

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Graduate Faculty Committee
Minutes

Monday, February 16, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

Union 280

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kristene Surerus called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Mary Jo Baisch, Barbara Bales, Miren Boehm, Ann Cook, Sarah Davies Cordova, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Craig Guilbault, Hemant Jain, Jerry Kaster, Laura Otto-Salaj, Gabriel Rei-Doval, Patricia Richards, Aaron Schutz, Mark Schwartz, Mark Srite, Kristene Surerus, Greg Thomson, Kathryn Zalewski

Members Absent

Sukanya Banerjee, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Tracey Heatherington, Laretta Henderson, Seyed Hosseini, Hamid Ouali, Jon Welstead

Guests

Pat Hayes, Vicky Everson, Kathleen Koch and Cindy Marifke, Graduate School

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IV. REPORTS

1. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska reported that recruitment is going well. Programs are receiving names from the GRE search service and making contacts and the Graduate School recruiter is going to fairs. Results from the Open House are continuing to be seen because students are using the application fee waiver.

Applications to the Graduate School (master's and doctoral categories) are up 2.2% as of today. In regards to admits, programs are 16% behind on master's admissions and 40% behind on doctoral admissions, compared to last year. Budget uncertainties may be the cause of the lower admissions.

The Graduate School is studying retention metrics. This information will be given to programs when it is available.

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Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska has received confirmation that the Chancellor's Awards, the Research Excellence Awards, Research Assistantships, Teaching Assistantships, and Program Assistantships will be continued for the next academic year at the current year's rates. The award amounts for the Distinguished Graduate Student and Distinguished Dissertation fellowships will likely remain the same, but fewer awards might be given as a result of proposed state budget cuts.

The most recent Grad Reps meeting had a presentation about veteran students at UWM. She was impressed with the number of veterans (approximately 1,000). There are a number of programs on campus (Veterans Upward Bound, the Military & Veterans Resource Center, the Military Education Benefits Office, and the Onsite Department of Veterans Affairs Counselor) that can help departments recruit and retain veterans.

The review of graduate programs is continuing. The Graduate School is looking at any requirements that may need to be changed. Some possibilities include asking external reviewers to provide an executive summary and grade the program, but these ideas will be taken to the GFC first.

The Graduate School plans to undertake a special project during the summer. Jasmine Alinder will be working with programs that indicated an interest in integrated Bachelor/Master's degrees in their strategic plans.

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska stated that UWM is not included in all of the available Graduate Student ranking reports. For example, the QS World University Rankings requires universities to provide data about alumni and their employers. The Graduate School and the Provost's Office are currently unable to provide that information. This omission could be affecting our recruitment efforts. To attempt to remedy this recruitment problem, the Graduate School is working with the Alumni Association to be able to contact alumni and determine their employers. The QS ranking also requires faculty at other institutions to voluntarily rate UWM.

The Graduate School is also investigating the following policies:

- Certificate along the way to the master's
- Master's along the way to the PhD.
- Double master's along the way to the PhD.

Finally, since the January 2015 split into two divisions, the Graduate School has a deficit of \$500,000 in salaries. It was expected that the new online application system would bring in that amount through application fees which would be retained by the Graduate School. The assumption has been that graduate student application fees were retained

by the UW System; however, Marija recently learned that the fees are returned to campus as part of the budget of Finance & Administrative Affairs.

2. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus reported the following:

- A draft of the certificate policy will go to the GCC, It has already been reviewed by the graduate program representatives.
- A draft of the English proficiency policy might be completed by the beginning of fall 2015.
- Members of the GFC are encouraged to attend the budget and public authority meetings on campus.

V. AUTOMATIC CONSENT

The following items were approved and distributed.

1. Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Council Meeting of January 26, 2015.

2. GFC Documents

Certificate Review – Applied Gerontology, #1350

The following item was removed from automatic consent: Certificate Review – Chamber Music, #1351. The certificate data needs to be verified by the Graduate School. Pat Hayes noted that Chamber Music states 11 certificates were awarded, but her data (from PAWS) shows none.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Election of GFC Chair for 2015-16.

Craig Guilbault was nominated and elected.

VII. GENERAL GOOD & WELFARE

No items were discussed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Marifke, Graduate School