

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC)

Monday, October 19, 2020

3 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Teleconference via Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Aaron Schutz, Chair.

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, Aaron Schutz, Jason Sherman, Ellen Velie, Mo Zell, Jian Zhao

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

Absent: Erin Fox (Ex Officio), Robin Mello, Nicole Ridgway

Guest: Jennifer Singer (Center for International Education)

III. **Announcements**

None.

IV. **Automatic Consent**

The following item was approved as distributed:

- a. Minutes of the Graduate Faculty Committee Meeting of September 14, 2020

V. **Continuing Business**

- a. Academic Leave of Absence Policy
 - i. Gajdardziska-Josifovska outlined the current emergency Academic Leave of Absence policy for graduate students.
 - ii. Tabled.
- b. Appointment of Representatives for Standing Committees
 - i. Physical Environment Committee
 1. None.
 - ii. Academic Planning and Budget Committee
 1. Ellen Velie, to start in December.
 - iii. Research Policy and Advisory Committee
 1. Peninnah Kako

VI. **New Business**

- a. Resolution: “To respond to rapidly changing testing conditions for English proficiency during the Covid-19 era, the Graduate Faculty Committee authorizes the UWM Graduate School and graduate programs to accept English language proficiency testing from the Pearson Test of English (PTE) for graduate admissions. The required scores will be equivalent to the TOEFL scores currently specified in GFC #1373, as determined the Center for International Education. This authorization is effective immediately and expires at the end of May 2021. The GFC anticipates revising GFC #1373 more comprehensively later this year to make this change permanent.”
 - i. Jennifer Singer, Center for International Education, spoke to the resolution. Discussion.
 - ii. Resolution was motioned, seconded, and approved. (15 yeas, 1 nay)
- b. Discussion: For students on fellowship, should concurrent student hourly or outside employment maximum be 10 or 15 hours per week? Current practice is 10 hrs./wk. Policy reads 15 hrs./wk. (Faculty Doc. 3193/GFC Doc. 800)
 - i. Puskar and Schutz outlined the current conflict in practice (10 hrs./wk.) and policy (15 hrs./wk.). Discussion.
 - ii. Is maximum appointment policy for all Graduate Assistants able to be adjusted, also? Is it UW System policy or GFC policy? Discussion. Policy will be reviewed and brought to next GFC meeting. Tabled.
- c. Discussion: Can visiting assistant professors and postdocs advise master’s students and serve on PhD committees without GCC approval? (Faculty Doc. 3134/GFC Doc. 1173)
 - i. Visiting assistant professors cannot currently advise master’s students or serve on PhD committees without GCC approval. Could they do so with their program’s EC approval? Discussion.

VII. Reports

- a. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School
 - i. Across all campuses, and all students, Fall 2020 total enrollment decreased 5.5% from Fall 2019. Graduate student enrollment decrease was 2.6%. An increase in applications and admissions for graduate students helped the enrollment numbers. For new freshmen, the decline was 17.7%; for new grad students, the decline was 3.8%. Enrollment and retention to graduation will continue to be very important.
 - ii. Graduate School Open House will be virtual this year, which will attract students nationally and internationally.
 - iii. The finalists for the Director of Graduate Diversity & Inclusion position are giving their presentations soon.
 - iv. 2030 planning group now has a 2030 Implementation Team. Please continue advocating for graduate education during the implementation stage.
- b. Chair’s Report
 - i. Thank you to the GFC for participating.
- c. Report from the Graduate Diversity & Inclusion Working Group
 - i. GD&I group held an initial meeting. At the next meeting Gail Coover from UW-Madison will be joining to discuss efforts in STEM, and members of the UWM Multicultural Network will discuss a survey of undergraduate students about diversity and inclusion.
- d. Report from Chairs of other Graduate School Committees
 - i. Graduate Curriculum Committee

1. Arvinen-Barrow: Approving courses and programs as per usual.
- ii. Graduate Student Fellowships Committee
 1. Klein-Tasman: Waiting to hear how many fellowships will be available this year. Looking forward to reviewing applications.
- iii. Graduate Program Review Committee
 1. DiValerio: Held a program review of Mathematics MA and PhD last week. Four more reviews will be carried out this year. Certificate program reviews have been extended from five to ten years.
- e. Report from GFC representatives on other standing committees
 - i. Academic Policy Committee
 1. Sherman: Reviewed the academic calendars for the next two years.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Hu: Can courses offered through the School of Continuing Education be accepted as credit courses? Puskar: There isn't a policy to change non-credit courses to credit after the fact. Schutz: Micro credentials are being looked at in the School of Education, and this issue has come up and is being looked at. Gajdardziska-Josifovska: A group on campus is working on micro courses, badges, stackable courses; prior learning assessment policy being developed. Policy will go to APC, and will come to GFC as information.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.