Interim Dean Wendy Crone called the meeting to order.

The minutes of May 8, 2015 were approved as written.

Information Item:

Interim Dean Wendy Crone thanked Ted Golos, Pamela Potter, Steve Quintana, Kevin Shinners, and Susan Thibeault for completing their terms on GFEC, and thanked Susan Thibeault for agreeing to do an additional 1-year 2015-2016 term. New GFEC members starting their four-year terms in the 2015-2016 academic year include Kristin Eschenfelder, Nicole Perna, Patricia Rosenmeyer, and a faculty member from the Physical Sciences who will be appointed in advance of the September 2015 GFEC meeting.

Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced Jeff Beneker from the Department of Classics and Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean in the College of Letters and Science, who presented the request for approval of the following:

   - Suspend Admissions to Hebrew and Semitic Studies M.A./Ph.D. effective Fall 2015
   - Discontinue Greek M.A. effective Fall 2015
   - Discontinue Latin M.A. effective Fall 2015
   - Rename Classics M.A./Ph.D. to Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies M.A./Ph.D. effective Fall 2016
   - Create named option titled “Classics” in the Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies M.A./Ph.D. effective Fall 2016
   - Create named option titled “Hebrew Bible” in the Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies M.A./Ph.D. effective Fall 2016
   - Rename doctoral minor in Hebrew and Semitic Studies to doctoral minor in Hebrew Bible effective Fall 2016

Beneker described how the Hebrew and Semitic Studies M.A./Ph.D. program will merge with the Classics M.A./Ph.D. program, which will be renamed “Classics and Ancient Near Eastern Studies” (CANES). Designed to integrate common ground of study in classics and Hebrew bible, the newly reorganized CANES graduate...
program will create two new named options titled “Classics” and “Hebrew Bible” at the M.A. and Ph.D. degree levels. The Greek M.A. and Latin M.A. programs will be discontinued because they have not had student enrollment nor degrees awarded in the last ten years; students interested in those fields of study may pursue those interests as specializations within the CANES M.A./Ph.D. program. The four doctoral minors titled Greek, Latin, Classics, and Hebrew and Semitic Studies (to be renamed Hebrew Bible) will continue as active doctoral minors.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the requested changes to the Classics, Hebrew and Semitic Studies, Greek, and Latin graduate programs as detailed in the above bullets. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced Dan Negrut from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Phil O’Leary from Engineering Professional Development, who presented the request for approval of a named option titled “Applied Computing and Engineering Data Analytics” in the Engineering M.Eng. program. Negrut noted that the online non-pooled tuition named option will be intended for working professionals seeking additional education and training in approaches to analyzing and solving engineering problems through applied computing.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the named option “Applied Computing and Engineering Data Analytics” in the Engineering M.Eng. program. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Reviews and Updates:

1. GFEC member Robert Howell introduced discussion regarding the Afro-American M.A. program’s response to the GFEC review of the program on December 12, 2014. The GFEC discussed the program’s heavy enrollment of undergraduate students in upper level graduate courses (likely due to the program’s burden of providing a bulk of the courses that fulfill the undergraduate curriculum’s ethnic studies course requirement) and the difficulties students experience in transitioning from AOF funding in their first year to a TA appointment (with a significantly lower stipend) in the subsequent years. The GFEC thanks the Afro-American program for their response to the review committee’s recommendations and encourages the program continue their conversations with the College of Letters and Science to address these complicated issues. The GFEC asked Graduate School Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman to initiate conversation with the Afro American Studies graduate program and their college to address some of the review’s lingering concerns, and if needed, request the program report back to the GFEC at a future meeting to discuss progress and developments.

2. Interim Dean Wendy Crone presented a program review follow-up for the Ph.D. in Mass Communications, jointly administered by the department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the department of Life Sciences Communication. Crone referenced the March 2014 memo from the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Letters and Science (L&S), and the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) regarding the requested actions for progress towards a unified program. The GFEC discussed the program’s progress towards achieving the deadlines detailed in the March 2014 memo, as well as Mass Communication’s April 2015 memo requesting that the program’s two codes (G630A and G630L) remain active and in use for the program’s separated admissions and student services needs. Crone noted that she and the Deans of L&S and CALS agreed that though unification of codes and admissions processes is already past due, they recommend giving Mass Communications an extension on compliance with the deadline requirements until December 15, 2015. After this date, no additional extensions will be granted, and the Graduate School will close active administration of the extra program code, and create only one entry ("Mass Communications
PhD”) on the Graduate School e-application. The GFEC endorsed the Deans’ revised December 15, 2015 deadline for the program to come into full compliance with the requested actions detailed in the Deans’ March 2014 memo.

3. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced discussion regarding the follow-up to the review of the M.S., MFA, and Ph.D. program in Human Ecology, in response to the program’s review at the June 2014 GFEC meeting. The GFEC commends the program on its efforts to better support students in response to program review recommendations, and recommends the School of Human Ecology continue to monitor and address graduate program climate.

4. GFEC member Pamela Potter presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the History M.A./Ph.D. program. Potter noted the program’s strengths, including dedication of the faculty leadership and academic staff, and high-quality research and teaching. Potter also noted the challenges facing the History graduate program, including an overburdened small portion of the faculty in leadership positions, a long time to Ph.D. degree compared to AAU peers, a disparate sense of climate and community for students depending on which of the 11 subject areas they are specializing, a need for a published student grievance procedure, and need for continuing efforts to ensure and sustain a smaller and better-funded graduate cohort. The GFEC joins the review committee in recommending the program develop a strategy to attend to these needs to ensure a better student experience.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the History M.A./Ph.D. program. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. GFEC member Pamela Potter presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology M.A./Ph.D. program. Potter noted the program’s strengths including a positive program climate and community, productive efforts regarding professional development activities, and good student satisfaction regarding funding opportunities. The GFEC also discussed the program’s imminent restructuring and the care that will be needed to preserve the quality and stature of the program. The review committee recommends the program improve student advising regarding process and requirements for students if they wish to pursue a joint Ph.D. in History and History of Science, Medicine and Technology. The GFEC further recommends that the program continue to investigate how to achieve enhanced staff support while protecting the unique and positive identity and reputation of the existing program.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology M.A./Ph.D. program. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. The Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.A./Ph.D. in Philosophy was postponed to the first GFEC meeting of the next academic year.

Discussion Item:

Interim Dean Wendy Crone welcomed any final feedback regarding the updated draft of the Progress Report for Recently Approved Programs. GFEC members agreed that providing best-practice examples of responses would improve the document.