

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee

Minutes

Monday, January 26, 2015, 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

Mary Jo Baisch, Barbara Bales, Miren Boehm, Ann Cook, Sarah Davies Cordova, Tracey Heatherington (*ex officio*), Seyed Hosseini, Hemant Jain, Jerry Kaster, Laura Otto-Salaj, Hamid Ouali, Gabriel Rei-Doval, Mark Schwartz, Mark Srite, Kristene Surerus, Greg Thomson, Jon Welstead, Kathryn Zalewski

Members Absent

Behnam Azimi, Sukanya Banerjee, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Maria Gajdardziska-Josifovska (*ex officio*), Craig Guilbault, Laretta Henderson, Pat Richards, Aaron Schutz

Guests

Erin Fox, Peter Hansen, Kathleen Koch, Graduate School; Simone Ferro, Dance

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IV. REPORTS

1. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

In the absence of Dean Gajdardziska-Josifovska, Graduate School Associate Dean Tracey Heatherington reported the following:

- For the Graduate School, as the rest of campus, changes to the budget—especially Chapter 36—are a top concern. Members were encouraged to attend the Chancellor's plenary and the Faculty Senate meeting.
- Work is ongoing to implement the new Graduate School's online admission application (Terra Dotta) and a new online system for managing communications with prospective students (Hobsons Radius).
- The Graduate School has NSF data on past degrees awarded by UWM historically, which will help with alumni relations and publicity.
- UWM is one of 15 U.S. universities chosen to participate in a pilot project with ProQuest to use Thesis and Dissertation submission data to enhance Alumni Relations activities.
- Fall graduate applications are up a little bit from last year: 3,021 for Fall 2015 vs. 2,914 for Fall 2014. Spring numbers are also up.

- About 100 applicants have used the application fee waiver distributed at the November Graduate School Open House.

2. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus reported the following

- The final draft of the new certificate policy is almost complete. The plan is to present it at the February grad reps meeting and subsequent GCC and GFC meetings.
- English proficiency working group still has several meetings set for this semester. Draft policy may be presented at the end of Spring 2015 or in the fall.
- GFC charter calls for February election for GFC chair; Kristene Surerus's two terms are up. Seeking volunteers.

V. AUTOMATIC CONSENT

The following items were approved as distributed.

- Minutes: December 15, 2014 GFC meeting.
- Program Change, Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences: Reactivate track in Laboratory Management/Education. **GFC Doc. #1346**
- Program Change, Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction: Add Transcript-Designated Concentration in Urban Social Studies. **GFC Doc. #935** (*Revised Jan. 2015*)
- Transcript-Designated Concentrations within the School of Information Studies: Change coursework for Archival Studies and Information Organization concentrations; remove "Leadership" from Public Library Leadership concentration. **GFC Doc. #1136** (*Revised Jan. 2015*)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- New Program, MFA in Dance: Simone Ferro explained that the program already exists under the umbrella of the MFA in Performing Arts. The National Association of Schools of Dance recommended that the program seek an independent degree designation during the last accreditation visit. This will aid in recruitment and marketing, and tracking enrollment and time-to-degree. Barbara Bales moved to approve. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. **GFC Doc. #1347**
- Policy Change, Doctoral Policies and Procedures: Reduces minimum number of Dissertation Committee members from five to four. Jerry Kaster moved to

approve. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. **GFC Doc. #636**
(Revised Jan 2015)

- Policy Change, Consolidated Graduate School Grades Policy: Allows S and U grades for theses, projects and papers to show on official transcripts; incorporates separate GFC Document (967) on F grades for financial aid reporting with previous consolidated grades policy (GFC 941). Jerry Kaster moved to approve. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. **GFC Doc. #1348**
- Policy Change, Degree Credit Policy for the Master's Thesis, Paper or Project: Creates a separate document for the portion of GFC 980 that remained after the section on master's thesis grades was incorporated into GFC Doc. 1348). Sarah Davies Cordova moved to approve. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. **GFC Doc. #1349**

VII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The definition of Ph.D. Residency (Reference GFC #682) was discussed. Kathleen Koch summarized the current policy:

1. Students must complete 8 to 12 graduate credits in two consecutive semesters or 6 or more graduate credits in each of three consecutive semesters, exclusive of summer sessions. (This is measured by enrollment, not physical presence on campus. Online courses fulfill the requirement.)
2. Students must complete at least 50 percent of graduate credits required for the Ph.D. at UWM in doctoral status.
3. The requirement is intended to immerse the student in the chosen discipline and foster participation in the community of scholars.

Ensuuing discussion included:

- Departments need more flexibility.
- Many online students don't spend any time on campus.
- Appropriate requirement is better determined by the department or the student's dissertation committee.
- Decrease the continuous enrollment requirement to 6-12 credits instead of 8-12 per semester, and allow summer enrollment to satisfy the requirement.
- Inconsistent enrollment can inhibit the weaving together of knowledge and concepts from multiple courses that happens when courses are taken within a short time.

Based on the discussion Kristene Surerus offered four policy options:

1. Change policy to require 18 credits over 4 semesters.

2. Change policy from the current 8-12 credits to 6-12 credits and allow summer enrollment to count.
3. Discontinue the policy entirely.
4. Do nothing.

The GFC ultimately decided to eliminate the continuous enrollment portion of the residency policy. They felt that the recent adoption of a time limit for prelims would have the same outcome – students would have to take sufficient coursework in their first five years in a PhD program to be able to demonstrate integration of that knowledge in successfully completing the doctoral preliminary examination. The GFC supported retention of the policy that students must complete at least 50 percent of graduate credits required for the Ph.D. at UWM in doctoral status.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Hansen, Graduate School