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

MINUTES

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Susan Babcock, Cynthia Czajkowski, William Karpus (Chair), Lisa Martin, Christa Olson, Nicole Perna, John Pfotenhauer (left before fifth voting item), Parmesh Ramanathan, Tracy Schroepfer, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Monica Turner, Kristin Wolf

Members Absent: Kristin Eschenfelder, Lea Jacobs, Mary Louise Gomez, Jose Pincheira, Stephanie Tai

Guests: Elaine Klein, Pamela McGranahan, Jocelyn Milner, Steve Smith

Staff: Judy Bauman, Eileen Callahan, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, LaRuth McAfee, Meghan McMackin, Emily Reynolds

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of February 10, 2017, were approved as a matter of automatic consent, with one change: CIC is the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, not the Council of Independent Colleges.

Information Items:

1. Dean Karpus informed the GFEC of a department restructuring request scheduled for approval by the UAPC on March 16, 2017 to merge the Department of Landscape Architecture and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning into a new Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. The new department will be housed in the College of Letters and Science (currently Landscape Architecture is in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Urban and Regional Planning is in both colleges). If approved, GFEC will see a voting item on a future agenda to approve academic home changes for their existing degrees.

2. Dean Karpus informed the GFEC that the UW-Madison Academic Program Approval Procedure was updated to require that the Academic Home, School/College APC and GFEC approve any requested changes to the admitting status of a master’s program.

Approval Updates:

1. Dean Karpus introduced the discussion of the three-year new program check-in for the M.S. Economics Named Option “Graduate Foundations.” Three years after implementation the program has met its enrollment goals and faculty remain supportive of teaching courses that serve its students. Dean
Karpus pointed out that there is an area of ambiguity in the curricular plan for the program that will be clarified to ensure that all elective courses are covered under agreements with participating departments. The GFEC commends the program on its success and looks forward to learning more at its five year review.

Approvals:

1. Dean Karpus introduced the request to discontinue four Doctoral Minors. Of the four, only Biological Systems Engineering has a student in the process of completing it. The student will be able to finish the minor.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the doctoral minor Biological Systems Engineering from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The motion was passed with 13 for and 1 against.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the doctoral minor Business, Environment and Social Responsibility from the School of Business. The motion was passed with 13 for and 1 against.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the doctoral minor Comparative Biomedical Sciences, from the School of Veterinary Medicine. The motion was passed with 12 for, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the doctoral minor Social and Administrative Sciences, from the School of Pharmacy. The motion was passed with 13 for and 1 against.

2. Dean Karpus introduced Clinical Assistant Professor Pamela McGranahan, who presented the request to approve a new Capstone Certificate called “Clinical Nurse Specialist-Adult/Gerontology” from the School of Nursing. McGranahan informed the GFEC that this program meets a pressing need in the nursing workforce and will utilize current classes from the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program with excess capacity.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the new Capstone Certificate “Clinical Nurse Specialist-Adult/Gerontology”. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Reviews and Updates

1. Associate Dean Lisa Martin introduced five program review updates (Dairy Science M.S./Ph.D., Chemistry M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor, Social Welfare Ph.D./Doctoral Minor, Music M.A./Ph.D./M.M./DMA, and the Journalism and Mass Communications M.A.) in response to recommendations sent from the GFEC after discussion of their 10-Year Institutional Reviews. The GFEC will respond back to programs where additional clarifications or questions on their progress remains.

2. GFEC member Tracy Schroepfer introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Art M.A./MFA/Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. Schroepfer noted the program’s strengths, including its
interdisciplinary nature, bi-annual student forums, new TA application process, personalized recruiting, student assessment plans, and diverse mix of students and faculty. The GFEC learned that challenges facing the program include declining application numbers, variable recruitment practices by faculty, and health and safety concerns with regard to equipment and facilities (Humanities Building). Schroepfer also discussed review committee recommendations, including that the program should continue to assess how to promote and sustain excellence and inclusivity and strive to support educational experiences that underscore diversity of views and perspectives. 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 Art M.A./MFA/Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. GFEC member Cynthia Czajkowski introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Zoology M.A./M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. Czajkowski noted the program’s strengths, including a strong graduate applicant pool, high funding rates, including funding for student research travel, stable leadership, consistent meetings with students to assess progress, and positive and productive faculty-student dynamics. The GFEC learned that the program has lower Ph.D. completion rates than peer institutions, but that reasons for this attrition have been identified by the program. The GFEC was also concerned by low numbers of underrepresented minority students, and recommends the program meet with Assistant Dean LaRuth McAfee to develop a plan to increase and retain a diverse graduate student population. Czajkowski also commented on additional program review recommendations; including the need to create a student handbook, use individual development plans (IDPs), increase the number and diversity of graduate level courses/seminars, and clarify committee leadership and governance transition procedures. The committee agreed with the faculty and students’ recommendation to change the name of the department and graduate programs, 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 Zoology M.A./M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. The motion was passed with 12 for, 1 abstention.

Discussion:

1. Academic Planning Specialist Emily Reynolds introduced a new procedure for creating doctoral minors. This formalizes a process that programs had already been following and makes it easier for departments to meet governance expectations.

Adjournment:

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