

**University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
GRADUATE FACULTY COMMITTEE
2020-2021 Annual Report**

Members:

Name	Rank	Department	Term Ends
Aaron Schutz, Chair	FAC	Ed Policy & Community Studies	2022
John Berges	FAC	Biological Sciences	2023
Christine Evans	FAC	History	2023
Craig Guilbault	FAC	Mathematical Sciences	2023
Mo Zell	FAC	Architecture	2023
Richard Popp	FAC	JAMS	2022
Jian Zhao	FAC	Civil Engineering	2022
Marcus Britton ¹	FAC	Sociology	2021
Woonsup Choi	FAC	Geography	2021
Peninnah Kako ²	FAC	Nursing	2021
Jason Sherman ³	FAC	Anthropology	2021
Ellen Velie	FAC	Public Health	2021
Josh Ebert	AS	University Info Technology Services	2021
Nicole Ridgway	AS	Peck School of the Arts	2021
Tracy Boyer ⁴	FAC	Freshwater Sciences (GCC Chair)	2021
David DiValerio	FAC	History (GPRC Chair)	2021
Bonita Klein-Tasman	FAC	Psychology (GSFC Chair)	2021
Erin Fox	AS	Graduate School staff	2021
Marija Gajdardziska-Josifovska	Dean	Graduate School	2021
Ivy Hu	FAC	Architecture (UC Member)	2021
Jason Puskar	Assoc Dean	Graduate School	2021
Robin Mello	AH	Theatre (RPAC Chair)	2021
Hongyan Yang ⁵	Student	Graduate Student	2021
Sammie Omranian	Student	Graduate Student	2021

1 Repl D. Wolfram (2021-E)

2 Repl J. Kibicho (2021-E)

3 Repl J. Puskar (2021-E)

4 Repl M. Arvien-Barrow (2021-A)

5 Repl R. Heintzkill (2021-A)

Charter:

Functions/ Responsibilities:

A3.05 Graduate Faculty Committee

The Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC) is UWM's main policy making body for graduate education. As such it oversees academic and administrative matters across graduate programs, and acts as an advocate for graduate students and graduate programs within the university.

(1) Membership

Twenty-four (24) members as follows:

- (a) Twelve (12) faculty elected from among the Graduate Faculty from the divisions of Arts and Humanities, Natural Sciences, Professions, and Social Sciences. At least two faculty members must serve from each of these four divisions, and no more than one member may serve from any one department or non-departmentalized school or college. Faculty members are elected to staggered, three-year terms, and no member may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms or portions thereof. Elected members of the committee should reflect the range of disciplinary competencies in the university and represent the schools and colleges insofar as the size of the committee allows.
- (b) The three (3) faculty chairs of the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC), the Graduate Program Review Committee (GPR), and the Graduate Student Fellowships Committee (GSF).
- (c) Two (2) graduate student members appointed annually by the Student Association. Student members must be currently enrolled graduate students and both members must not come from the same school or college.
- (d) Two (2) members of academic staff appointed annually by the Academic Staff Committee from among those whose work is pertinent to graduate education or research or to the administration of graduate programs.
- (e) Ex-officio members shall include the chair of the Research Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC) or delegate; a member of the University Committee; the dean, one associate dean, and a staff person from the Graduate School.
- (f) GFC elects its chair for the following year from among its faculty membership at its March meeting. By May of that year, the chair-elect designates a vice-chair elect. The chair-elect and the vice-chair elect assume their full, one-year duties on August 1.
- (g) The chair or the chair's representative sits on the APBC, RPAC, and PEC committees, in order to have the information necessary for chairing the GFC and to inform those committees of GFC actions. The chair communicates as needed with the Faculty Senate, the University Committee, the Secretary of the University, graduate program representatives, and the various deans and associate deans.

- (h) GFC meets at least once a month during the academic year, and on request of the dean of the Graduate School or of five (5) GFC committee members.
- (i) GFC has the authority to declare vacant the seat of those committee members who fail to attend three (3) regular meetings in an academic year

(2) Functions

- (a) Advises the dean of the Graduate School on all academic and administrative issues that pertain to graduate education.
- (b) Formulates and reviews policies concerning UWM graduate programs.
- (c) Considers general policy recommendations from GCC, GPR, and GSF pertaining to their areas of governance. The Graduate Faculty Committee reviews and approves all general policies that apply across graduate programs.
- (d) Establishes criteria for membership in the Graduate Faculty of the university.
- (e) Reviews Graduate School regulations and requirements with general application to student admission, continuation, and graduation, and the academic operation of UWM graduate programs. Based on this review, the committee recommends appropriate changes for dissemination through sources such as the Graduate School website, the Graduate School Bulletin and the Graduate Student and Faculty Handbook.
- (f) Reviews policies and procedures affecting graduate student assistantships, fellowships, awards and any other sources of funding, and advocates for fair and competitive levels of graduate student compensation and workload.
- (g) Reviews policies and procedures at all levels of the university that impact graduate student success, such as those related to health and wellbeing, funding for graduate study, diversity, professional development, retention and completion, and campus safety. GFC will make recommendations to governance committees, administrative offices, or academic units as appropriate.
- (h) Undertakes investigations into larger and more complex issues pertaining to graduate study recommended by its own members, by GCC, GPR, or GSF, or by the administration of the Graduate School.
- (i) Designates two members who will serve, if needed, on a Graduate Assistant Appeals Panel for Step Three grievance proceedings, as described in the [Graduate Assistant Employment Grievance Procedure](#).

(Document 2563, 3/15/07; UWM Administration approval, 5/11/07) (Document 2780, 4/21/11; UWM Administration approval, 5/2/11)

(Document 2780R1, 9/20/18; UWM Administration approval, 10/12/18)

Meetings:

The Graduate Faculty Committee met on the following dates:

Monday, September 14, 2020
Monday, October 19, 2020
Monday, November 16, 2020
Monday, February 15, 2021
Monday, April 19, 2021
Monday, May 3, 2021

During the 2020-21 academic year, the GFC:

A. Accepted Annual Reports

- a. Graduate Faculty Committee, 2019-20
- b. Graduate School Scholastic Appeals Committee, 2019-20

B. Approved Policies and Procedures

- a. Major Professor, Advisor, Committee Chair and Committee Membership; Faculty Doc. 3134R1/GFC 1173
- b. Academic Leave of Absence Policy; Faculty Doc. 3319/GFC 1740

C. Endorsed

- a. Voted in support of a letter from GFC to Chancellor, Provost, Vice Provost of Research, and Grad School Dean regarding graduate assistant stipends. It was cosigned by the GCC, GPRC, GSFC, RPAC, 24 Distinguished Professors, and 24 Graduate Program Representatives.
- b. Voted in support of the creation of working group to discuss graduate student diversity and inclusion.
- c. Voted in support of the formation of a new Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group on Anti-Racism and Racial Equality.
- d. Voted in support of graduate programs having the right to waive any program-specific admissions requirements because of challenges created by Covid-19, though Fall 2022 enrollment.
- e. Voted in support of CIE using both the Pearson Test of English and Duolingo as measures of English proficiency for graduate admissions through the end of September 2022.
- f. Voted to permit the GFC Chair to conduct urgent business on behalf of the Committee related to any minor approvals during the summer.

D. Sent names to Board of Regents for completed graduate degrees – fall, spring, summer

E. Set up Scholastic Appeals Committee hearings for 1 academic dismissal appeal