Provisional Graduate Education Council
Meeting of Friday, May 13, 2011
9:30 – 11:15 a.m., 433 Johnston Hall
Minutes

Present: Michael Bowser, Jarrod Call, Bianet Castellanos, Juliette Cherbuliez, Emily Combs, Shawn Curley, Vicki Field, Vicki Hansen (via Skype), Kimi Johnson, Mike Kilgore, Chris Phelan, Henning Schroeder, Char Voight (staff), Pamela Weisenhorn.

Guest: Nita Krevans

For action:
1. The minutes and notes from the April 15 provisional GEC meeting were approved as corrected with the following amendment: the language in the last sentence of the second bullet point in item #2 “for discussion” should be changed to “…at least one representative from a coordinate campus” to clarify that more than one representative from the coordinate campuses could be nominated and elected.

For information:
1. Number of NSF Fellows for fall 2011: Henning Schroeder reviewed the handout on NSF fellows awarded for each collegiate unit for fall 2011. The overall number of NSFs has increased by 50%.

2. Results from President’s Emerging Leaders’ project, “Graduate School Transition Communications Plan: Stakeholder Analysis”: Henning Schroeder encouraged people to view the recent PEL team report related to Graduate School communications about the transition on the transition web site at http://www.grad.umn.edu/transition/docs/PEL_GSTCT_Report.pdf.

3. Update on the 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: Juliette Cherbuliez reported that the proposers had a very productive meeting with the Carlson and Humphrey School deans and will be making revisions to their proposal as a result. They will bring the revised proposal back to the GEC in the fall. Members of the subcommittee will meet with the proposers first and review the revisions before they are presented to the entire GEC.

For discussion:
1. Update from the Graduate Education Policy Review Committee: Nita Krevans reported that the following four policies had been approved by the Faculty Senate: 1) credit requirements, 2) application of graduate credits, 3) appointments to DGS and 4) LOA. They will now go to PPC on June 2. If approved in PPC, there will be a 30-day comment period before they go into effect as early as July of this year. An email will be sent to all DGSs and DGS assistants when the policies are open for public comment to keep people informed.

GEC members discussed the elimination of the supporting field requirement in the credit requirements policy. Faculty are divided on whether this is a positive or
negative change, from both an academic and fiscal perspective. A supporting field requirement helps to ensure broad intellectual exposure for students, and also generates course enrollment for smaller departments that might not otherwise meet the enrollment threshold. Krevans clarified that the proposed policy does not prevent programs from requiring a supporting field, it simply does not establish this as a University-wide requirement and leaves the decision at the local level.

Krevans introduced the two new draft policies on degree progress for master’s and doctoral students for input. She noted that most of what is contained in the policies is current practice, and highlighted the following changes:

- milestone procedures will be converted from paper to electronic forms.
- time limits for degree completion: while not a radical departure from current practice, there is some concern over the impact on part-time students. There are exceptions for part-time students and for other students who experience exceptional circumstances that prolong their time to degree. The policy does not limit the number of exceptions that a department or program can grant to a student. This will be decided at the local level. The new Leave of Absence policy will also give students a way to officially stop the clock if that’s appropriate for their circumstances.
- Minimum GPA for doctoral students: The minimum 3.0 GPA is a new requirement. This would apply only to those courses on the degree plan form. The policy limiting the number of S/N courses allowed on the degree plan would also continue, though there is language for an exception if required courses are only offered as S/N. No program would be forced to terminate a student who falls below the minimum. This policy provides programs with a mechanism to take action in the case of students who are not making timely progress and/or are not in good standing from the perspective of the program.

The policies will be revised based on feedback received from the GEC and other groups and will go to SCEP and FCC in the fall. The GEC will see revised drafts of these policies also.

2. Continued discussion of election procedures for membership of the permanent GEC; creation of a slate of nominees; status of membership for 2011-12: Henning opened the floor for continued discussion of the GEC elections procedures. The goal is to have a ballot for consideration by November 2011.

Decisions:

- Members of the GEC will create the slate once we have nominations.
- A call for nominations needs to be sent to all tenured and tenure track faculty at UMTC, Duluth and Rochester. This same body of faculty will vote on the slate in the fall (Robert Jones has confirmed that Duluth faculty can both vote and be nominated/elected).
- Voting will be for individual nominees, not for the entire slate.
- We do not need to have exact proportional collegiate representation in the nominations on the slate.
A box will be put on the ballot that says “check all” for those people who will simply want to endorse the entire slate and individual boxes next to names for an up/down individual vote.

Some current GEC members should put their names in for election to additional one- and two-year staggered terms so there is continuity with new incoming members.

By the middle of next week, GEC members will send Vicki Field their input on the email that will be sent from Henning asking for nominations. The email will be sent out as soon as possible this spring, with another reminder in August.

The draft GEC charge will **not** accompany the email. We may send it with the reminder email about nomination in August.

3. Subcommittee to draft bylaws for the GEC: Henning asked whether a subcommittee should be formed to draft bylaws for the GEC. There was a question as to whether bylaws were needed for an advisory group. Vicki Field will draft a bulleted list of the issues that needs to be clarified with bylaws for consideration by the group.

4. Graduate student funding mechanisms for FY 13: Henning reviewed the April 28 memo from the Provost outlining how funding will be distributed to graduate programs beginning in FY13. The $4.5 million that was previously distributed in the form of block grants will be distributed instead based on a set of quality metrics that are being developed in cooperation with the Enrollment Management Committee, the Provost, and President-Designate Eric Kaler, with consultations with deans, associate deans and various groups, including the GEC. The quality metrics will be developed over the next several months

Under the proposed funding mechanism for FY13, the Graduate School will not collect the $3.5 million previously used to fund first year fellowships into the cost pool. In the past, these funds were collected and then redistributed directly to students in the form of fellowships. Collegiate units will keep the funds they would have paid into the cost pool and will be required to use the money to provide direct student support.

If a collegiate unit realizes a positive net difference in the amount saved through lower cost pool charges and the amount lost through elimination of the first-year fellowships, its base (O&M funding) allocation will be decreased by that amount. If a collegiate unit realizes a negative net difference in the amount saved through lower cost pool charges and the amount lost through elimination of the first-year fellowships, its base allocation will be increased by that amount. This is a one-time adjustment to the base.

5. Next meetings: The last scheduled meeting of the GEC during the academic year will be held on Tuesday, June 7. We are also holding Wednesday, August 3, as a possible meeting date.