MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Norman Drinkwater, Kevin Shinners, Jean-Luc Thiffeault

Guests: Lynette Karls, Denise Ney, James Ntambi, Jon Pevehouse

Staff: Eileen Callahan, Wendy Crone, Alissa Ewer, Kelly Haslam, Jennifer Martin, Mary Butler Ravneberg, Dorothy Sanchez, Linda Scholl

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

The minutes of April 12, 2013 were approved as written.

Information Items:

1. Dean Martin Cadwallader thanked the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee members who have completed four years of service on the committee: Ron Kalil, Paul Sacaridiz, Jamie Schauer and John Sharpless. Dean Cadwallader also thanked those who served as GFEC member substitutes in the 2012-2013 academic year: Aparna Dharwadker, Mary Louise Gomez, Fernando Tejedo and Jean-Luc Thiffeault.

2. GFEC member Robert Howell updated the committee on the GFEC subcommittee charged with reviewing policies and practices related to the Higher Learning Commission’s (HLC) criteria for campus accreditation. The subcommittee is applying particular attention to the HLC’s new “assumed practices” of requiring 30 credits beyond the bachelor’s degree for master’s degrees, and requiring at least 50% of courses applied to a graduate program be courses designed for graduate work. The subcommittee has initiated a series of academic planning visits to affected schools and colleges across campus so as to gather reactions and anticipate potential program difficulties; the subcommittee will continue to explore possible responses and policy changes that may occur as a result of the new HLC assumed practices. The GFEC agreed that an imminent communication of details from the Graduate School to the Directors of Graduate Study (DGS’s) would be prudent.

3. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock announced Endocrinology-Reproductive Physiology’s MS/PHD administrative unit move from the “Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology” to the “Office of Basic Research, Biotechnology, and Graduate Studies” in the School of Medicine and Public Health Dean’s Office. Paulnock noted that the new administrative office will provide a stable home for the program,
and will consolidate ERP’s organizational needs with other graduate programs that also have an administrative home in the Office of Basic Research, Biotechnology, and Graduate Studies.

Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Denise Ney and James Ntambi from the Department of Nutritional Sciences introduced the request to approve the capstone certificate in “Clinical Nutrition” and the capstone certificate in “Clinical Nutrition – Dietetic Internship”. Born under the Educational Innovation initiative, the capstone certificates are designed to provide advanced knowledge for clinical nutrition practitioners who seek to improve their skills and meet industry minimum requirements for practice. The GFEC expressed concerns that those students completing the capstone certificate in Clinical Nutrition will not be successful in finding internships, and concern that the market of students being able to afford either of these capstone certificates may not be as robust as needed.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the capstone certificate in Clinical Nutrition. Motion was passed with 3 abstentions and 13 for.

Action: Moved and seconded to approve the capstone certificate in Clinical Nutrition – Dietetic Internship. Motion was passed with 2 abstentions and 14 for.

2. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman and Jon Pevehouse from the Department of Political Science introduced the request to approve the capstone certificate in International Politics and Practice. Born under the Educational Innovation initiative, the capstone certificate will provide graduate-level online education to those (primarily military) students working in the field who wish to inform their profession with scholarship in international politics and practice.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the capstone certificate in International Politics and Practice. The motion was passed with 2 abstentions and 14 for.

Program Review Updates:

1. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman presented the program review follow-up update for the Nursing PhD program, in response to the program’s GFEC review on April 13, 2012. The GFEC commends the program on its recent improvements, and agreed that no further program review follow-up was needed.

2. Associate Dean Susan Cook presented the program review follow-up for the English MA/PhD program, in response to the program’s GFEC review on April 8, 2011. Cook is confident that the English department is committed to serious program changes as a result of the GFEC’s recommendations. The GFEC commends English on their recent accomplishments, including improvements in serving students interested in non-academia training, and the development of forms that help plan and track students’ time as dissertators; the English department and the College of Letters and Science continue to work together on course renumbering, improving time to degree, and right-sizing the program.

3. Associate Dean Wendy Crone presented a program review follow-up for the Mass Communication PhD program, a doctoral program co-managed by the College of Letter and Sciences and the College of
Agricultural and Life Sciences. Crone discussed the May 2013 reports from the Joint Committee for the PhD in Mass Communications and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Joint Program in Mass Communications, which describe continuing improvement and cohesion efforts in response to the program’s GFEC review on May 11, 2012. The GFEC commends the Joint Committee on its achieved successes in the last year, including a developed set of shared core values, a common listserv, a joint seminar sequence, and a shared student handbook; the GFEC is looking forward to learning of progress in establishing a permanent governing structure in a more unified program in the coming months. Dean Martin Cadwallader noted that he will discuss the two committees’ reports with the Dean of the College of Letters and Science and the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.