University of Wisconsin-Madison
Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Room 52 Bascom Hall
September 9, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present:  Lara Collier, Kristin Eschenfelder, Michael Graham (left before first voting item), Yu Hen Hu (arrived after first voting item), William Karpus, Steffen Lempp, Lisa Martin, Christa Olson, Nicole Perna, John Pfotenhauer, Parmesh Ramanathan, Tracy Schroepfer, Steph Tai, Monica Turner, Kirstin Wolf

Members Absent:  Caroline Alexander, Christopher Livanos, Earlise Ward

Guests:  Constance Flanagan, Elizabeth Harris, Elaine Klein, Brian McNurlen, Jocelyn Milner, Scott Owczarek, Eric Wilcots

Staff:  Judy Bauman, Marty Gustafson, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Peter Kinsley, Emily Reynolds

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of June 9, 2017, were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Information Items:

1. Dean Karpus led introductions and described the GFEC overview and charge. New GFEC members beginning terms in the 2017-2018 academic year include Lara Collier, Steffen Lempp, Christopher Livanos, and Earlise Ward.

2. Vice Provost Jocelyn Milner and Registrar Scott Owczarek led a discussion on the new Guide publication schedule and its impact on governance actions.

3. Brian McNurlen and Elizabeth Harris led a discussion on a proposed data retention plan for retiring D2L and Moodle learning management systems on campus.

Approvals:

1. School of Human Ecology Associate Dean Constance Flanagan introduced the request to change the admitting status of the M.S. Human Ecology named options in Consumer Behavior & Family Economics and Human Development & Family Studies. The School desires that all students who wish to pursue a master’s enroll in the no-option M.S., leaving these options to Ph.D. students. The Ph.D. students may use the M.S. with named option to earn a Master’s degree, either on the way to the Ph.D. or when they choose to leave the Ph.D. program.
Motion: Moved and seconded to change the admitting status of the M.S. Human Ecology named options in Consumer Behavior & Family Economics and Human Development & Family Studies. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Reviews and Updates:


   - Art: They have had some success with a new recruitment committee’s efforts and note while their ten-year funding average is 58%, this has improved in the last four years to 85%. They have also addressed some of the safety issues in their building.
   
   - Zoology: To address diversity issues, they have met with Graduate School Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Funding LaRuth McAfee. They have also taken the initiative to identify faculty interested in serving in leadership roles moving forward.
   
   - Chemistry: While the program submitted a first draft of their new handbook, Dean Karpus notes the Graduate School has not seen a plan for a systematic approach to respond to the results of a department-wide climate survey last year.

2. GFEC member Steph Tai introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Supplemental Accreditation Review of selected graduate programs in Business, including Arts Administration M.A./MBA, Finance Investment and Banking M.S./MBA, Management and Human Resources M.S./MBA, Marketing M.S./MBA, Operations and Technology Management M.S./MBA, Real Estate and Urban Land Economics M.S./MBA, Risk Management and Insurance M.S./MBA, and Supply Chain Management M.S./MBA. Tai noted the strengths of the programs, which include increasing applications in recent years, most students finding jobs in areas/industries directly related to the programs in which they trained, exit surveys showing students rate faculty teaching and advising as excellent, and recent successes at retaining excellent faculty and general production of high-quality research. Tai also discussed review committee recommendations, which included publishing a graduate student handbook, conducting additional tracking of post-graduate outcomes to determine whether particular investments in training are delivering high returns, extending the Business Emerging Leaders program for undergraduates to the graduate programs, and conducting a comparison with peer institutions on diversity. The GFEC noted the number of project assistantships and fellowships awarded has also dropped recently, but is still notably higher than peer programs. The GFEC commends the programs on their strengths and recommends the department engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Supplemental Accreditation Review of selected graduate programs in Business. The motion was passed with 12 for, 1 abstention.

2. GFEC member John Pfotenhauer introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Computer Sciences M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. Pfotenhauer noted the strengths of the program, which include high rankings with a world-class reputation, excellent job placement, strong service courses for other majors, and good funding levels for research graduate students. Pfotenhauer also discussed challenges to the program, including a graduate program size that has doubled since 2007, with 75% of applicants being international, and difficulty replacing faculty due to a competitive job market in the same time period. There are also low numbers of women and domestic targeted minority students in the program. Pfotenhauer discussed review committee recommendations, including carrying out proposed program
assessment steps, accommodating emerging topics in the curriculum, incorporating new methods to improve graduate student communication skills, developing methods to mitigate their practice of course over-enrollment, and aggressively pursuing existing plans to increase diversity through efforts to hire and retain women and minority faculty. The GFEC also recommended the program review its admissions practices to consider if they are implicitly biased against women and domestic targeted minority applicants. The GFEC commends the programs on their strengths and recommends the department engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Computer Sciences M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor. The motion was passed with 11 for, 2 abstentions.

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