

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC)

Monday, September 14, 2020

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Teleconference via Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Aaron Schutz per the Secretary of the University Office at 3:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: (Committee Members): Monna Arvinen-Barrow, John Berges, Marcus Britton, Woonsup Choi, David DiValerio, Josh Ebert, Christine Evans, Craig Guilbault, Reed Heintzkill, Ivy Hu, Peninnah Kako, Richard Popp, Nicole Ridgeway, Aaron Schutz, Jason Sherman, Ellen Velie, Mo Zell, Jian Zhao

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

Absent: None

Guest: Chris Parks (Graduate School)

III. Announcements

None.

IV. Election of a 2020-21 Chair

Reed Heintzkill nominated Aaron Schutz. John Berges seconded.

Schutz accepted the nomination, agreed to serve, and was unanimously elected as Chair.

V. Automatic Consent

The following items were approved as distributed:

- a. Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Committee Meeting of May 4, 2020
- b. Annual Reports
 - i. Graduate Faculty Committee
 - ii. Graduate School Scholastic Appeals Committee

VI. New Business

- a. Election of 2020-21 Vice Chair
 - i. Aaron Schutz nominated Nicole Ridgeway. Jason Sherman seconded. Ridgeway accepted the nomination, agreed to serve, and was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.
- b. Appointment of Representatives for Standing Committees

- i. Physical Environment Committee
No volunteers.
- ii. Academic Planning and Budget Committee
No volunteers.
- iii. Academic Policy Committee
 - 1. Jason Sherman volunteered to be a representative.
- iv. Research Policy and Advisory Committee
No volunteers.
- c. Forming a Graduate Diversity & Inclusion working group
 - i. Aaron Schutz, Marcus Britton, Jian Zhao, and John Berges volunteered to form a GD&I working group. Reed Heintzkill offered to reach out to graduate students who may wish to join.

VII. Continuing Business

- a. Interim Emergency Accommodations (Discussion Only)
 - i. Discussion: Updates to Existing Policies (University Committee Emergency Procedure)
 - 1. Gajdardziska-Josifovska described how after campus switched to online in Spring 2020 due to Covid-19 the needs of graduate students had to be addressed to allow students to continue to make progress towards degree. Emergency accommodations were proposed by the Graduate School and passed by the University Committee.
 - a. Emergency Graduate Enrollment Accommodation
 - i. This accommodation has been extended through 2020-21.
 - b. Emergency Time Clock Accommodation
 - i. The time to degree limit has been extended by a year for both PhD and masters students.
 - c. Interim Policy on Grading Accommodation
 - i. Grad students could choose to have credit/no credit grading on approved graded courses.
 - ii. Discussion: Endorsement (GFC Approved)
 - 1. Graduate programs will have the right to waive any program-specific admissions requirements because of challenges created by COVID-19, though Spring 2021.
 - iii. New Pilot Policy (University Committee Emergency Procedure)
 - 1. Academic Leave of Absence.
 - a. There was a GFC working group for a full policy. Policy was then passed by UC as an emergency policy. GFC needs to take a vote by the end of the academic year to make the policy permanent. Will discuss at October GFC, with a plan to have a vote in November. Per Erin Fox, four or five Request for Exceptions for students have come through for the leave policy, and there have been no issues.
 - iv. Emergency Financial Support
 - 1. AOP Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Emergency Awards
 - a. Supported all eligible 2020-21 fellows. The 2019-20 fellows received \$3,000 stipends, as did the 2020-21 fellows.

2. AOP Fellowship Emergency Stipend
 - a. Working with Dean of Students to distribute. Have distributed \$46,000 to 16 students through the end of August.

VIII. Reports

- a. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School
 - i. Discussed graduate student enrollment.
 - ii. Upcoming budget cut is 9%.
 - iii. Faculty are retiring and students are losing committee members or major advisors. Policy allows faculty to serve two years after retirement.
 - iv. Had more applications and admissions for fall, though enrollment is lower for new students, especially for international students.
 - v. Will bring budget report to October GFC meeting.
 - vi. Discussed R1 status.
- b. Chair's Report
 - i. Discussion of topics from GFC survey of Grad Reps.
 1. Decline of graduate student enrollment
 - a. Gajdardziska-Josifovska described how enrollment patterns are different for Masters and PhD and for research and professional programs. Decline in undergraduate enrollment affects number of TA positions available. Decline in international students affects programs differently. Some graduate students pay full tuition, and some contribute to R1 status.

IX. Open Forum

- a. Heintzkill announced that Student Association passed a bill in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.
- b. Ridgway described grad student enrollment issues in Peck, including a specific admissions issue. Fox will follow up.
- c. Gajdardziska-Josifovska stated that interviews will start soon for the Director of Graduate Diversity and Inclusion.
- d. Berges discussed the amount of support from other institutions for minority STEM students in WiscAMP.

X. Other Business

None

XI. Adjournment

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