

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Graduate Faculty Committee
Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Union E 240

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kristene Surerus called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Barbara Bales, Sukanya Banerjee, Michael Brondino, Jacques du Plessis, Maria Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Craig Guilbault, Eric Herhuth, Jerry Kaster, Kathleen Koch (ex officio), Rina Kundu, Christine Larson, Michael Liston (ex officio), Karen Morin, Gabriel Rei-Doval, Patricia Richards, Brian Schermer, Mark Schwartz, Amanda Seligman, Regina Smith, Mark Srite, Kristene Surerus, Chair.

Members Absent

Anthony Azenabor, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Joel DesArmo, Anoop Dhingra, Vyara Matson, Sarah Morgan, Mike Schadewald, Caroline Seymour-Jorn, Peter Tonellato, Jon Welstead.

Guests

Erin Fox, Peter Hansen, Cindy Marifke, Graduate School; Paul Roebber, School of Freshwater Sciences

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IV. INFORMATION ONLY

1. Pre-Authorization Requested: Intent to Plan for an Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Degree
 2. Pre-Authorization Granted for MS in Information Science and Technology
- There were no comments on these proposals.

V. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Graduate Faculty Committee recommends to the Board of Regents for the respective graduate degrees those students whose names are submitted by the Dean of the Graduate School as having completed degree requirements by the end of the Spring and Summer Terms, 2013-2014.

Michael Brondino moved that the GFC approve the list of students who have completed degree requirements. Regina Smith seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Election of GFC Chair for 2014-15

Kristene Surerus opened the nominations. Michael Brondino nominated Kristene Surerus. Regina Smith seconded. Passed unanimously. Kristene Surerus said she could be the GFC Chair for one more year.

VI. AUTOMATIC CONSENT

The following items were approved as distributed.

Minutes

Regular Graduate Faculty Council Meeting of March 10, 2014

GFC Documents

1. Review of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, #1306
2. Program Change – Doctor of Physical Therapy, #1307
3. Coordinated Degree Program – Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Master of Public Administration, #1308
4. Coordinated Degree Program – Master of Arts in Language, Literature and Translation and Master of Business Administration, #1309
5. Clinical Nurse Specialist Post-Graduate Certificate, #1310
6. Transcript-Designated Concentrations – School of Education Master's Programs, #935 Rev. May 2014

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Program to Program Articulation Agreement between the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and its School of Freshwater Sciences and the University of Wisconsin – Parkside and its Geosciences Department

Jerry Kaster said this is the same type of program as we currently have with Carroll University. UW – Parkside has approved the current agreement. Michael Brondino moved to approve the Program to Program Articulation Agreement. Rina Kundu seconded. Passed unanimously.

2. Policies and Procedures for the Establishment and Review of Integrated Bachelor's/Master's Degrees, #1311

GFC Doc. #1311 has been approved by the GCC and endorsed by the Graduate Program Representatives and the Academic Deans Council. There were no major concerns raised by any of these groups.

Jerry Kaster said Freshwater Sciences is very interested in continuing to develop integrated degree programs with internal and external partners. Architecture & Urban Planning is also interested.

GFC Doc. #1311 does not set the minimum number of credits that can be counted toward the undergraduate and graduate portion of the degree, but the maximum is 30 credits. Some members were confused by the Policies and Procedures examples that were included because they contained references to Letters and Science. The policy is intended for any school or master's program. The examples can be more generally worded for any program.

Regina Smith moved to approve #1311. Michael Brondino seconded. Passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS

1. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska discussed the following:

- Thanked the committee members for being the most active GFC in recent history. Their actions will attract students to campus.
- The metrics on PhD programs are increasing, which is good for the university. The numbers for master's degrees are more challenging since there is a lot of competition from other universities.
- There is data analysis for this year and longitudinal studies for the past 10 years. We are able to visualize weekly trends as the enrollment cycle develops.
- We continue to work with Purchasing and Legal Affairs to procure a new online application system that includes electronic letters of reference. Work is being done to have it be ready for the Fall.

2. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus discussed the following:

- The Certificate Working Group will be working on policies during the summer.
3. Report from the Interim Vice Provost for Research
No report.
 4. ESL Working Group
Gabriel Rei Doval discussed the following:
 - One more test might be added as an option for assessing English proficiency.
 - Working to establish the reasons to be in the program.
 - Hope is to have it approved before the next enrollment cycle.
 - The group will also be looking at the Conditional Admission policy, which was approved as a trial basis. A report on Conditional Admission should be ready in early fall.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Graduate Transcripts

Erin Fox said Ellen Daly was unable to be present at today's meeting, but the issue is to have tracks within concentrations notated on transcripts.

Maria Gajdardziska-Josifovska clarified that we have PhD and master's programs with concentrations. For the concentration to be listed on the transcript, the curriculum must meet certain criteria and be approved by the GCC and the GFC.

The hierarchy is:

Program
Concentration
Tracks.

We have solved the technical aspects of having tracks appear on the transcripts. The transcript would include: Degree, Concentration, and the track.

The current policy on Concentrations does not mention tracks.

It was noted that as a campus, we spend a lot of time on the certificate, concentration and track specializations. Are we creating these sublevels in lieu of

new master's and PhD programs? Or is it to be nimble and to be able to respond to changes in the job market?

Many students are interested in certificate programs, because they don't want to get their master's degree now because of time, money, family obligations, etc. The certificates, concentrations and tracks are enabling UWM to adapt to the marketplace.

Barbara Bales questioned what would happen if only four students entered a track. Would it be feasible to offer the program for only four students? It was noted that students would be able to enroll in classes that are also required for other tracks, so more than four students would be in a class.

Karen Morin moved that tracks within existing GFC-approved Concentrations be posted on transcripts. Bales seconded. Passed unanimously.

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

Background Information: Erin Fox reported that it's not uncommon for universities to have leave policies, but requirements are very specific (i.e., 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.

The Leave of Absence Policy would only be applicable for dissertators. It would not apply to master's or doctoral students who are not in dissertator status.

Questions arose about the following:

- A policy outlines "students in good standing." Does that mean a 3.0 GPA? If a student's GPA is under 3.0, could it because of a severe medical issue?
- Would students be required to pay any fees when on the leave of absence? If yes, the reason for the fee should be clearly stated.
- How would a leave of absence affect international students? The policy should clearly state how a leave of absence could affect their visa status.
- How would a leave of absence affect doctoral residency requirements? Would it stop the clock on degree requirements?

- Should there be a policy that courses older than a certain number of years (for example, seven) will expire? If a student is gone for a long period of time, the information from an old course would not be current.
- Should the leave of absence only be granted for one calendar year? The leave of absence form should include the reasons for the request and how the student's circumstances will be changed when the time period ends.
- Should the leave of absence be noted on the transcript? Yes.
- What reasons should be allowed to approve a leave of absence?
- Would it be possible to change the UW System requirements for residency so students would not be penalized if they took a leave of absence?
- How do you discern between a student who genuinely needs a leave of absence and someone who just wants to stop work on the dissertation?
- How can you discern between a student who intends to return to finish the degree and someone who will withdraw?
- What is the expectation for faculty guidance for students who are not enrolled/on a leave of absence?
- If students on a leave of absence don't have access to the library, email, online registration, etc., how will that affect them?

3. Distinguished Graduate Student and Distinguished Dissertation Fellowships

Karen Morin reported that sixteen students were awarded \$15,000 fellowships in each competition. As a condition of the award, students may only be employed for 25% of the time at any type of job (the equivalent of 10 hours/week). This stipulation causes hardship for the recipients since many of them need to work either at least part-time.

She asked how the fellowships could be redesigned to assist the students of today. Is it possible to have the fellowships be tuition credits for the next school year and end the stipulations about employment status?

Could a separate award category be created to recognize academic excellence that allows a higher employment percentage?

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Graduate Faculty Committee Minutes

May 12, 2014

p. 7

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Marifke, Graduate School
For Christine Larson