

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC)

Monday, October 21, 2019

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Lubar N130

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Aaron Schutz, Chair.

II. Roll Call

Present: (Committee Members): Monna Arvinen-Barrow, Jennifer Balogh, David DiValerio, Reed Heintzkill, Bonita Klein-Tasman, Stefanie Pinnow, Aaron Schutz, Mark Schwartz, Jason Sherman, Stephen Wetzel, Dietmar Wolfram

(Non-Committee Members): Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska (Ex Officio), Alessandra Gillen, Jason Puskar (Ex Officio)

Absent: Marcus Britton, Woonsup Choi, Garry Davis, Peter Dunn, Erin Fox (Ex Officio), Peninnah Kako, Tiffany Nation, Wilkistar Otieno, Ellen Velie

Guests: Brenda Cárdenas (English), Nicole Ridgway (Art & Design)

III. Announcements

None.

IV. Automatic Consent

The following item was approved as distributed:

- a. Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Committee Meeting of September 16, 2019

V. New Business

- a. Goals of the GFC and Results of Poll of GFC Members

- i. Aaron Schutz discussed the old structure of GFC. The committee used to supervise three subcommittees. Those subcommittees are now faculty standing committees not under the GFC. With the change in responsibility, GFC now has a chance to operate differently. GFC can focus on policy as in the past, and now also provide advice or take a stand on issues. Schutz reviewed the topics that came out of the Qualtrics survey to GFC members, and also new topics raised. Discussion.
- ii. Topics discussed to bring back to the committee include dissertator leave of absence policy, policy on retired faculty serving on committees, E-verify system, graduate assistantship funding, funding for graduate student travel, topics from R1-GOLE (Graduate Outstanding Learning Environment) plan, underrepresented student support, and financial management guidance for graduate students.

- b. Polling Grad Reps About Issues GFC Could Address
 - i. Moved to Chair's Report.
- c. Presentation on Graduate Student Survey (gradSERU)
 - i. Schutz described how a piece of gradSERU will be discussed each meeting. Full presentation will be during Report from the Dean of the Graduate School.

VI. Continuing Business

- a. Revision of the Academic Approval Matrix
 - i. Recommendation to, in the "Drop degree or major" line of the Academic Approval Matrix, put a "Y" (Approval required) in the GCC column, and an "I" (Information only) in the GFC column. Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- b. Electronic Dissertation Embargo for Creative Writing PhDs; GFC 1262
 - i. Recommendation to allow students in the English MA or PhD in Creative Writing to opt out of the requirement to submit their dissertations as Electronic Theses or Dissertations. Students who opt out must file a bound paper copy of their dissertation with UWM Libraries. Brenda Cárdenas outlined the issues involved. Discussion. Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

VII. Reports

- a. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School
 - i. Presentation on Graduate Student Survey (gradSERU)
 1. Graduate Student Experience at a Research University (gradSERU) is a survey of UWM graduate students in 2018-19.
 2. The goal is self-improvement and to hear the voice of our students.
 3. The survey covers all the stages as a student moves through the graduate program.
 4. The survey encompasses curricular experiences, research experiences, teaching experiences/professional development, cocurricular experiences, social life and conditions, and personal life and conditions.
 5. There are 12 topics. Topics being looked at today are admission & selection and obstacles to completion.
 6. Looking at admission & selection, the top reasons students selected a program were: Location/region, program reputation, course offerings/curricula, cost, and financial support. We can "slice and dice" this question by demographics criteria and degree, and by school/college.
 7. Looking at obstacles to completion, the top factors were: course load, course availability, family responsibilities or obligations, curricular requirements other than course work or research, and inadequate financial support.
 8. Next GFC we can look at an overview of the topics of climate and health & well-being, and a deeper dive on the topics of admission & selection and obstacles to completion.
- b. Chair's Report
 - i. Schutz described the Graduate Outstanding Learning Environment Plan (R1-GOLE), and how it might show themes across the schools/colleges.

- ii. Schutz recommended polling Grad Reps and Department Chairs about issues GFC could address, with two open-ended questions. Discussion.
- c. GFC representatives on other standing committees
 - i. Physical Environment Committee
No report.
 - ii. Academic Planning and Budget Committee
No report.
 - iii. Academic Policy Committee
No report.
 - iv. Research Policy and Advisory Committee
No report.
 - v. Graduate Assistant Appeals Panel
No report.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Reed Heintzkill discussed the freedom of speech policy passed by the UW Board of Regents, which has yet to go through the state legislature. Heintzkill will distribute a memorandum about the policy to the GFC.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.