Minutess

Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Steve Ackerman, Duncan Carlsmith, Susan Cook, Aparna Dharwadker (left at 2:35), Norman Drinkwater, Robert Howell, Mary Louise Gomez, Robert Howell, Daniel Kleinman, Lisa Martin, Stephen Quintana, Paul Sacaridiz, James Schauer, John Sharpless, Kevin Shiners, Fernando Tejedo

Members Absent: Ted Golos, Ron Kalil, Donna Paulnock, Susan Thibeault, Jean-Luc Thiffeault

Guests: John Coleman, Jocelyn Milner, Leslie Smith, Eric Wilcots

Staff: Judy Bauman, Eileen Callahan, Steve Hahn, Kelly Haslam, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Mary Butler Ravneberg, Linda Scholl, Xania Walter

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

The minutes of December 14, 2012 were approved as written.

Discussion Item:

Dean Martin Cadwallader introduced the fourth discussion on graduate student learning outcomes, reflecting the Graduate School’s continuing interest in including student learning outcomes in both program reviews and as continual program assessment measures. Cadwallader introduced John Coleman from Political Science, who, representing the Social Sciences division, spoke about Political Science’s reform goals in response to concerns of graduating doctoral students’ weak career placement record. By faculty-led decisions, the department imagined and implemented a series of reform goals, including altering admissions requirements to include a research abstract and paper, a first-year course that describes scope, methods and introduction to the political science professional life and more emphasis on methods coursework and reflective essays. The department believes that the actions taken will produce a graduate program this is more research-oriented, with emphasis on better trained students, better dissertations and better job placement.

Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and Eric Wilcots and Leslie Smith from the department of Mathematics introduced the request to approve the named option “Foundations of Advanced Studies” in the Mathematics M.A., intended for those students who want to pursue rigorous training in Mathematics in preparation for further doctoral studies. The named option is an initiative born of the University’s “Educational Innovation” campaign, and will allow faculty and their associated departments to share in a portion of the revenue the named option would generate. The 43-credit named option has
been designed with flexibility to meet the diverse needs of students entering with varying levels of mathematics preparation. The GFEC expressed concerns that adding the new named might create a dichotomous program climate, and hoped that the program will clearly state and promote expected learning goals and outcomes for those completing the new named option. The GFEC will also look to receive a full report on the status of the new named option through a formal five-year program review.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the named option “Foundations of Advanced Studies” in the Master of Arts in Mathematics. The motion was passed with 12 votes for and 3 abstentions.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman introduced the request to discontinue the Laboratory Quality Management capstone certificate. The capstone certificate has experienced continuous low enrollment and a recent loss of key faculty.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the discontinuation of the capstone certificate in Laboratory Quality Management. The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Review Update and Review:

1. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman presented the program review follow-up for the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis’ “Master Administrator Capstone Certificate (MACC)”. At the October 12, 2012 GFEC meeting, the GFEC recommended the MACC be discontinued. The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis has decided not to close the capstone certificate. The department hopes to admit students to the MACC program by the Fall 2013 or Spring 2014 semester, but noted that if by August 15, 2013 they are not able to obtain DPI approval for licensure and successfully identify district and other possible partners for the program, they will take the formal steps to suspend and/or discontinue the MACC. The department is expected to report to the Office of the Provost on these matters by August 15, 2013.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and GFEC-member Norman Drinkwater presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Horticulture MS/PhD. Discussed were the program’s strengths, including a robust national reputation, collegial climate and successful outreach mission, as well as the review committee’s concerns, including lack of a graduate student handbook, need for more consistent oversight of the program and the need to undertake strategic planning to determine the future of an emphasis on traditional horticulture studies. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and requests that, in order to maintain their standards of success, they address the review committee’s concerns with an initial written update no later September 2013 addressing the student handbook and program oversight, and a second written update no later than May 2014 on the results of the program’s strategic plan and progress made with its implementation.

Action: Moved and seconded to accept the review of the Horticulture MS/PhD program, with a request the program address the review committee’s recommendations. The motion was passed unanimously.
**Additional Discussion Item:**

Assistant Dean Kelly Haslam of the Graduate School’s Office of Academic Assessment & Funding presented an investigation of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)’s new assumed practice of 30 credits for master’s degrees. The HLC is the regional accrediting body for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and in January released new “assumed practices” that ask the minimum master’s degree program length be 30 semester credits beyond the bachelor degree. Dean Martin Cadwallader will appoint a GFEC subcommittee to explore possible responses and policy changes that may occur as a result of these and other new HLC assumed practices.