Members Present: Martin Cadwallader, Steve Ackerman, Michael Bell, Duncan Carlsmith, Cynthia Czajkowski, Norman Drinkwater, Ted Golos, Mary Louise Gomez, Robert Howell, Lea Jacobs, Daniel Kleinman, Gloria Mari-Beffa, Lisa Martin, Donna Paulnock, José Pincheira, Pamela Potter, Stephen Quintana, Kevin Shinners, Fernando Tejedo, Susan Thibeault

Members Absent: Aparna Dharwadker

Guests: Ruth Benedict, Dorothy Farrar-Edwards, Steve Hutchinson, Rubén Medina, David Rosenthal

Staff: Eileen Callahan, Wendy Crone, Alissa Ewer, Kelly Haslam, Michelle Holland, Elena Hsu, Jennifer Martin, Dorothy Sanchez, Linda Scholl

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order.

The minutes of October 11, 2013 were approved as written.

Information Items:

1. Dean Martin Cadwallader informed the group of GFEC member Rob Howell and Associate Dean Wendy Crone’s visit to the October 24, 2013 University Academic Planning Council (UAPC) meeting, where they spoke about the policy changes to graduate degree requirements passed by the GFEC in October. The UAPC approved the changes to graduate degree requirements.

2. Dean Martin Cadwallader updated the GFEC on the proposal for the named option titled “Corporate Executive MBA” in the Business: General Management MBA degree, approved by the GFEC on October 11, 2013. Cadwallader spoke to the October UAPC meeting about the GFEC’s concern regarding the named option’s off-campus, company-specific arrangement. The UAPC approved both the proposed named option and the additional location to support the program, offered at Kohl’s corporate headquarters. The UAPC noted that admissions decisions and curricular decisions are under the control of the School of Business faculty and will not be unduly influenced by partners, and that the program will be subject to review five years after implementation, as is the case for all new programs at UW-Madison.
Program Reviews and Updates:

1. Associate Dean Lea Jacobs and Rubén Medina and Steve Hutchinson from the department of Spanish and Portuguese presented the program review update for the M.A. and Ph.D. Spanish and Portuguese in response to the programs’ GFEC review follow-up on April 12, 2013, during which the GFEC recommended the department consider a proseminar course in both graduate programs. Medina noted that the department has instituted workshops for new students, a new organization of research circles that provide student orientation, and newly strengthened policy that guides advisors to meet with new students and share information about the students’ field. The GFEC commends the department on their recent accomplishments, and encourages the programs to continue to investigate more competitive student funding levels, and to clarify the nature and the process of awarding the M.A. as a terminal degree, including making the content and purpose of Masters’ exams more transparent.

2. Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman introduced the program review follow-up for the M.S. in Agroecology, in response to the program’s GFEC review on April 12, 2013. Kleinman indicated that Agroecology has developed a graduate student handbook and grievance procedures, as recommended by GFEC. Kleinman will advise the program to publish these resources online and encourage them to strengthen their handbook in accordance with the Graduate School’s handbook template.

3. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and GFEC member Susan Thibeault introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.S. and Ph.D. in Food Science. Discussed were the program strengths, including excellent outreach, outstanding leading national research and stable extramural funding, as well as the review committee’s concerns, including a small number of Dairy Science department graduate courses, a recent 40% decline in faculty, little student diversity, and a rapidly exploding undergraduate student population that affects resources and space available for graduate programming and research. The GFEC commends the programs on their strengths, and recommends the program develop a coordinated recruiting and mentoring strategy, including participation in the Biology Science Graduate Student Recruitment funds and improved communication, community participation and transparency regarding resources and grievance for students. The review committee also recommended that the program work with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences on critical mass for faculty and re-review if additional Dairy Science graduate courses are warranted.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the review of the M.S. and Ph.D. program in Food Science, with a request the program address the review committee’s concerns and recommendations in a written memo to GFEC by April 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

Approvals:

1. Associate Dean Donna Paulnock and Ruth Benedict and Dorothy Farrar-Edwards from the department of Kinesiology presented the request to approve notice of intent (permission to plan) for a new degree, the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy (OTD). The degree, born under the Educational Innovation initiative, will be aimed towards working professionals seeking to pursue excellence in clinical practice through a pedagogical blend of online and face-to-face teaching. The GFEC noted needing consistency and clarification in the proposal regarding the expected education of entering students, more
explanation of the 51 credits for the OTD when the Master in Science in Occupational Therapy (MS-OT) requires 61 credits, expectations concerning mentor/supervisor relationships in the context of the larger program and further elaboration regarding pedagogical strength of offering the majority of a the curriculum’s courses online in a clinical degree like OTD.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the notice of intent for the new OTD degree in Occupational Therapy. The motion was passed with 15 votes for and 4 abstentions.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman introduced the request to discontinue the graduate/professional certificate in Technical Communications. The College of Engineering will continue to support the two graduate students currently enrolled in the certificate program, both of whom are expected to graduate this academic year.

Motion: Moved and seconded to discontinue the graduate/professional certificate in Technical Communication. The motion was passed with 18 votes for and 1 technical abstention.