University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall
February 10, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present: Susan Babcock, Cynthia Czajkowski, Kristen Eschenfelder, Mary Louise Gomez, Lea Jacobs, William Karpus (Chair), Lisa Martin (not present for final voting item), Christa Olson (not present after voting item 11), Jose Pincheira, John Pfotenhauer, Parmesh Ramanathan, Stephanie Tai, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Monica Turner, Kristin Wolf

Members Absent: Caroline Alexander, Nicole Perna, Tracy Schroepfer

Guests: Anna Andrzejewski, Rania Huntington, Elaine Klein, Junko Mori, Gene Phillips, Nathan Schulfer, Janet Silbernagel, Susan Zaeske

Staff: Judy Bauman, Katie Block, Eileen Callahan, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Meghan McMackin, Emily Reynolds, Xania Walter

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of January 13, 2017, were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Approvals:

1. Dean Karpus introduced Professors Rania Huntington and Junko Mori from the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, who presented the request to approve three changes to their graduate programs. The changes will bring their graduate program names and focus in line with their new merged department (previously the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature and the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia). Huntington explained that the department is rebuilding and adding faculty and affiliate faculty who will serve as co-advisors for new students. The program will also move toward a five-year funding guarantee for Ph.D. students. This change will be turnkey effective Fall 2018, meaning that all students that graduate in Fall 2018 and beyond will receive the new name. The program has communicated with the small number of students currently in the affected degrees and they are aware of the changes.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the Languages and Cultures of Asia Ph.D. named options in “Languages and Literature”, “Civilizations and Cultures”, and “Religious Studies”. The motion was passed with 13 for, 1 abstention.

Motion: Moved and seconded to reinstate admissions to the suspended Languages and Cultures of Asia M.A./Ph.D. The motion was passed with 13 for, 1 abstention.
Motion: Moved and seconded to rename the Languages and Cultures of Asia M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor to Asian Languages and Cultures. The motion was passed with 13 for, 1 abstention.

2. Dean Karpus introduced Professor Janet Silbernagel from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, who requested approval of two new named options in the M.S. Environmental Conservation. The named options are “Environmental Observation and Informatics,” which is a new program, and “Environmental Conservation,” which is their existing M.S., and will move into an option to keep symmetry of academic structure between the two options under the M.S. name. The new option will be a 15-month program with blended (on campus, online, and internship) instruction to create a strong cohort network. The program is a modernization of their discontinued M.S. Environmental Monitoring, and combines new technical courses with professional training.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the new named option in the M.S. Environmental Conservation: “Environmental Observation and Informatics.” The motion was passed with 13 for, 2 abstentions.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the new named option in the M.S. Environmental Conservation: “Environmental Conservation”. The motion was passed with 13 for, 2 abstentions.

3. Dean Karpus introduced professors Anna Andrzejewski and Gene Phillips from the Department of Art History, who introduced the request to suspend admissions to the Art History Ph.D. named option “Architectural History”, effective fall 2018, and discontinue the option, effective summer 2021. In recent years, the program has become difficult to sustain, even for a small number of students, in part due to UW-Milwaukee leaving the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Consortium Traveling Scholars Program, as well as a lack of available faculty at both institutions. Prof. Andrzejewski stressed that the reputation and legacy of the program warrants continued collaboration with UW-Milwaukee under a different model than this named option. Members of the GFEC expressed disappointment that there is not a mechanism in place in the UW System to facilitate collaborations like this without the administrative burden and requested the program take additional time to consider potential solutions.

Motion: Moved and seconded to suspend admissions to the Art History Ph.D. named option “Architectural History,” effective fall 2018. The motion was passed unanimously.

Motion: Moved and seconded to table the request to discontinue the Art History Ph.D. named option “Architectural History” effective Fall 2021 until the June 9, 2017, meeting.

4. Dean Karpus presented a request to approve six policy proposals from the Faculty Subcommittee on the Future of the Dissertation. The GFEC discussed each proposal’s impact on graduate program requirements and processes, along with implementation concerns prior to voting.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the following update to the Graduate School’s Policy on Committees (Doctoral/Master’s) (summarized and amended to include an effective date of September 1, 2017): “Reduce the minimum number of members serving on doctoral committees/final oral examination committees from 5 to 4.” The motion was passed unanimously.
Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the following update to the Graduate School’s Policy on Committees (Doctoral/Master’s) (summarized and amended to include an effective date of September 1, 2017): “Adopt a minimum requirement for “at least three committee members of all doctoral/final oral examination committees must be designated as readers.” The motion was passed 13 for, 2 abstentions.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the following update to the Graduate School’s Policy on Dissertation (summarized and amended to include an effective date of September 1, 2017): “Dissertations must acknowledge contributions received from other individuals, including co-authors of published work that appears in the document, such as in designing the research, executing the research, analyzing the data, interpreting the data/research, or writing, proofing, or copyediting the manuscript.” The motion was passed unanimously.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the following policy (summarized): “All students are required to present a public presentation or performance, as defined by their graduate program, in conjunction with a dissertation defense.” The motion failed, 3 for, 9 against, 1 abstention.

Voting item “Graduate programs should provide evaluation standards for examining dissertations” was not brought forward for consideration by a motion from the membership.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the following update to Graduate School Policy on Advisors: “Formalize the co-advisor/co-chair role by including the following statement in advisor policy: The co-advisor/co-chair will be designated on dissertation documentation.” The motion passed, 10 for, 1 against.

Program Reviews

1. GFEC member Kristin Eschenfelder introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the African Languages and Literature M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. Eschenfelder noted the program’s strengths, including innovations with their new M.A. track in Pedagogy and development of new large undergraduate classes, some recent improvements in funding of students, a good climate, and good Ph.D. placement, with faculty open to career options besides academia. Some challenges facing the program are a cutback in Title VI support for language teaching, leading to fewer teaching assistantships for graduate students; poor numbers for domestic targeted minority retention; a high number of new faculty with split appointments; and the transition into the new department name, “African Cultural Studies.” Eschenfelder also discussed review committee recommendations, including clarifying procedures for receiving an M.A. along the way to a Ph.D. in the program; making sure the annual graduate student funding application process is explained fully during admissions and orientation; working with the College of Letters & Science to get permission to make multi-year guarantees to students; continuing development of large undergraduate classes to create more opportunity for teaching assistantships; and discontinuing the program’s doctoral minor, which has extremely low award numbers. The GFEC requests the program report on its new admissions processes. The committee commends the program on its strengths and recommends that the program engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.
Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the African Languages and Literature M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. The motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion: Moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.