University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall  
April 14, 2017  

M I N U T E S  

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Susan Babcock, Kristin Eschenfelder, Mary Louise Gomez, William Karpus (Chair), Lisa Martin, Christa Olson, Nicole Perna, John Pfotenhauer (left before first voting item), Jose Pincheira, Parmesh Ramanathan, Tracy Schroeper, Stephanie Tai, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Monica Turner

Members Absent: Cynthia Czajkowski, Kirstin Wolf, Lea Jacobs

Guests: Beth Bierman, Karl Broman, Duncan Carlsmith, Norman Drinkwater, Elaine Klein, Pamela Kreeger, Jocelyn Milner, Richard Moss, Andrea Poehling, Whitney Sweeney, Susan Zaeske

Staff: Katie Block, Rebecca Chapman, Marty Gustafson, LaRuth McAfee, Meghan McMackin, Cassandra Rademaekers, Emily Reynolds

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of March 10, 2017, were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Information Item:

1. Dean Karpus introduced Parmesh Ramanathan, the new associate dean in the Graduate School.

Approval Updates:

1. Dean Karpus introduced program responses to the GFEC’s discussion of the three-year new program check-ins for the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis M.S. named option Global Higher Education (GHE) and the Economics M.S. named option Graduate Foundations.
   - Dean Karpus noted GHE has made meaningful changes as a result of their assessment survey evaluations.
   - Dean Karpus noted that L&S Associate Dean James Montgomery clarified the memorandums of understanding between Economics and other L&S departments to allow for Graduate Foundations students to take their classes.
Approvals:

1. Dean Karpus introduced School of Medicine and Public Health Associate Dean Richard Moss and Professor Karl Broman, who presented the request to approve a new Ph.D. in Biomedical Data Science in the Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics in the School of Medicine and Public Health. Professor Broman informed the GFEC that the goal of this new program is to train students in the quantitative and methodological tools needed to analyze biomedical data. Students will have training in statistics, computer science, and a biological specialization area. They will also complete three semester-long lab rotations and two new courses focused on skills in reading, understanding, and criticizing scholarly literature needed to be successful researchers (e.g., grant writing, research paper reading and writing, etc.). Professor Broman clarified curricular differences between this new program and current programs on campus, including the Statistics Ph.D. named option in Biostatistics. The GFEC expressed some concerns about the planned advising practices and academic timeline for students, the exit exam processes, student-funding during rotations, funding dependence on training grants, student credit load, and the reasons for requiring a doctoral minor despite interdisciplinary program curriculum.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve a new Ph.D. in Biomedical Data Science. The motion was passed with 12 for, 2 abstentions.

2. Dean Karpus introduced College of Letters & Science Associate Dean Susan Zaeske, who presented the request to approve a change of academic home for the M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in History of Science, Medicine and Technology from the Department of History of Science to the Department of History within the College of Letters and Science. The two departments will merge on July 1, 2017.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve a change of academic home for the M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in History of Science, Medicine and Technology. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Dean Karpus introduced Associate Professor Pamela Kreeger, who presented the request to approve a new Doctoral Minor in Quantitative Biology from the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering for Fall 2017. Associate Professor Kreeger explained the use of the name “Quantitative Biology” is widely used, and that the doctoral minor requirements include a new course created by the department. This doctoral minor fits with the Department’s strategic plan to hire faculty in the area and its cross-department governance structure assured the GFEC of the Department’s as well as the participating school and college commitment to its long term success.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve a new Doctoral Minor in Quantitative Biology. The motion was passed with 13 for, 1 abstention.

4. Dean Karpus presented the request to discontinue two Doctoral Minors: Bacteriology from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Cellular and Molecular Biology from the Graduate School. There are no current students in either minor.
Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the doctoral minor Bacteriology from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The motion was passed unanimously.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the doctoral minor Cellular and Molecular Biology from the Graduate School. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Reviews

1. Former GFEC member Duncan Carlsmith introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Biophysics. Carlsmith noted the program’s strengths, including a successful, well-liked lab rotation and strong funding support for students. The GFEC learned that challenges facing the program include a disjointed community with students spread across campus and identifying more strongly with the department of their advisor and a need to update its list of active trainers. Carlsmith also discussed review committee recommendations, including creating bylaws for selection/rotation of steering committee members and its chair, improving communication between steering committees, trainers, and students, creating a curriculum assessment committee, assigning a faculty advisor to each student during first year rotations, improving the use of individual development plans (IDPs) among students, and improving tracking of progress toward degree. Dean Karpus noted training grant funding for this program is uncertain for the future, and the GFEC requested the program report on plans to fund students moving forward. The committee commends the program on its strengths and recommends that the program engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns. Dean Karpus noted that the 2016-17 Graduate School Academic Planning Council (GSAPC) members would abstain from voting on Biophysics items they approved while being GSAPC members since the Graduate School is the academic home for the program.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Biophysics M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. GFEC member Caroline Alexander introduced the 5-year review of the Capstone-, Graduate-, and Professional-Certificates in Fundamentals of Clinical Research. Alexander noted the program’s strengths, including serving as a recruiting tool for School of Medicine and Public Health faculty, providing targeted and practical instruction for high quality students, and both meeting a need for advanced training in the design of translational clinical studies while also fulfilling requirements for a number of NIH-sponsored training programs. Alexander also discussed review committee recommendations, including continued improving of recruiting and retention efforts and improving efforts toward annual assessment of learning outcomes. The committee is also concerned about the low award rate of the certificates and recommends the program follow up with the Registrar’s Office on the completion process. 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 5-Year Review of the Capstone-, Graduate-, and Professional-Certificates in Fundamentals of Clinical Research. The motion was passed unanimously.
3. GFEC member Tracy Schroepfer introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Theatre & Drama M.F.A./Doctoral Minor. Schroepfer explained that the MFA in Theatre & Drama was created in 2014 after the Department moved from the School of Letters & Science to the School of Education (the M.A./Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama were renamed Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies and relocated to the Department of English). Schroepfer noted the departmental move continues to cause climate problems for faculty and staff, especially in regards to governance. Schroepfer noted the program’s strengths, including a rich history of study in Asian Theatre, gifted and nationally known faculty, a practice-oriented student experience, and a strong mentoring program between graduate and undergraduate students. The GFEC was concerned to learn that students are aware of these issues and report feeling like employees for the department’s productions rather than as graduate students. Schroepfer also discussed review committee recommendations, including improving climate by providing conflict resolution for faculty and academic staff, moving to a 16-week production schedule, improving mentoring of junior faculty, creating clearer administrative and financial department policies for productions communicated to students, and increasing funding for students through teaching, research, and other programs. Schroepfer reported that the committee also recommended the department develop a mission and vision statement to help define their role and strengths both on campus and nationally. The GFEC requested that the Graduate School assign another program review committee to complete a program review (committee report only, no departmental self-study) to be completed by the end of 2018-19. Dean Karpus noted that the Graduate School will also engage students during Spring 2017 and junior faculty during Fall 2017 to get an update on their status and concerns. The committee commends the program on its strengths and strongly 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 Theatre & Drama M.F.A./Doctoral Minor. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

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