

**The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**  
Graduate Faculty Committee  
**Minutes**

Monday, March 10, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

**Union E 240**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Kristene Surerus called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present**

Sukanya Banerjee, Michael Brondino, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Joel DesArmo, Maria Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Eric Herhuth, Jerry Kaster, Kathleen Koch (ex officio), Christine Larson, Michael Liston (ex officio), Sarah Morgan, Karen Morin, Mike Schadewald, Mark Schwartz, Regina Smith, Kristene Surerus, Chair, Jon Welstead.

**Members Absent**

Anthony Azenabor, Barbara Bales, Anoop Dhingra, Craig Guilbault, Laretta Henderson, Rina Kundu, Vyara Matson, Patricia Richards, Gabriel Rei-Doval, Brian Schermer, Amanda Seligman, Caroline Seymour-Jorn, Jeffrey Sommers, Mark Srite, Peter Tonellato.

**Guests**

Erin Fox, Peter Hansen, Graduate School; Kurt Svoboda, Darcie Warren, Zilber School of Public Health; Chase Erwin, co-president, Milwaukee Graduate Assistants Association.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**IV. INFORMATION ONLY**

1. Notice of Intent to Plan a Master of Science in Athletic Training program
  2. Notice of Intent to Plan a Master of Science in Information Science and Technology
- There were no comments.

**V. AUTOMATIC CONSENT**

The following items were approved as distributed.

**Minutes**

Regular Graduate Faculty Council Meeting of February 17, 2014

**GFC Documents**

1. Certificate Review — Family Nurse Practitioner, #1302

2. Program Review — MA in Language, Literature, and Translation, #1303
3. Certificate in Technology Entrepreneurship, #1304

GFC Document #1305 was moved to New Business

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Concentrations in Public Health Policy and Administration, Epidemiology, and Biostatistics within the Master of Public Health degree, #1305  
The document was approved unanimously with one change requested by Darcie Warren: Replace proposed new course PH 733—Public Health Approaches to Physical Activity and Nutrition—with existing course Kin 732—Physical Activity and Health Across the Lifespan (at the request of the College of Health Sciences).

2. Resolution from graduate students regarding Graduate Assistant salaries  
Chase Erwin presented a resolution calling for two items:
  - a. Add a line to the 2015-2016 budget that increases UWM teaching assistant annual base pay by at least \$2,000—an approximately 14 percent raise—with corresponding increases for project assistants.
  - b. Have Chancellor Lovell and Provost Britz publicize that low assistant pay:
    - 1) Compels TAs to seek additional part-time jobs, which adversely affects undergraduate education.
    - 2) Hinders research.
    - 3) Hurts economic growth in the area, and increases students' loan debt.

Chase noted that the University Committee has endorsed the resolution, and the Faculty Senate will be considering it at its March 13 meeting, and encouraged GFC members to attend the meeting.

Chase said that during a March 4 meeting with Provost Britz, they estimated the proposal would increase the budget by about \$1.8 million.

Karen Morin moved that the GFC support the Resolution Regarding Graduate Assistant Compensation presented by Chase Erwin. Regina Smith seconded. Passed unanimously.

Mark Schwartz noted that he would be presenting the resolution at the Faculty Senate meeting.

## **VII. REPORTS**

### 1. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska's discussed the following:

- Increasing assistant salaries is an important part of the Strategic Plan.
- The Graduate School Strategic Plan was submitted; thanks to the GFC for its quick work. The Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) also contributed. Schools and colleges have submitted their strategic plans. The various thematic teams should soon be submitting their write-ups.
- The Successful Student thematic team's document is aimed primarily at undergraduates. Marija suggested either adding a note that it is just for undergrads or including information relevant to graduate students.
- The challenge of striving to become a top-tier research institution while also working to increase access to graduate education.
- Chancellor's Council on Strategic Enrollment Management is focusing on the Fall. Admissions for Fall 2014 are 25% higher than at this time last year.
- Within the Graduate School:
  - In addition to weekly meetings of the cabinet and directors, sub-unit functional meetings are now being held.
  - Improving internal communication will allow the Graduate Education unit stay current on GFC policy changes.
  - The Graduate School recruiter has gone to 34 fairs during the fall and spring, nine of which were international. Her next stop is Brazil.
  - The position description has been completed for the new Director of Development for Graduate Education within the office of the Vice Chancellor for Development. It is hoped recruitment will start soon.
  - Terra Dotta will be the new graduate application software. The next step is working with campus lawyers and credit card specialists to ensure the application's compliance with various requirements.
- CIP codes are assigned by the federal government to each academic discipline. International graduates with CIPs from STEM fields are eligible for a student visa extension of up to 17 months beyond graduation for practical training in their fields. UWM Human Resources disconnected from the system that allows USCIS to track students' CIP codes. A fix is being sought.
- The Graduate School and Academic Affairs are working to ensure that graduate program reviews are seen by the appropriate people on campus. Inclusion of an executive summary with each final report is being considered.

- In her meeting with GSAC, they discussed how GSAC, SA and MGAA can work together effectively.
- Student Association is increasing graduate student representation from two to three elected members, still less than 10 percent of the total. Graduate students will still have difficulty influencing policies such as segregated fee collection and distribution.
- A possible model under consideration for distributing segregated fees is having separate graduate and undergraduate budgets.
- GSAC is also exploring ways to improve graduate student life, including graduate living/learning communities and specialized campus tours.
- Marija has been named a fellow of the Microscopy Society of America.

## 2. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus discussed the following:

- The new admissions policy is finished and awaiting feedback from the graduate program representatives.
- The baccalaureate/master's five-year programs policy is still being drafted. Presentation at the April GFC meeting is planned.
- The certificate working group has reached a consensus; a draft policy is forthcoming.
- ESL working group: The new policy will have more options for assessing language skills, and allow for consideration of test sub-scores in admission decisions.
- APBC will discuss research allocation models at their next meeting.

## 3. Report from the Interim Vice Provost for Research

No report.

## **VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. Development of a leave of absence or temporary withdrawal policy for graduate students.

Erin Fox said it's not uncommon for universities to have leave policies, but requirements are very specific (Medical documentation etc.). With no policy, the Graduate School can't grant leaves. Currently, dissertators incur a substantial re-entry penalty after time off. She supports a well-defined policy that is not open to interpretation. Discussion ensued.

2. Report on the Annual Council of Graduate Schools meeting — Marija  
Financial aid workshop was mostly undergraduate oriented. She said there is a misconception that graduate students are financially literate and much more effort is needed to educate graduate students in financial matters.

There was also discussion of the Graduate School initiative to grow extramural graduate fellowships.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Hansen, Graduate School  
For Christine Larson