

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee

Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2013

3:00 p.m., Union E 280

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Barbara Bales, Sukanya Banerjee, Michael Brondino, Sarah Davies Cordova, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska, Craig Guilbault, Eric Herhuth, Jerry Kaster, Kathleen Koch (*ex officio*), Christine Larson, Michael Liston (*ex officio*), Vyara Matson, Sarah Morgan, Karen Morin, Gabriel Rei-Doval, Mike Schadewald, Brian Schermer, Mark Schwartz, Amanda Seligman, Kristene Surerus, Jon Welstead

Members Absent: Anthony Azenabor, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Joel DesArmo, Anoop Dhingra, Laretta Henderson, Rebecca Holderness, Patricia Richards, Regina Smith, Jeffrey Sommers, Mark Srite, Peter Tonellato, David Yu (*ex officio*).

Guests: Erin Fox, Pat Hayes, Chris Parks, Molly Wierzbicki, Graduate School; Jen Singer, Center for International Education; Larry Kuiper, interim director, English as a Second Language program

III. Announcements

Kathleen Koch announced new spring GFC meeting dates for February (2/17) and March (3/10), due to unavailability of Union meeting rooms on the original dates.

IV. Automatic Consent

The following items were approved:

- A. Minutes of the November 18, 2013 GFC meeting
- B. GFC Doc. No. 1297 Program Change – Ph.D. in Educational Psychology

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Reports

A. Graduate School Dean Elect's Report

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska discussed the following items:

1. She expressed gratitude for the support of Graduate School Interim Dean David Yu and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Research Growth and Administration Mark Harris during her candidacy for the Graduate School deanship.

2. She requested volunteers to serve on the search and screen committee for the Vice Provost for Research.
3. Becky Gundrum is leaving her job as Assistant Dean for Administrative and Financial Services; recruitment will proceed as quickly as possible, with the support of the provost.
4. She attended the Council of Graduate Schools 53rd Annual Meeting earlier this month.
5. The student representatives from the Grad Student Advisory Council met with the Provost.

B. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus discussed the following items:

1. The BS/MS articulation working group met and is hoping to complete a proposal in February.
2. The Certificate Working Group has set its spring meetings. Working through the many issues may take a while.

C. Report from the Interim Vice Provost for Research

No report

VII. General Discussion

A. Assessment of Dual Admission Policy

1. Lawrence Kuiper questioned the requirement for a dually admitted graduate student to both complete an ESL course and submit TOEFL or IELTS score in order to continue in a graduate program. He suggested allowing the ESL program to evaluate whether students are ready to matriculate and grant certain graduate students admission in lieu of a test score, similar to the policy for undergraduates. He noted that the ESL program does not prepare students for standardized tests.
2. The possible addition of other benchmarks of proficiency, including the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English, was discussed.
3. There was discussion of the phenomenon of some international students' test scores decreasing over time.
4. Erin Fox noted that sometimes an advisor promises to help a student get admitted using methods that violate university policy, such as writing a letter on behalf of the student.
5. The following working group was formed to examine and revise the policy: Gabriel Rei-Doval (chair), Erin Fox, Jennifer Singer, Jon Welstead, Lawrence Kuiper, Michael Liston.

B. Review of GFC charter and relationship to subcommittee

1. Kristene Surerus proposed separating subcommittees from the GFC, citing many GFC members' reluctance to also serve on a subcommittee. She suggested having the subcommittees report directly to the Senate.
2. Michael Brondino expressed concern about the GFC losing control of that aspect of graduate education. He also noted that only a small portion of the faculty actually participates in governance.
3. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska noted that The Research Committee is considering adding subcommittees, using GFC as a model.
4. It was suggested that more non-GFC members elected to subcommittees.

Viii. The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.