time for discussion of policy, other than adding meetings or extending the time of the scheduled meetings. A suggestion was made to set a time limit for reports.

Subcommittee Membership

GFC members were asked to consider the addition of members to the GFC and/or its subcommittees to better distribute workload.

GFC Attendance Policy

The rule of replacing members after three absences will be enforced, and will also be applied separately to subcommittee attendance.

Establishing a subgroup for Policy Review

The possibility of establishing a separate, formal subcommittee for policy review was raised. This would require modification of the GFC charter by the Faculty Senate. The chair asked if there would be interest in forming an ad hoc committee this year to undertake policy issues.

Ed Mabry moved that

An ad hoc committee be constituted for the remainder of the year to review a selected set of policy issues as determined by the full GFC.

The motion was seconded, and passed. Aaron Schutz expressed an interest in participating.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.