Present: Anja Bielinsky, Michael Bowser, Bianet Castellanos, Belinda Cheung, Emily Combs, Shawn Curley, Vicki Field, Vicki Hansen (via Skype), Caroline Hayes, Mike Kilgore, Joe Konstan, Greg Lindsey, Chris Phelan, Henning Schroeder, Char Voight (staff), Pamela Weisenhorn.

Guests: Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, Ken Bartlett, Nita Krevans

For action:
1. In order to give Council members time to review the minutes and notes from the March 22 meeting, Vicki Field will ask for approval via email vote by Friday, May 6.

For information:
1. Update on graduate assistant unionization: Henning updated GEC members on student unionization efforts. GEC members agreed that there is a need to provide students with more accurate information on unionization and its potential impact (e.g., what student employee job codes would be affected).

2. Added venue for participation via ITV in April 18 Graduate and Professional Education Assembly: Henning informed the GEC that an additional space in 212 Mechanical Engineering has been reserved for the April 18 GPEA and that it will be connected to the Mississippi Room via ITV.

For discussion and action:
Proposal to merge the Ph.D. degree programs in Educational Policy and Administration, and in Work and Human Resource Education, under a common name, “Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development”; to create a new track; and to change the name of an existing track: Joe Konstan updated the GEC on his subcommittee’s review of the proposal. Rebecca Ropers-Huilman and Ken Bartlett were available to clarify and answer questions from GEC members.

ACTION ITEMS:
- Henning, on behalf of the Provost, will contact the Carlson and Humphrey School deans and ask for their input by a certain date and/or facilitate a meeting between the affected deans and the proposers to discuss any concerns.
- Greg Lindsey will send an email to Humphrey faculty asking for their input. He will do this quickly so that it does not hold up the process.

DECISION: After discussion, Joe Konstan proposed that the subcommittee reconvene and include the proposers in their meeting. At this meeting, subcommittee members would like the following from the proposers:
   a. Consultation with Humphrey and Carlson initiated by the Provost (as described earlier)
   b. The material that will be available to graduate students (e.g., program description)
   c. A report back on formal consultation with students to address some of the questions asked earlier (e.g., how do students view this degree? Is there a market etc). This can
take the form of a copy of the email survey send to all students about the program name change. 141 responded saying they wanted/supported the change.

d. Inclusion of name changes for the MEd degrees in the proposal. If the degrees are phased out in a year this would still not represent significant work. However, if they are still in place then they would be out of sync with the new program.

The subcommittee will then decide if there is synergy among the degrees beyond the alignment of the administrative structure, and will bring its recommendations back to the full GEC.

For discussion:

1. Outcome of consultation with the Provost regarding the GEC’s fit within the institutional structure: Henning reported that the Provost views the GEC as a provostal advisory group, not as a subcommittee of SCEP. However, he also believes that educational policies that may emerge from the GEC must pass through the Senate approval process. Senate leaders have expressed support, but have asked for SCEP representation on the GEC in the form of an ex officio member. GEC members discussed this request along with several alternatives, including having an FCC representative as an ex officio GEC member to reflect the parallel rather than subordinate relationship of the GEC to SCEP. The GEC discussed the relationship between undergraduate, graduate and professional education in relation to governance and policy, and what structure would best facilitate the work of the vice provost and dean of graduate education as well as meet the needs of all affected students. The issue remains under discussion.

2. Election procedure for membership of permanent GEC and tenure status for eligibility to serve on the GEC. After discussion of the issue, the GEC made the following decisions:
   - GEC members will be elected based on a slate of nominees/candidates generated by faculty and ready for a vote in November 2011. Individual members on the slate could be rejected without the entire slate being voted down.
   - A message will be sent out spring semester to all tenured and tenure-track faculty on the Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester campuses, outlining the proposed process and asking people for nominations by September. This would also be the group of faculty eligible to vote and serve. The communication should be clear that we are looking for at least one representative from a coordinate campus.
   - Senate staff would send out an email with information on the logistics of nominating and voting.
   - Graduate School staff will check with Robert Jones about the eligibility of Duluth faculty to vote given their unionized status.
   - The terms will be staggered to ensure continuity of work, with some current members serving 1-2 year terms beginning next year.

3. Update from the Graduate Education Policy Review Committee: Nita Krevans updated the GEC on the FCC meeting on 4.14. The following policies were approved by the FCC and will go to the PAC next (4.22): 1) leave of absence for graduate students, 2) credit requirements, 3) application of graduate credit to degree requirements, and 4) appointments to director of graduate studies. There were no significant changes made to the credit requirement and application of graduate credits policies since they were last reviewed by the GEC. The credit policies will have an effective date of fall 2013 to give programs that need
to undergo significant curricular revision the time to do so. If the PAC approves them, the credit policies will go to the Senate for the May 5 meeting. Nita hopes to also get the LOA and DGS policies on the agenda for May 5.

The next policies that will come before the GEC and other groups for consultation will be the policies on advising and degree progress. The degree progress policies include a provision similar to what was found in the previous Graduate School Constitution concerning students’ annual reviews. The committee has been advised by the General Counsel’s office that annual reviews should be in written form.

Date of next meeting:  Friday, May 13, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., 433 Johnston Hall