

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC)

Monday, February 17, 2020

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Lubar N130

Meeting Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Aaron Schutz, Chair.

II. **Roll Call**

Present: (Committee Members): Marcus Britton, David DiValerio, Reed Heintzkill, Peninnah Kako, Wilkistar Otieno, Stefanie Pinnow, Steven Redd, Maureen Ryan, Aaron Schutz, Mark Schwartz, Jason Sherman, Ellen Velie, Stephen Wetzel

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

Absent: Garry Davis, Peter Dunn, Erin Fox (Ex Officio), Bonita Klein-Tasman, Tiffany Nation, John Roberts, Dietmar Wolfram

Guests: Viktorija Bilić (Translation), Brenda Cárdenas (English), Mike Darnell (L&S Admin), Shane Haensgen (Grad School), Jenna Jazna (Grad School), 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 November 18, 2019

V. **Continuing Business**

- a. Electronic Dissertation Embargo for Creative Writing PhDs (Faculty Doc. 3201/GFC Doc. 1262)
 - i. The policy as approved in the GFC meeting on Nov. 11, 2019, came back from the Codification Committee meeting with suggested changes.
 - ii. The revised paragraph reads: “Doctoral students writing dissertations that predominantly consist of creative writing, such as fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction, may submit a ‘request for exception’ to the Graduate School for an exemption from the requirement that a dissertation be published online. Dissertations awarded an exemption will still be available in hard copy in the UWM library. The request for exception should explain why the exemption from the online publication requirement is necessary, and can refer to existing or anticipated publisher contract requirements as a justification.”

- iii. Discussion.
 - iv. Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- b. Committee Roles of Departed and Retired Faculty (Faculty Doc. 3134/GFC Doc. 1173)
- i. Changes were made to clarify the policy, directly stating that if a Master's or Doctoral committee member leaves or retires from UWM, they may continue for up to two years as a committee member.
 - ii. Discussion
 - iii. Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion of Academic Leave Policy for Graduate Students
- i. Reviewed draft academic leave of absence policy from UW-Madison.
 - ii. Volunteers for Ad Hoc Working Group: Marcus Britton, Reed Heintzkill, Ellen Velie
 - iii. Discussion of draft to raise issues/questions:
 - 1. Is it possible for international students to take leave?
 - 2. Policy only lists F-12 & J-1 visas, but UWM has a lot more classifications of international students.
 - 3. Personal leave seems open for interpretation. Many peer institutions do have personal leave, about one-third.
 - 4. Should there be a military category?
 - 5. "Students with prior University commitments regarding funding will have the remaining commitments available when they return." How can this work with grants? Does it only mean University funding like fellowships?
 - 6. The graduate program chair or designee is responsible for leave requests, not the faculty advisor.
 - 7. Policy need to make clear that the clock is extended for time to degree. Milestones are also not mentioned in the policy.
 - 8. HIPAA disclosures – who are the designated staff in the Graduate School who will handle the supplemental information?
 - iv. Ad Hoc Working Group will meet to discuss and work on policy.
- b. Electronic Discussion of Transcript-Designated Degree Concentrations, Options, and Tracks (Faculty Doc. 3133R1/GFC Doc. 878)
- i. There are programs that wish to have transcript designations that don't fit into any of the current definitions in the policy.
 - ii. The flowchart in the policy has "Tracks" but they are not defined in the policy itself. Only Concentrations and Options are defined.
 - iii. Discussion.
 - 1. Transcripts can have three lines of text.
 - 2. Engineering has tracks on transcripts, listed under concentrations, because of the way their MS and PhD are structured.
 - 3. Should tracks only be listed under concentrations, or can they be listed directly under the degree without a concentration?

4. Two values can go on the third line of the transcript: The name of the type of focus (e.g. option, track, emphasis) and the name of the focus itself, which can be a multi-word line.
5. A proposal should be brought forward from the Translation & Interpreting Studies program requesting the track designation so GFC can discuss it.

VII. Reports

- a. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School
 - i. Enrollment in the Graduate School has increased slightly
 - ii. There are budget cuts, but fellowships were preserved; there will continue to be 18 Distinguished Dissertator Fellowships (DDF), 5 R1DDF, and 18 Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowships (DGSF)
 - iii. Chancellor's Graduate Student Awards were preserved
 - iv. Research Excellence Awards were cut
 - v. Has the percentage of undergraduate to graduate students shifted, and should that be reflected in the budget?
 - vi. UWM has both an access mission and a research doctoral mission; UWM is now more selective for undergraduates than the smaller UW campuses.
 - vii. Interviews for Director of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion are next week.
 - viii. Discussed the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education data, can share more if anyone is interested.
 - ix. Presentation on Graduate Student Survey (gradSERU); Topic: Climate
 1. Lowest ranking statement: "Students are given an active role in departmental decisions that affect them." Two-third of students disagree. All other statements are in the 80-90+% agree range.
 2. Benchmarks show that we are doing well on climate.
 3. In the second grouping, the lowest ranking statement is, "I have friends in my graduate/professional program" at 80% agree. This number is brought down by schools that have online programs.
 4. Diversity statements range from 90-95% agree.
- b. Chair's Report
 - i. None.
- c. Report from Chairs of other Graduate School Committees
 - i. Graduate Curriculum Committee
 1. No report.
 - ii. Graduate Student Fellowships Committee
 1. Award letters are go out March 11. There will be 18 DGSF, 18 DDF, and 5 R1DDF awards.
 - iii. Graduate Program Review Committee
 1. GPRC is caught up on program reviews.
- d. 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.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Thursday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. is the “Know Your Rights” event in the Union Wisconsin Room.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.