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

M I N U T E S  

Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Lara Collier, Kristin Eschenfelder, Michael Graham, Yu Hen Hu (arrived after first three voting items), William Karpus, Steffen Lempp, Christopher Livanos, Lisa Martin, Christa Olson, Nicole Perna, John Pfotenhauer, Parmesh Ramanathan, Tracy Schroepfer (left before final voting item), Leslie Smith III, Steph Tai (arrived after first three voting items)  

Members Absent: Monica Turner, Earlise Ward, Kirsten Wolf  

Guests: Jeremy Foltz, Jocelyn Milner, Sarah Pfatteicher, Makayla Schuchardt  

Staff: Marty Gustafson, Elena Hsu, LaRuth McAfee, Emily Reynolds  

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.  

Dean Karpus introduced Associate Professor Leslie Smith III as a new member of the GFEC.  

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

Approvals:  

1. Dean Karpus introduced Professor and Chair of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics Jeremy Foltz, who presented a request to move the named option “Resource and Energy Demand Analysis” (REDA) from the M.A. Agricultural and Applied Economics to the M.S. Agricultural and Applied Economics, discontinue the M.A., and create a new named option “Agricultural and Applied Economics” in the M.S. These changes would mean students who receive the REDA named option would be earning a more typical degree for the subject matter, in line with peer programs. They are also part of an effort to reclassify the graduate programs in Agricultural and Applied Economics to a STEM-designated CIP code, which would be of great benefit to its students for funding and job opportunities.  

Motion: Moved and seconded to move the Named Option “Resource and Energy Demand Analysis” from the M.A. to the M.S. The motion was passed unanimously.  

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the M.A. in Agricultural and Applied Economics. The motion was passed unanimously.  

Motion: Moved and seconded to create a new Named Option “Agricultural and Applied Economics” in the M.S. The motion was passed unanimously.  

Approval Updates:
2. Associate Dean Ramanathan presented the Three-Year Progress Report Check-in of the M.S. Computer Sciences Named Option “Professional Program” and the Capstone Certificate in Computer Sciences for Professionals. These revenue-model programs are robust and meeting enrollment targets. The committee examined the program’s tuition structure to make sure it fits the market and can support instruction. The program’s lack of underrepresented minority students is mirrored by the M.S./Ph.D. programs in Computer Sciences total student enrollment.

3. Associate Dean Ramanathan presented the Three-Year Progress Report Check-in of the Capstone Certificate in Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health. This strong revenue-model program serves the community and meets enrollment goals. The program is committed to providing access to for underserved populations and is looking at funding options.

4. Associate Dean Ramanathan presented the Three-Year Progress Report Check-in of the Capstone Certificates in Clinical Nutrition and Clinical Nutrition – Dietetic Internship. The programs have met enrollment goals, and as planned have lower enrollment this year due to a new online master’s degree in Clinical Nutrition that attracts the same target audience. A graduate degree in this field is an accreditation requirement for professionals beginning in 2024. However, the program anticipates the capstones will continue to have some interest and will continue since they do not require additional resources to maintain.

Program Reviews and Updates
5. Associate Dean Ramanathan introduced a discussion of an update from the Department of Population Health Sciences regarding the Population Health M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor Ten-Year Program Review. The Graduate School plans to continue a discussion with the program on first-year funding for students.

6. GFEC Member Nicole Perna introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Agronomy. Perna noted the strengths of the program, including faculty research excellence, good job prospects for program graduates, and a national and international network of alumni. Perna also discussed challenges to the program, including low enrollment with very little sense of student community, and few dedicated graduate-level courses, with only 3.1 teaching FTEs among 19 faculty (most of whom had large non-teaching UW-Extension appointments). Perna noted review committee recommendations, including exploring if admissions practices and enrollment levels are consistent with plans, program resources and career outcomes; improving frequency of students meeting with their committees; developing and teaching new courses; holding an “Agronomy” weekly seminar to build program cohesion; increasing faculty communication with the program coordinator; and how these issues all impact long-term sustainability. Perna reported that despite the problems, students reported good career prospects, as there is a need for agronomy graduates. The GFEC stressed the importance that the program address the review committee’s recommendations and carefully consider its graduate programs during current strategic planning efforts. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and strongly recommends it engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

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

7. GFEC Member Nicole Perna introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Environmental Chemistry and Technology. Perna noted the strengths of the program, including high faculty productivity, high student satisfaction and job opportunities, effective cross-disciplinary training, and curricular relevance to students from other programs. Perna also discussed challenges to
the program, including a lack of senior faculty, shared laboratories rather than dedicated space, confusion over the handbook and no strategic plan. Perna noted review committee recommendations, including updating the student handbook and clarifying the role of program in the Department of Civil and Engineering that may help increase senior faculty participation. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and recommends it engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Environmental Chemistry and Technology. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. GFEC Member John Pfotenhauer introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Transportation Management and Policy Graduate/Professional Certificate. Pfotenhauer noted the strengths of the program, including its interdisciplinary nature exposing students to a wide breadth of careers in transportation, a required practicum course that gives students practical experience on transportation projects, and a required internship. Pfotenhauer noted that students in the certificate program are well trained for a highly employable field. Pfotenhauer also discussed challenges to the program, namely that its primary source of funding, a grant from the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE), was not renewed. Other challenges include the need to find a new faculty director, low enrollment and lack of advertising, non-functional faculty governance, a lack of information on a website and no student handbook, and no implemented program assessment. Pfotenhauer noted that the program was highly aligned with CFIRE and doesn’t have a clear fit in the Nelson Institute, so is in need of a new administrative home that can provide a director and other student support services. The GFEC expressed concern that the program has informally stopped admitting students without going through a formal admissions suspension process. The GFEC commends the certificate program on its strengths and recommends it engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns on its sustainability.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Graduate/Professional Certificate in Transportation Management and Policy. The motion was passed unanimously.

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