

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
(GPRC) Graduate Program Review Committee**

**Monday, September 13, 2021
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

(Committee Members): Alexander Arnold, Suzanne Boyd, Benjamin Campbell, Winson Chu, Jeanne Erickson, Stuart Moulthrop, Gillian Rodger, Erin Ruppel, Valerie Sibilkov, Katie Vater, Bo Zhang

(Non-Committee Members): Bonita Klein-Tasman (Ex-Officio), Tiffany Nation (Graduate Programs Coordinator), Jason Puskar (Ex-Officio)

Absent: Alessandra Gillen (Graduate School)

Guests: Sunwoong Kim, Jake Luo, Min Wu, Tania Habeck, Hope Longwell-Grice

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 12:31 a.m.

II. Announcements

There were no announcements.

III. Welcome – Graduate School Interim Dean Jason Puskar

Graduate School Interim Dean, Jason Puskar welcomed the committee and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He informed the committee that the Fall meetings will be held virtually and possibly for the remainder of the academic year due to the COVID pandemic. He introduced the newly hired Graduate School Interim Associate Dean Bonita Klein-Tasman whom will be attending the meetings as Dean Office's ex-officio.

IV. Review of the [Graduate Program Review Committee \(GPRC\) Charter \(A3.05.2\)](#)

Jason Puskar walked the committee through the charge of the Graduate Program Review Committee per the charter which in 2019 the GPRC was removed as a subcommittee under the Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC) and now is a full standing committee under Faculty Senate. He informed the committee that under the new charter the GPRC approved documents no longer go to GFC for final approval.

There are 12 members and the number of members may be increased due to the workload of the committee however he doesn't anticipate that workload will be an issue this year. The function of the committee is to solely run and report on program reviews. The GPRC Chair will appoint two internal members to each program review which will also consist of two external reviewers who will do the brunt of the work and the internal reviewers will serve as guides to UWM's local culture, broader context, and university structure. At least one appointed internal reviewer will accompany the external reviewers to each of the various program meetings as their schedule allows. Internal reviewers will be responsible for preparing an internal report once they have received the external report from the external reviewers. Members assigned program reviews by the GPRC Chair will be distributed soon to the committee.

V. Committee Introductions

There were around table introduction of the committee members and attending guests.

VI. Approve Minutes from the May 3, 2021 Meeting

The minutes were approved, motioned, and passed unanimously.

VII. 2020 – 2021 Graduate Program Review Committee Annual Report

The annual report was approved, motioned, and passed unanimously.

VIII. Health Care Informatics, MS Program Review Report

Alexander Arnold and Woonsup Choi served as internal reviewer. Alexander Arnold reported that it was a great pleasure to participate as an internal reviewer for this program review. The program review site visit took place in March 2021 and was held virtually due to the COVID pandemic. He informed the committee that the external reviewers Gary Ozanich of Northern Kentucky University and James Andrews of University of South Florida were excellent.

Many great discussions took place and there were several good suggestions. What was really very important to start off this meeting was the excellent overview of the program that was created by the program's director Mr. Jake Luo. After going over the review and then meeting the different people involved in the program and insight provided by Min Wu, associate professor and department chair helped all reviewers to understand the development of this excellent program.

The MS program is housed in Health Sciences. The program trains students in order to be sufficient to analyze healthcare informatics or information in a way to support the healthcare sector. The program can be completed in 1.5 to 2 years which is very attractive to students. There are currently approximate 30 students in the program at any time. One third of the program's student are international making the program very diverse. There is a pathway to a PhD program after the completion of the Masters program which is a big plus.

The challenges brought up by the external reviewers were the lack of resources needed for the continued growth of the program, a need of a greater E-Learning opportunities, broader level of curriculum considerations, and a clearer definition on positioning and marketing.

The internal reviewer's impression was additional support by the college is needed due to currently only having two faculty members because of a frozen faculty position that has currently opened up. The hope is that the program may be able to now recruit a third faculty member. Also, it is a hope that the adjunct faculty within the program would take on bigger roles in order for the program to increase its student size. Redesigning of the learning objects and administration support is needed to reach accreditation and the program has started to address this recommendation. Additional learning space is needed for students for access to computers and software.

We the internal reviewers are in total agreement with the external reviewers rating of an A to continue the program with no consideration. We think that this is an excellent program with a lot of future developing in the near future.

Discussion followed.

Recommendation for continuation of the graduate program for the next 10 years without considerations was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

IX. Curriculum and Instruction, MS Program Review Report

Sunwoong Kim and Marie Gillespie served as internal reviewer. Sunwoong Kim reported to the committee that the program review site visit took place in February 2021 and was held virtually due to the COVID pandemic. The external reviewers were Miranda Lin of Illinois State University and Jennifer Baumgartner of Louisiana State University.

He reported that the external reviewers gave the program a C- rating recommending continuance with show cause which is a quite low rating requiring a 5-year review. The MS program contains approximately 25 students a year however seems to be a very important program for the department and the school because the program address how to improve teaching careers for teachers and for those who don't have certification but has some type of masters degree that wants to get into the teaching degree.

The program has been suffering internally and externally due to a decreasing need for this type of program not only in Wisconsin but all over the United States due to teaching salaries and lessen need for certification. There have been many changes within the program such as at the dean level, where the new dean resigned which in turn has caused an unstableness of dean leadership. The department has

merged with Exceptional Education with a new department name of Teaching and Learning with two masters program grandfathered into the new department. The merging of the two department has caused a struggle of what to do and how to proceed for the program. This is a large, merged department with many components. There have been many faculty changes such as taking leave or transferring to administrative positions. The program's resources are depleting. The program seems to be moving slowly toward improved changes. The program is doing their best considering all of the issues.

The external reviewer's recommendation a more unionized plan for the program including the new dean and director coming together for a plan and devoted resources.

Discussion followed.

A recommendation for continuance of the graduate program with show cause was made. The program will have one year to submit an action plan to the Unit Dean showing cause for continuing and the next review will be scheduled in five years unless the Unit Dean certifies progress. A motioned was made for the recommendation, seconded, and approved unanimously.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.