

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Graduate Faculty Committee
Minutes

Monday, October 22, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Union 280

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present

Behnam Azimi, Mary Jo Baisch, Barbara Bales, Sukanya Banerjee, Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan, Ann Cook, Sarah Davies Cordova, Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (ex officio), Craig Guilbault, Laretta Henderson, Seyed Hosseini, Hemant Jain, Jerry Kaster, Laura Otto-Salaj, Gabriel Reidoval, Patricia Richards, Aaron Schutz, Mark Schwartz, Mark Srite, Kristene Surerus, Chair, Greg Thomson, Jon Welstead, Kathryn Zalewski

Members Absent

Miren Boehm, Hamid Ouali

Guests

Ellen Daly, Erin Fox, Pat Hayes, Kathleen Koch and Cindy Marifke, Graduate School

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IV. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Notice of Intent to Plan an Interdisciplinary PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Systems Biophysics

Committee members received the notice.

V. REPORTS

1. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska began with information from the Chancellor's Enrollment Management Action Team (CEMAT). There are plans to increase the applicant pool by purchasing names of students who took the GRE Test to include in marketing campaigns. The total budget is \$35,000 and the Graduate School is asking schools/programs if they want to participate. Approximately 30 search criteria are available. A webinar on the GRE search will be held on November 5, 2014.

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A Milwaukee Delegation went to Indonesia for a trade, commerce and industry expo. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska was part of the delegation and traveled to Jakarta and Medan. There is a Memorandum of Interest from Medan to make it a sister city of Milwaukee.

The Graduate School is working with the Vice Chancellor for Development to see if former fellowship recipients can be included in this year's annual campaign.

In conjunction with University and Media Relations, Erin Fox and Andy Palen have developed a viewbook for all graduate programs. It will hopefully be available for the Graduate School Open House on November 20, 2014. Two new websites are being developed for the Graduate School and the Office of Research.

Three highly qualified finalists have been selected for the Associate Dean of the Graduate School position. Interviews will be occurring during the next few weeks.

Dev Venugopalan, the Associate Vice Chancellor, mentioned to Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska that he is having problems finding external reviewers for new program proposals. He has gone through a list of more than 10 people to review one new program proposal. He will continue to work on finding reviewers, but he may need to come back to the GFC for a policy revision.

2. Chair's Report

Kristene Surerus reported that the Physical Environment Report wasn't completed this week because it has to be presented to the community. It will hopefully be completed in November or December.

The Redevelopment Plan Overview is a 30 year plan that discusses the Southwest Quad Redevelopment. Remodeling the Chemistry, Cunningham, EMS, and Northwest Quad Buildings would cost millions of dollars and is still under development. A separate study for redeveloping the east side of the campus might be completed.

Kristene Surerus stated the Certificate Working Group is finalizing the language of its document. When completed, it will be shown to certificate directors, Grad Reps and the GCC.

VI. **AUTOMATIC CONSENT**

The following items were approved as distributed.

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GFC Documents

1. Program Change – MS in Curriculum and Instruction, #1331

2. Program Change – PhD in Urban Education: Social Foundations of Education Specialization, #1332
3. Coordinated MSW and MS in Criminal Justice, #1333
4. Certificate in Mathematics Teacher Leadership, #1334

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. S/U Grading for Thesis and Dissertation (Reference GFC 890 and GFC 726)

S/U grades appear on unofficial, but not official transcripts for thesis and dissertation courses. This decision was made by GFC about 20 years ago. Now, there is a question by some employers and licensing entities whether students receive credit for these courses since there is a blank next to the course on official transcripts.

At the time, the faculty thought that a grade of “U” wouldn’t be given by if it appeared on the official transcript.

Kathryn Zalewski asked if there is a limit on the number of “U” grades a student can receive before being dismissed. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska stated that there is not currently an overall policy in effect. The Admissions and Continuation Policy lets each program decide.

Jerry Kaster stated there should be a way to judge the whole thesis or dissertation, not just semester by semester. Pat Hayes responded that the S/U grade is based on what is happening that term.

Naira Campbell-Kyureghyan said there’s difficulty when a student can register for dissertation hours, not complete the work, and then sign up the next semester for the same course. Pat Hayes responded that the S/U grade is an evaluation for each term, and more time may not be given to complete the semester’s work.

Barbara Bales commented that the S/U grades are needed to document if students are making progress or not. The official transcript shows a record of the student’s progress and the quality of work.

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska stated that many faculty members seem surprised that the S/U grades don’t appear on official transcripts.

Kristene Surerus said a policy on having the S/U grades show on official transcripts will be drafted for the GFC to vote upon.

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Mary Jo Basich asked if students in the middle of their program could have their S/U grades show on official transcripts for work for the past 10 years. The answer was yes.

2. Preliminary Discussion – Composition of Master’s Committees (Reference GFC 1173) and Doctoral Committees (Reference GFC 636)

There is a question of how many people need to be on a doctoral committee. Some programs want only three people. There is also a question if emeritus and ABD doctoral candidates may be on a doctoral committee.

Aaron Schutz stated he was part of a group in the past that discussed this issue. He said that three members is not enough. He believes four is a more reasonable number. Pat Hayes replied that it is a majority rules decision. Aaron Schutz answered that a tie could mean a failure or the chair could break the tie. He also asked why five members would be needed. Is five a national standard?

Hemant Jain asked if we could be flexible on the number of outside members. Pat Hayes replied that can be done as an exception to the policy. Retired faculty members may be on a doctoral committee for one calendar year. A faculty member who leaves UWM may also be on a committee for one calendar year. An exception could be made, though.

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska stated that enrollment pressures shouldn’t undermine quality. We could get other members from area colleges. She believes five is a standard number for a doctoral committee for many good reasons. The number shouldn’t be cut because of enrollment pressures.

Erin Fox said some departments who have three members on a doctoral committee are using students who have not yet completed their dissertation, and that is wrong.

Laretta Henderson commented that five committee members is about the complexity of the dissertation research and the need for a committee member who has expertise in research methodology.

Kathleen Koch stated that her office surveyed a number of doctoral institutions for doctoral committee size. A report will be prepared for the next GFC meeting.

Gabriel Rei-Doval questioned the GFC membership rules because he’s seen master’s degree committee members who don’t have a PhD. Kristene Surerus answered that the Department Executive Committee decides who can be members. Pat Hayes replied that the list of qualified Graduate Faculty Members is updated every year and the department should keep it up to date.

Jon Welstead asked if only one tenured graduate faculty member is needed on a thesis committee. Pat Hayes answered that four of five members of the doctoral committee have to be graduate faculty; master's committees only require that the major professor has graduate faculty status

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska said some disciplines have faculty in the ABD doctoral candidate category. Should they be on a doctoral committee? Also, some academic staff members in scientist positions typically have PhDs.

Aaron Schutz said there's a problem with exceptions if they're not published and students aren't aware of them. There is a problem with creating invisible exceptions. Pat Hayes replied that exceptions, by definition, are not supposed to be stated.

Aaron Schutz replied that if an exception seems a reasonable thing to do in some contexts, should it be changed? Erin Fox said the Graduate School looks for extenuating circumstances when granting exceptions.

Mary Jo Baisch said it makes sense to have departments decide who is qualified to be considered graduate faculty and who's qualified to be on a committee.

Mark Srite said he believes it is ok to have academic staff members with PhDs on committees. ABD doctoral candidates should not be on dissertation committees, but they may be on master's committees.

The comments of all GFC members will be taken into consideration.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Marifke, Graduate School