

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC)

Monday, April 20, 2020

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Videoconference via Teams

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, Bonita Klein-Tasman, Stefanie Pinnow, Steven Redd, John Roberts, Aaron Schutz, Mark Schwartz, Jason Sherman, Ellen Velie, Jeb Willenbring

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

Absent: Wilkistar Otieno, Maureen Ryan, Stephen Wetzel

III. Announcements

None.

IV. Automatic Consent

The following item was approved as distributed:

- a. Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Committee Meeting of February 17, 2020

V. Special Order of Business

- a. 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 Term and Summer 2019-20.
Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- b. Consider a motion to permit the GFC Chair to conduct urgent business on behalf of the Committee during the summer.
Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

VI. Continuing Business

- a. Report from Ad Hoc Working Group of Academic Leave Policy for Graduate Students and discussion by GFC.
 - i. Jason Puskar discussed the development of the Academic Leave of Absence policy. It is based on a draft policy from UW-Madison and tailored for UWM. Due to COVID-19, the policy will be brought to GFC sooner as a one-year

emergency provision. Discussion.

VII. New Business

- a. Emergency decisions given the COVID-19 situation
 - i. Time to Degree extension (Faculty Doc. 3181/GFC Doc. 488)
 - ii. Time Limit for Prelim Exam extension (Faculty Doc. 3194/GFC Doc. 805)
 - iii. Grading policy change (Faculty Doc. 3204 / GFC Doc. 1348)
 1. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska discussed the three policies above. Changes were made with two emergency provisions that were passed by the University Committee and the Provost, as Chancellor-designee. Discussion.
 - iv. Recommendation: "Graduate programs will have the right to waive any program-specific admissions requirements because of challenges created by COVID-19, though Spring 2021." Discussion. Recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- b. Use of Duolingo English Test as evidence of English Proficiency in Admissions
 - i. The Center for International Education has started accepting the online Duolingo English Test as evidence of English proficiency, as a one-year emergency provision.

VIII. Reports

- a. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School
 - i. Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska described the process of approving the above emergency provisions.
 - ii. The Graduate School is working on continually updating the Frequently Asked Questions for students.
 - iii. Graduate admission and graduate student retention are essential functions for the campus.
 - iv. Emergency AOP fellowship supplements were distributed. An emergency fund for AOP-eligible students is being worked on with the Dean of Students Office.
 - v. The enrollment requirement for summer graduation has been waived, though most international students will still need to enroll to maintain visa status.
- 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. No report.
 - iii. Graduate Program Review Committee
 1. No report.
- 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.

IX. Other Business

- a. Reed Heintzkill of the Graduate Student Representation Committee will be presenting an amendment to the Student Association to waive the requirement that graduate student representatives serving on GFC need to be paying segregated fees.

X. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.