

University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee Graduate Faculty
Committee (GFC)

Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018
3:00 p.m.
Lubar N440

I. Call to Order

Jason Puskar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Jennifer Balogh, John Boyland, Michael Brondino, Jennifer Clippert, Garry Davis, Peter Dunn, Kyle Ebersole, Erin Fox (*ex officio*), Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (*ex officio*), Craig Guilbault, Tracey Heatherington (*ex officio*), Reed Heintzkill, Peninnah Kako, Elana Levine, Jason Puskar, Mark Schwartz, Arijit Sen, Leigh Wallace, Stephen Wetzell, Erin Winkler, Cheng Zheng

Members Absent:

Jenny Kehl, Richard Smiraglia, Lixia Zhang

Guests:

Vicky Everson, Mark Harris

III. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IV. Automatic Consent

- A. Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Committee Meeting of December 11, 2017
Jason Puskar asked that the minutes be pulled from Automatic Consent because two corrections are needed. Tracey Heatherington was on sabbatical and not absent. Arijit Sen arrived late and was not absent. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Program Changes:
 1. Master of Science in Educational Psychology (OPC #2398) GFC Doc No 1507

V. New Business (Discussion Only)

1. Reorganization of Graduate Faculty Governance

Jason Puskar explained that the GFC became a committee under Faculty Senate in the 2007-08 academic year. However, the structures/functions/charters of the GFC and Subcommittees were unchanged. Jason Puskar provided models for the structure of graduate faculty governance before 2007, since 2007, and a proposal going forward. Discussion followed. There is merit to eliminating the inefficiency for GFC to “rubber stamp” program change documents from GCC and program review reports from GPR. There also is merit to consider workloads and time commitments of Committee and Subcommittee members when serving on the GFC and a Subcommittee simultaneously, although this may be a campus-wide issue given the overall reduction in UWM faculty positions. Concern was expressed about how to maintain continuity and the checks/balances among/between Subcommittees and GFC if the Subcommittees become stand-alone committees. There was consensus that the Fellowship Subcommittee could function as a stand-alone committee under the Graduate School rather than being retained under graduate faculty governance. Changing the structures of the Subcommittees also will change the number of elected members versus the number of GFC members. A question was raised concerning the intent of a potentially new GFC renamed to Graduate Academic Policy Committee (GAPC).

Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska, Graduate School Dean, provided background information regarding the legacy of subcommittees. She also indicated that the names of the subcommittees could change, but not necessarily their functions. She recommended that the GFC Charter be reviewed for potential revisions by the GFC Chair and the Subcommittee Chairs. She also indicated that the GFC has been an influential voice/advocate for graduate education on campus. Renaming the GFC to potentially GAPC may reflect only policy work and unintentionally diminish the work/voice of the Committee. That Committee needs to continue to be an advocate for graduate education at UWM.

Mark Harris, Vice Provost for Research, concurred that graduate education needs a fundamental faculty voice on campus and that the GFC currently fulfills that role.

It was concluded that the GFC chair and subcommittee chairs would meet to further discuss restructuring possibilities. Jason Puskar asked members to think about potential options and to contact him if a member wants to be involved in meetings with him and the Subcommittee Chairs.

VI. Reports

- A. Report from Dean of the Graduate School
Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska provided brief updates on the tax bill regarding graduate student tuition, the 2018-19 CGSA/Research Excellence allocations, and the new graduate student admission application rates for 2019-20.

- Research Plan, Mark Harris, Vice Provost for Research
Mark presented the UWM Research Plan that included background information, an overview, metrics and ranking, goals, recommendations, actions, and outcomes to date.

- B. GFC Chair's Report
Jason Puskar reiterated that the GFC became a Committee under the Faculty Senate in 2007-08. The Secretary of the University has been asking for GFC documents to be moved through Codification and then Faculty Senate so that UWM Faculty Document numbers can be assigned. Currently, no process is identified in Policies and Procedures. Jason Puskar proposed a motion which was edited to read as follows:

The GFC recommends that Faculty Senate grandfather in GFC policy documents approved between 1996 to 2017. All of these documents have been approved according to GFC policies and procedures. All have been functioning as settled policy already. In bringing them to Senate now, the goal is to assign them Faculty Document numbers so that they become part of central policies and procedures. Any recommendations for changes should be brought before GFC as revisions to existing policy.

Discussion followed. There was consensus that it would be inappropriate for the Faculty Senate to re-approve GFC policy documents dated prior to the "merger" in 2007-08.

At this point (4:33 p.m.), Jason Puskar asked that the meeting be extended by five minutes. It was moved by Garry Davis and seconded by John Boyland to extend the meeting until 4:38 p.m.

Discussion continued. Garry Davis moved to approve the motion and Arijit Sen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

- C. GFC representatives on other standing committees
- Physical Environment Committee
No report was given.
 - Academic Planning and Budget Committee

Jason Puskar indicated that an update was expected on the budget model, but that update was pushed back and now seems to be on hold.

- Academic Policy Committee
No report was given.
- Research Policy and Advisory Committee
No report was given.
- Graduate Assistant Appeals Panel
No report was given.
- Policy Working Group
The working group has not met.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.