MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Aparna Dharwadker, Robert Howell, Daniel Kleinman, Donna Paulnock, José Pincheira

Guests: Barb Bowers, Jocelyn Milner, Sharon Schumacher, Janet Silbernagel, Don Waller, Joe Walsh, Brian Yandell, Abdullah Yavas

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

Dean Martin Cadwallader called the meeting to order.

The minutes of April 11, 2014 were approved as written.

Information Items:

1. Associate Dean Wendy Crone presented a second update on behalf of the Graduate Learning Outcomes GFEC Subcommittee, and distributed revised learning outcome drafts and timeline for the project. Crone invited the GFEC to review the draft recommendations for master’s and doctoral level learning goals and provide feedback to the subcommittee members via Duncan Carlsmith. Crone also noted that learning outcomes will also be developed for graduate/professional and capstone certificates.

2. Jennifer Martin from the Graduate School’s Office of Academic Assessment and Funding presented a brief second report regarding school/college compliance of their graduate programs with HLC-related policy changes. Martin reported that many programs that were previously out-of-compliance had come into compliance since the last GFEC meeting, and that the Graduate School was still seeking in-compliance HLC templates from over 20 graduate programs.

Approvals

1. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and Phil O’Leary and Marty Gustafson from the College of Engineering presented the request to approve a named option title “Environmental Engineering” in the M.Engr. in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Born under the Educational Innovation initiative, the online program revenue-generating named option will be intended to provide learning outcomes desired by practicing environmental engineers. The named option will be managed collaboratively by
the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Department of Engineering Professional Development.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to approve the named option in “Environmental Engineering” in the Master of Engineering in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Associate Dean Lea Jacobs and Sara Guyer from the Center for the Humanities presented the request to approve a graduate/professional certificate in Public Humanities. Guyer noted the certificate coursework would provide translational skills in theory and method of public engagement in the humanities to better prepare students for the challenging job market. Members of GFEC discussed how the courses suggested for the certificate are not far-reaching enough in providing students with skills to succeed outside of academia, that the certificate should perhaps include more courses in business, journalism and public policy and might additionally include instructors from industry. The GFEC recognizes that this certificate has potential to be successful and also rapidly evolve and grow, and thus requests the certificate administrators provide the GFEC in three years with an update regarding the certificate’s progression, issues and outcomes.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to approve the graduate/professional certificate in Public Humanities. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman presented the request to discontinue the M.S./Ph.D. in Endocrinology – Reproductive Physiology within the College of Letters and Science (L&S). The administrative burden had exceeded the curricular benefit to maintain the distinct credential, due to lack of distinct L&S program requirements and low-enrollment of students in the L&S program. The M.S./Ph.D. in Endocrinology – Reproductive Physiology will continue as an active program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and in the School of Medicine and Public Health.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to discontinue the M.S./Ph.D. in Endocrinology – Reproductive Physiology from within the College of Letters and Science. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Program Reviews and Updates:**

1. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman presented a program review follow-up update for the M.S./Ph.D in Horticulture. Ackerman noted that the program completed a departmental strategic plan that provided intention for strategic hiring and identified plans to work collaboratively with other related departments on joint goals.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and former GFEC member Kenneth Sytsma presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Microbiology Ph.D. Addressed were the program’s strengths, including high rankings, good climate and excellent caliber trainers and students. Also discussed was the lack of evolution in the program’s curriculum and the review committee’s recommendation that the program establish a terminal master’s degree for those students who leave before finishing the Ph.D. Currently, students who leave without the Microbiology doctoral degree seek to obtain a master’s degree from the home department of their advisor, which may have rules and requirements inconsistent with the training provided by the Microbiology doctoral program. The GFEC applauds the
program on its strengths and requests the program address the review committee’s recommendation to establish a terminal master's degree in the program by December 2014.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to accept the review of the Microbiology Ph.D., with a request the program address the review committee’s recommendations by December 2014. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Associate Dean Steve Ackerman and former GFEC member Kenneth Sytsma presented the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Bacteriology M.S. Discussed were the program's strengths, including an excellent, internationally-recognized program reputation and an overall positive climate. The review committee in particular emphasized the request that the program create and publish a student handbook, which should serve to advise both students and advisors alike in program expectations, policies, and processes. The GFEC congratulates the program on its successes, and requests the program report back to the GFEC by October 2014 concerning the program's creation and online publication of a program handbook.

**Action:** Moved and seconded to accept the review of the Bacteriology M.S., with a request the program report back to the GFEC by the October 2014 GFEC meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.