MINUTES

Members Present: Cadwallader, Bell, Cook, Crone, Greenberg, Kalil, Palta, Paulnock, Peterson, Ramanathan, Rindfleisch, Sacaridiz (in at 1:51), Sharpless, Sytsma, Tejedo-Herrero, Weimer

Members Absent: Bleam, Drinkwater, Mari-Beffa, Schauer, Shapiro

Guests: Gary Roberts; Bacteriology, Robin Douthitt; School of Human Ecology, Wendy Way; School of Human Ecology

Staff: Judy Bauman, Mary Butler Stone, Eileen Callahan, Sharon Dunwoody, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Dorothy Sanchez, Linda Scholl

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.

The minutes of February 11, 2011 were approved as written.

Information Items:

Dean Cadwallader informed the GFEC about the announcement recently circulated to the graduate programs about changes to the PhD Minor requirement. It was noted that the announcement lacked mention of holding programs accountable to breadth in their 10-year program review.

Action: Moved and seconded to re-release memo with clause mentioning how breadth will be addressed in ten-year program reviews. The motion was approved unanimously.

Program Reviews:

1. Gary Roberts, from the Bacteriology Department, presented the Institutional (10-year) Review of the graduate programs in Entomology. Roberts noted that even though the programs are fairly decentralized, students and department members have positive feelings for the program. The Review Committee recommended increasing department oversight in the recruiting/admission process, improving diversity, better oversight of student progress, and a better analysis of career opportunities for future graduates of the program. Roberts reported that the Entomology program was already devoting attention to these issues.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of the Entomology programs, with the recommendation that Entomology report back to the GFEC at a future meeting with a status report
concerning the review committee’s recommendations. The motion was passed unanimously, with one technical abstention.

2. GFEC member Paul Sacaridiz, from the Art Department, presented the Institutional (10-year) Review of graduate programs in English. Issues addressed included program size and its ability to fund students, the low level of faculty involvement at the undergraduate level, lack of communication/coordination across the various English academic programs, a dire need for more administrative support, perceived favoritism of the Literary Studies, and lack of coordinated guidance/preparation to students for job opportunities outside of academia. The Review Committee recommends the English department explore these issues.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the review of the English programs, with a recommendation that the English Department report back to GFEC by spring 2012 on how they have begun to address those concerns. This response will be coordinated with the College of Letters and Science. The motion was passed unanimously.

Other Action Items:

Dean Susan Cook introduced the request for permanent exemption of 4-member MFA committee requirement for Creative Writing. Creative Writing proposes instead to have a two-member MFA Committee. Cook proposed having a procedure in place in case of a 1-1 split decision from their proposed 2-member committee.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the request for permanent exemption of a 4-member MFA Committee requirement for the Creative Writing MFA program with the expectation that the Creative Writing program have a procedure in place, which they will share with the Graduate School, prior to implementing this permanent exemption. The motion was passed unanimously.

Approvals:

Interim Senior Associate Dean Sharon Dunwoody introduced the item of the Human Ecology’s request for a MS-PhD named option: Civil Society and Community Leadership. Dean Robin Douthitt and Associate Dean Wendy Way from the School of Human Ecology presented the proposal for the named option. The School of Human Ecology posited that the proposed named option was unique as it catered to students who wished to focus on studies of voluntary/philanthropic aspects of public service. GFEC members presented concerns that the proposed named option overlapped with the graduate programs in the Department of Social Work and the La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Action: Moved and seconded to table the discussion and decision until the April 29, 2011 GFEC date, with a request from Dean Cadwallader for involved parties to come together to resolve dissention and/or provide further information regarding the concerns of GFEC members. Motion passed with 12 votes for, 2 votes against, and 1 technical abstention.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41.