

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

Erin Ruppel, GPRC Chair

Monday, November 13, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

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

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

Absent:

Phillip Chang, Bonita Klein-Tasman (Ex-Officio), Alessandra Gillen (Graduate School)

Guests:

Timothy O'Brien (Former GPRC committee member), Scott David Schanke (Former GPRC committee member), Susan McRoy (College of Engineering & Applied Science), Renee Reckelberg (School of Rehabilitation Sciences & Technology)

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Announcements

GPRC Chair Ruppel thanked the committee for the program reviews that they will be completing this fall and she also thanked Tiffany Nation, Graduate Programs Coordinator for all of the work that she puts into organizing the virtual program review site visits and all of the behind scenes of coordinating everything to ensure that all goes smoothly. She notified the committee that she and Tiffany Nation are working on the internal reviewer assignments and that they will be provided to the committee at the December 11, 2023 meeting. She asked the committee members to notify Tiffany Nation if they have scheduling conflicts per their assignments. She gave the committee a short summary of the assigned internal reviewers responsibilities in the program review process.

III. Approve Meeting Minutes from the September 11, 2023

The words external have been corrected to internal in the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved, motioned, and passed unanimously.

IV. Athletic Training, MS Program Review External Report

Gillian Roger and former GPRC committee member Alexander Arnold served as internal reviewers.

Roger reported that the program met and exceeded the external reviewers expectations. The external reviewers saw a clear need for the program. The students are successful in both completing the program and as well as passing board exams. There is a very good proportion of students that passed the board exams on their try which is seen as very positive. The core faculty were well recognized as highly

productive. The external reviewers found that the teaching loads left little release time for faculty. Currently, there are 71 credits in the masters degree and the external reviewers suggested a review of the curriculum be conducted to research if it could be paired down a little. Students have a heavy coursework load and are struggling to balance work life and school. The students also noted that the average program has 65 credits or less. The recommendations of pairing down the curriculum will open up the opportunity for faculty to be able conduct research. We had no disagreement with the external reviewers and agree with the idea of exploring pairing down the curriculum.

Discussion followed.

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

V. Biomedical and Health Informatics, PhD Program Review External Report

Lindsay McHenry and former GPRC committee member Sunwoong Kim served as internal reviewers.

McHenry reported that the virtual site visit was conducted last year in April. The external reviewers were Constantin Aliferis from the University of Minnesota Medical School and Dongwen Wang from Arizona State University. The external reviewers were quite knowledgeable about the program's field. The doctoral program is highly interdisciplinary and covers half of the university and beyond. The collaborative project between the Medical College of Wisconsin and UWM Engineering, College of Health Sciences nursing course. The program started in Fall of 2005. There were four main recommendations from the external reviewers however the main concern was that the interdisciplinary program doesn't have a dedicated academic home and strongly recommended that a proper dedicated home be found and not just an administrative home. The second recommendation was to build or strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and not just the faculty members whom are a part of it, but to broaden community and industry that makes use of biomedical informatics. There was a recommendation to design and implement a kind of improved program governance structure to impose more of a government, a governance structure of any kind. The program received a B rating of continuance with consideration. We agree with the rating and continuance and a review in 10 years.

Discussion followed.

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

VI. Information Science and Technology, MS Program Review External Report

Former GPRC committee members Timothy O'Brien and Scott Schanke served as internal reviewers.

O'Brien reported that the external reviewers were from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Illinois. The external reviewers were impressed with the program and especially the laudatory of the students. The broad ranges of courses that the program offers, both the faculty and the non-tenured track teaching staff were the real highlights of the program. However, the external reviewers saw some areas for improvement within the program. One of the biggest issues was the concern about the ability to offer the number of electives and required programs needed to

expand the program. Since 2017 the program has been offered online and as of this fall will be offered as a hybrid and in-person modalities. The lack of teaching capacity is a concern with the sort of compounded by the program expansion. Overall, the external reviewers gave the program an A rating of continuance without conditions. We both fully support the conclusion of the external report.

Discussion followed.

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

VII. Other Business

There was no other business.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.