Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Steve Ackerman, Duncan Carlsmith, Susan Cook, Aparna Dharwadker, Norman Drinkwater, Ted Golos, Robert Howell, Mary Louise Gomez, Ron Kalil, Daniel Kleinman, Lisa Martin, Donna Paulnock, Paul Sacaridiz, John Sharpless, Kevin Shinners, Fernando Tejedo, Susan Thibeault

Members Absent: Stephen Quintana, James Schauer, Jean-Luc Thiffeault

Guests: AnHai Doan, Jeff Naughton, David Rosenthal

Staff: Judy Bauman, Eileen Callahan, Wendy Crone, Alissa Ewer, Steve Hahn, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Mary Butler Ravneberg, Dorothy Sanchez

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

The minutes of March 8, 2013 were approved as written.

Approvals

1. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and AnHai Doan and Jeff Naughton from the Department of Computer Sciences introduced the request to approve the capstone certificate in Computer Sciences for Professionals. The capstone certificate expands the mission of the Computer Sciences department; born under the Educational Innovation initiative, it will provide computer sciences training for working professionals in a flexible night-weekend course format.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the capstone certificate in Computer Sciences for Professionals. The motion was passed with 17 votes for and 1 abstention.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and AnHai Doan and Jeff Naughton from the Department of Computer Sciences introduced the request to approve the named option “Professional Program” in the Computer Sciences MS. Like the new capstone certificate, the named option expands the mission of the Computer Sciences department and is an initiative born under Educational Innovation. The GFEC is pleased with the careful planning and awareness of future challenges apparent in both the capstone certificate and named option proposals, and recommends the department commits to investing in student support services for the expected professional students.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the named option “Professional Program” in the Master of Science in Computer Sciences. The motion was passed with 17 votes for and 1 abstention.
3. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman and Associate Dean David Rosenthal from the School of Education introduced the request to discontinue the Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Psychology and the Master of Arts in Special Education. Associate Dean Rosenthal noted that neither the Rehabilitation Psychology MA nor Special Education MA programs have been operational for the last two decades. The department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education has active, parallel Master of Science degrees in each program that will continue unaltered; no current or future students’ degree requirements will be affected by this change.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to discontinue the Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Psychology and to discontinue the Master of Arts in Special Education. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Program Reviews and Updates**

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock presented the Entomology MS/PhD program review follow-up update, in response to the program’s GFEC review on April 8, 2011. Paulnock noted that Entomology has acknowledged and developed new strategies in response to the GFEC review and recommendations, including hiring a student services coordinator for the MS/PhD program to assist with administrative burden. The GFEC recommends that Entomology communicate grievance procedures and other key program policies relating to student experiences on the program’s web presence and in student handbooks. The GFEC commends Entomology’s thoughtful progress and looks forward to the program’s continuing work.

2. Associate Dean Susan Cook presented the Spanish and Portuguese MA/PhD program review follow-up update, in response to the program’s GFEC review on December 14, 2012. The GFEC agreed that both Spanish and Portuguese graduate program curricula should require a proseminar course, suggested that the department consider right-sizing program enrollment, and requested that the department provide clarification of the nature and process of the terminal MA degree. The GFEC commends the programs’ progress and requests that the department report back to the November 2013 GFEC meeting to discuss developments resulting from the GFECs recommendations.

3. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Ron Kalil presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Endocrinology – Reproductive Physiology (ERP) MS/PhD. Kalil noted the interdepartmental program’s strength in national reputation, program quality and underrepresented minority student recruitment. Kalil described the inefficiencies in having ERP administered in a clinical program (OB-GYN), but noted that the program will soon be transitioning to a School of Medicine and Public Health-level administration. The review committee recommended the program develop a strategic plan and annual budget, and that the program considers ways to improve average student time-to-degree, connectivity among students across disciplines and minority student retention data. The GFEC commends ERP on its successes and requests that the program provide a follow-up in three years to the GFEC that addresses the review committee’s recommendations and describes the how the transition to an administrative home in the School of Medicine and Public Health has affected the program.
Moved and seconded to accept the review of the Endocrinology – Reproductive Physiology MS/PhD, with a request the program address the review committee’s recommendations in three years. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman and GFEC member John Sharpless presented the Five-Year Review of the Agroecology MS. The review committee found the Agroecology MS to be a thoughtful, unique program with growing prestige and high student satisfaction, and that it exceeds the goals set in the original program proposal. The review committee noted the program’s challenges in recruiting underrepresented minority students and in providing funding opportunities to students. The GFEC recommended that the program develop a graduate handbook so as to provide transparency regarding program culture, policies, and procedures, including explicit student grievance policies. The GFEC commends the program on their excellence, and requests that in order to maintain their high standards of success they address the review committee’s recommendations.

Moved and seconded to accept and endorse the review committee’s review and recommendations concerning the Five-Year review of the Agroecology MS program. The motion was passed unanimously.