

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
Graduate Faculty Committee

Minutes
January 28, 2013
Union E280

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, Anoop Dhingra, Laretta Henderson, Jerry Kaster, Kathleen Koch (*ex-officio*), Christine Larson, Michael Liston (*ex-officio*), Ed Mabry, Devendra Misra, Karen Morin, Jeff Neuhauser, Mark Schwartz, Regina Smith, Virginia Stoffel, Kristene Surerus, Carrie Truebenbach, Luc Vanier, David Yu (*ex-officio*),

Members Absent:

Maria Gajdardziska-Josifovska (*ex-officio*), Donald Hanlon, Jacob Glicklich, Maria del Pilar Melgarejo-Acosta, Anthony Ross, Aaron Schutz, Valeriy Sibilkov, Peter Tonellato, Jon Welstead, Doug Woods (*ex-officio*), Shangping Xu

Guests:

Joan Hayes, Erin Fox, Jenna Jazna, Christi Bergles, Pat Hayes, Sue Krueger, Graduate School; Mark Harris, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Research

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ginny Stoffel reminded the group that the due date for applications for the Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship (DGSF) and the Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship (DDF) is February 8th.

Michael Brondino mentioned that there was a Brown Bag lunch today with the Chancellor and Provost, and members of the Graduate School and the School of Social Welfare. One of the issues discussed was the proposal for stipends for RAs, TAs and PAs. One of the questions for the GFC is whether the group should take formal action to express support for this initiative.

Mark Harris reported that he anticipated that the increase in RA stipends was likely to be approved this spring. However, the PA/TA stipends as well as the tuition assistance may have a tougher time getting support from the deans.

IV. AUTOMATIC CONSENT

1. [Minutes](#) of the Regular Graduate Faculty Council Meeting of December 17, 2012 were approved as distributed.
2. (GFC 1254) Recommendation of the Subcommittee on Graduate Course and Curriculum and the Program Faculty for Changes to the Requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Applied Gerontology
3. (GFC 1255) Recommendation of the Subcommittee on Graduate Course and Curriculum and the Faculty of the Department of Criminal Justice for Changes to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice

GFC Documents 1254 and 1255 were approved as distributed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommendations from Working Group Charged To Review the Embargo Policy for Dissertations and Theses ([GFC Document 1080](#))

The Working Group (Michael Brondino, Maria Gajdardziska-Josifovska and Kristene Surerus. is in the process of gathering information to revise the document and should have a draft for the GFC to review at the next meeting.

2. Recommendations from Working Group Charged To Review the Graduate School Policy on the Awarding of Posthumous Degrees. (Graduate School Policy GFC Document 602 [Revision Draft](#), January 2013, Undergraduate Policy [FD2278](#))

A first draft of the revised policy was distributed. Ginny Stoffel summarized the discussion of the Working Groups (other members are Karen Morin and Amanda Seligman). They agreed that all candidates would need to go through the GFC for final approval. They also considered awarding an honorary vs. an earned degree. Since significant work would be done toward the degree, it was decided that it would be an earned degree. The revision will provide programs with more flexibility to determine “significant progress” achieved toward the degree, leaving that judgment to the faculty most familiar with the student. The workgroup will finalize the draft and bring it back to the GFC for final action at the February meeting.

3. [Residency Requirements](#)

The current policy is 41 years old, and is implemented through a minimum number of credits that must be completed at UWM, and a period of continuous enrollment for a minimum number of credits. The rationale for the policy is to provide doctoral candidates with immersion in the discipline. The Committee was asked to consider if any changes were required with the advent of on-line classes, and cooperative and joint degrees. Some students have difficulty fulfilling the continuous enrollment requirement. One of the issues is that the policy excludes using summer credits. The original intent of the language was to not have non-enrollment during summer count as an interruption of continuous enrollment, since fewer classes are offered then. It would help students meet the policy if including summer credits was an option. Pat Hayes indicated that 2 to 3 exceptions to the policy are requested each year. These petitions are usually well-justified, and granted. However, the Reasons for the exceptions are not systematically recorded. Doing so would help future decision-makers when considering the requests.

Another discussion point was whether there should be one campus-wide policy or whether this requirement should be left to the discretion of the programs. It is difficult to find a “one size fits all” policy due to the variability of the program requirements. Some programs have other means of providing socialization within the discipline, such as conference and colloquia attendance, ethics classes, research activities, etc. There was some agreement that the term “Residency Requirements” is a confusing name for the policy.

The Graduate School will research best practices at other universities and report back to the GFC.

VI. REPORTS

1. Report from the Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Interim Dean David Yu reported the following:

Ningbo University: Representatives of UWM have entered into an agreement with Ningbo University in China that will expand educational cooperation and collaborative research efforts. While the two universities have hosted student exchanges since 2006, they now are exploring a process by which students from Ningbo can enroll in and complete graduate-degree programs offered by UWM. The partners will also investigate developing undergraduate dual-degree agreements that will allow qualified students to study at both universities and have their

degrees conferred by both. Ningbo University offers mostly undergraduate degrees and partners with other universities to offer doctoral programs.

It will require a lot of effort to set up a UWM presence at Ningbo University. The approach will be staged as follows:

1. Reach out to the Schools and Colleges to see what it would take to have UWM curriculum offered at Ningbo. UWM would retain 100% control of the curriculum.
2. Identify what resources we need to establish and maintain a presence at Ningbo and identify what resources Ningbo would provide to establish and maintain these classes.
3. Identify and work through the legal and financial issues related to this initiative.

Reorganization of Graduate School: The Chancellor and Provost have chosen and the Faculty Senate has approved Model 2 for the Graduate School reorganization. The Graduate Faculty Committee will have an important role in helping the Graduate School transition to this new leadership model. One of the primary goals in this transition is to make sure that the impact of this change creates minimal disruption for the Graduate School Staff.

Graduate School Retreat: The Graduate School held a one-day planning session last week to identify projects and goals for the coming year. Associate Dean Gajdardziska-Josifovska took the lead on this, and will provide a report at the February meeting.

2. Chair's Report

Michael Brondino reported the following:

Budget Listening Sessions: Materials were sent out regarding the upcoming listening session. Members are encouraged to attend. The listening sessions are structured to have attendees discuss 5 questions related to the budget planning process. A total of 15 listening sessions are planned to gather input on characteristics of a new budget model.

Budget Model Working Group: Michael Brondino is currently the GFC representative on this body. He asked for a GFC member to volunteer to take his place for Spring.

3. Updates from GFC Subcommittee Chairs

Subcommittee on Graduate Fellowships: Ginny Stoffel reported that the Subcommittee is making progress on the applications.

Subcommittee on Graduate Course and Curriculum: Luc Vanier reported that the GCC has revised the course review checklist to include criteria for on-line and hybrid type classes, It also has instituted a new process for course review that includes earlier deadlines for programs so that Graduate School staff may conduct an administrative preview and obtain revised syllabi

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with fewer missing items. This will allow the GCC to focus on qualitative assessment rather than item-by-item compliance with the Uniform Syllabus Policy .

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Krueger and Kathleen Koch, Graduate School
For Maria del Pilar Melgarejo-Acosta