

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Graduate Faculty Committee
Minutes

Monday, December 15, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Union 280

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kristene Surerus called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Behnam Azimi, Mary Jo Baisch, Barbara Bales, Miren Boehm, Sarah Davies Cordova, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Hemant Jain, Jerry Kaster, Laura Otto-Salaj, Aaron Schutz, Kristene Surerus, Chair, Greg Thomson, Kathryn Zalewski

Members Absent

Sukanya Banerjee, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Ann Cook, Craig Guilbault, Laretta Henderson, Seyed Hosseini, Hamid Ouali, Gabriel Rei-Doval, Patricia Richards, Mark Schwartz, Mark Srite, Jon Welstead

Guests

Dev Venugopalan, Associate Vice Chancellor; Michelle Silverman, Occupational Science and Technology; Pat Hayes, Kathleen Koch and Cindy Marifke, Graduate School

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IV. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Notice of Intent – MA in Biomedical Sciences

Committee members received the notice.

V. REPORTS

1. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska reported the following:

- The metrics and feedback from the Graduate School Open House (held on November 20, 2014) were positive. There is a presentation on this information that was developed for University Relations and CEMAT (Chancellor's Enrollment Management Action Team) if any GFC member would like more information.

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- She attended the Annual Conference of the Council of Graduate Schools at the beginning of December, including a session on Solutions for Tracking Student Progression, which has ties to retention. A question was raised at the session on how to measure retention. Many options are available for undergraduate or K-12 education, but graduate schools are building their own solutions in-house or looking at products from outside vendors. The UWM Graduate School has developed an in-house milestone system.
- Janet Napolitano, currently the president of the University of California system, gave one of the plenary addresses at the CGS conference. She said schools need to work with legislators to make a case for graduate education. Legislators need to choose to support education versus Medicare, defense, etc.
- The Graduate School has purchased a system for online admission applications that includes the ability to track program-specific requirements like online letters of recommendation.

2. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus reported the following:

- A draft of the certificate policy will go to the GCC, grad reps and certificate reps for comment.
- A draft of the English proficiency policy might be completed at the end of spring 2015.
- The Physical Environment Committee has received the Transportation Report. Parking rates will be increased. The Student Association will not be paying for student parking in the Northwest Quadrant. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska noted that undergraduate and graduate student parking will be available during the winter break and UWinterIM.

VI. **AUTOMATIC CONSENT**

The following item was approved as amended, adding the phrase, "types of" to the last sentence on the discussion of Dissertation Committee Size: "The number of committee members for other **types of** doctoral programs would stay as approved in their program planning documents."

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The following items were approved as distributed.

GFC Documents

1. Reactivate the Art Education Specialization in the Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Education, #1337
2. Program Change – Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical & Health Informatics, #1338
3. Certificate Change – Marriage & Family Therapy, #1339
4. Certificate Change – Assistive Technology & Accessible Design, #1340
5. Program Change – Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture, #1341
6. Program Change – Master of Architecture, #1342
7. Program Change – Master of Science in Freshwater Sciences, #1343
8. Program Change – Doctor of Philosophy in Freshwater Sciences, #1344
9. Program Change – Master of Science in Cultural Foundations of Education, #1345

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Preliminary Discussion – Requiring Outside Evaluators for New Programs

Dev Venugopalan, Associate Vice Chancellor, stated there are proposals for new programs that can't move forward because he can't find external evaluators. For example, 31 evaluators were contacted for a new PhD program, but only one person agreed. Dev Venugopalan had to ask the GFC Chair for approval to go forward with only one evaluator. The program lost eight months because of the difficulty in finding evaluators.

UW – Madison has a different process for new program proposals. They have internal evaluators from different departments perform the reviews Dev Venugopalan asked if the GFC would be willing to use the same process as Madison. While some new program proposals have been improved by suggestions from external reviewers, there is the potential to streamline the process now. External evaluators are not required by the UW-System.

Hemant Jain moved to approve the use of two internal evaluators for new program proposals. Aaron Schutz seconded the motion.

Kathryn Zalewski stated that some accredited programs are required to have external evaluators as part of the accreditation process. Would they still need to have internal evaluators?

Aaron Schutz moved to amend the motion and waive the requirement of internal evaluators for accredited programs. Kathryn Zalewski seconded the motion. The amendment passed. The main motion as amended passed.

2. Preliminary Discussion – Standardized Tests for Admission

Kristene Surerus stated that some departments want to use MCAT and LSAT scores for admission. UWM is unable to receive official MCAT and LSAT scores from the companies because we do not have a medical school nor a law school. Do we want to allow the use of these scores?

Hemant Jain replied that the MCAT is used for admission to the PhD in Health Care Informatics program. He stated that the program doesn't worry about receiving official scores.

Barbara Bales asked if the GFC would establish minimum scores for admission with the MCAT and LSAT tests. Kristene Surerus replied that departments would establish minimum scores.

Aaron Schutz said he is worried that the unofficial scores could be tampered with using today's technology. What would happen if some students tampered with their scores and others found out? The honest students would feel cheated. The response from the GFC members was that an agreement could be created and students would sign and state their scores were valid.

Kathryn Zalewski asked if some programs want to use MCAT and LSAT scores because of their predictive validity or for the convenience of not requiring students to take the GRE.

Kristene Surerus said the MCAT and LSAT tests were not designed for use by schools other than medical and law schools. The GFC members agreed.

3. Preliminary Discussion – Definition of PhD Residency (Reference GFC #682)

Kristene Surerus asked the GFC members to consider the definition of the PhD residency requirement. Topics include: what is the purpose of the residency requirement, how is it now used with online enrollment, and can it be considered separate from the other academic requirements for the PhD

The History PhD program asked for an exception to the current policy because summer is not counted towards residency.

Pat Hayes stated the current PhD Residency Definition requires:

- 2 consecutive semesters of 8 or more credits (not including summer)

- **OR** 3 consecutive semesters of 6 or more credits (not including summer). Registration in summer doesn't count toward the residency requirement and lack of registration in summer does not count against a student in fulfilling residency.

Aaron Schutz moved that summer can count for a student, but not against. Summer can be treated like a semester, but students may skip it. Mary Jo Baisch seconded the motion.

Barbara Bales responded that 8 credits in the summer would be a lot. Why are two consecutive semesters of 8 credits required? Pat Hayes replied that it deals with how many hours of study are done on campus.

Aaron Schutz said the GFC should solve the summer problem now and then discuss the residency issue later. The residency issue is a broader question with the use of online courses, etc. It can be discussed later.

Greg Thompson asked if the residency issue could be solved by requiring a consecutive number of credits earned.

Pat Hayes said when the GFC previously looked at the PhD residency issue, they were thinking about other ways of satisfying residency, but no one wanted to quantify attending lectures, colloquia, research, etc.

Barbara Bales stated there's no immediacy to add the summer semester. The whole issue of residency could be evaluated now. Pat Hayes replied it could take a while for a decision to be made on the whole residency issue.

Barbara Bales moved to postpone the summer/residency issue definitely. Kathryn Zalewski seconded the motion. Kristene Surerus asked if the issue should be postponed to February so the GFC could discuss it at the January 2015 meeting.

Aaron Schutz replied that residency is a larger discussion. He asked why we have residency in the first place. The discussion and a decision may take a while. Topics of interest include: what is residency, why is residency required, how is residency affected by online studies, etc.

The GFC committee voted to postpone the residency issue to the January 2015 meeting. The Graduate School will provide information on best practices, the requirements of other universities, how online programs factor into residency, and what programs want.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Marifke, Graduate School