

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

Erin Ruppel, GPRC Chair

Monday, September 11, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

(Committee Members): Alex Anderson, Phillip Chang, Woonsup Choi, Winson Chu, Donald Force, Xu Li, Lindsay McHenry, Joshua Mersky, Ora John Reuter, Erin Ruppel, Katie Vater

(Non-Committee Members): Tiffany Nation (Graduate Program Coordinator); Victoria Moerchen (Ex-Officio)

Absent: Gillian Rodger, Bonita Klein-Tasman (Ex-Officio), Alessandra Gillen (Graduate School)

Guests: Alexander Arnold (former GPRC committee member), David DiValerio (former GPRC committee member), Clark Evans (School of Freshwater Sciences), R. Jason Sherman (College of Letters and Science)

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. Announcements

There were no announcements.

III. Welcome – Graduate School Associate Dean Moerchen

Moerchen welcomed and thanked the new and continuing committee members. She thanked the continuing members on all of their hard work they accomplished on the heavy workload of program reviews that they completed last semester. She informed everyone of how important this committee is.

She thanked Tiffany Nation, Graduate Programs Coordinator for all that she does for the committee. She complimented her on keeping her cool when there are difficulties during meetings and being able to resolve them and manages to keep the meetings running smoothly. She's the most valuable resource that the GPRC has. She runs the program reviews efficiently. She directed the committee to her if they needed anything.

Moerchen informed the committee that Mark Harris, who was Vice Provost of the Office of Research and Acting Area Dean of the Graduate School last year made a decision to step down from administrative work and return to teaching. He will be retiring at the end of the academic year. Dean Kaushal Chari, current dean of Lubar school has been servicing as acting dean however the Provost has appointed Kristian O'Connor as Interim Vice Provost of the Office of Research and the Dean of the Graduate School.

IV. Approve Meeting Minutes from the **April 10, 2023**

The minutes were approved, motioned, and passed unanimously.

V. 2022 – 2023 Graduate Program Review Committee Annual Report

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

VI. Review of the Graduate Program Review Committee (GPRC) Charter (A3.05.2)

GPRC Chair Ruppel reviewed the committee's charter with the committee.

VII. Review of the Faculty Doc. No. 3197R1 Graduate Program Reviews (Procedures for Qualitative Reviews of Graduate Programs)

GPRC Chair Ruppel reviewed the policy with the committee.

VIII. Anthropology, MS/PhD Program Review External Report

Joshua Mersky and former GPRC committee member David DiValerio served as internal reviewers.

Mersky reported that the program is thriving, and it's reflected in the external report. The program received a B rating. Mersky reported that the program is doing an exceptional job due to significant headwinds that the program has faced in recent years. The external reviewers noted concerns of declining faculty from 18 down to 11 and cited a couple of specific concerns. One of which is the historical museum studies program and a relationship with the local Milwaukee Public Museum which has been a strong partnership dating back many decades. They noted that the partnership has come under some threat, and it was the opinion of what was our opinion as well as the external reviewers that this strong partnership is well worth preserving and that the faculty themselves may not have the wherewithal to do so without the input of administration support. The external reviewers recommended that the program consider critiquing their thesis model that their graduate students are required to complete, which effectively results in adding a third year of study to the program. Overall, the external reviewers highly praised the program overall. The program is considered to be thriving and has exceptional faculty and robust programs. Both I and DiValerio recommend the continuance of the program.

Discussion followed.

Recommendation for continuation of the graduate program for the next 10 years with considerations was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

IX. Atmospheric Science, MS/PhD Program Review External Report

Phillip Chang and former GPRC committee member Alexander Arnold served as internal reviewers.

Arnold reported that he and Chang had a wonderful time with all of the members of the Atmospheric Science program, especially Clark Evans the program's chair. Clark was very supportive and gave a very good summary about the program. The MS program has 24 course credits and six research credits, and the PhD program has 54 credits. The program was initially part of the Mathematical Science department and then was fused with the School of Freshwater Science in 2021. The program was instituted in 2017 and since then 27 students have successfully completed the program. The faculty are doing a tremendous outstanding job. Unfortunately, like many program's the faculty has declined from 7 to 4. The program was able to hire a new assistant professor recently nevertheless the external and internal reviewers are concerned that the small number of faculties is jeopardizing the program's integrity especially with two faculty close to retirement. The program received a B rating which might have been an A rating without the faculty issues. Both I and Chang recommend the continuation of the program.

Per Evans, program chair, the recommendation for a review in five years is designed to ensure that there are actually faculty sufficient to be able to maintain the program independent of quality. He will be discussing this recommendation with the faculty and Dean of the School of Freshwater Sciences, Dr. Rebecca Clapper. Due to declining faculty, the innovative weather is going away in April of 2024. Clark agreed with the recommendation of a review in 5 years.

Discussion followed.

Recommendation for continuation with considerations of the graduate program and will refer to the Graduate School for guidance on if the next review will take place in 10 years according to the B rating and Faculty Doc. No. 3197R1 or 5 years based on the external reviewers' recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

X. Election of 2023 – 2024 GPRC Chair

Erin Ruppel self-nominated for 2023 – 2024 GPRC Chair. There were no other nominations. Erin Ruppel accepted. A motion was made and seconded to elect Teresa Johnson as 2023 – 24 GCC Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.