Minutes

Present: Anja Bielinsky, Charlie Billington, Michael Bowser, Belinda Cheung (staff), Emily Combs, Shawn Curley, Vicki Field (staff), Vicki Hansen (via conference call), Caroline Hayes, Kristin Kari Janke, Mike Kilgore, Joe Konstan, Greg Lindsey, Kevin Murphy, Chris Phelan, Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, Tim Salo, Henning Schroeder, Char Voight (staff).

For action:
1. The notes and minutes from the June 7 provisional GEC meeting were approved as amended (correction of a spelling error in the minutes).

For information:
2. Introduction of new members (Henning Schroeder): The following are new faculty members of the provisional GEC: Rebecca Ropers-Huilman (CEHD), Kevin Murphy (History), Michael Oakes (not present, Epidemiology). Tim Salo is the new student representative (Engineering). Charlie Billington is a student alternate.

3. Updates (Henning Schroeder):
   a. The Enrollment Management Committee has completed their report. Kate VandenBosch, a member of the committee, has indicated that they will send a representative to the GEC to discuss the report.
   b. Graduate Education Financing Task Force: The final Task Force report will be available in the near future for review by the GEC.
   c. Henning Schroeder reported on the Deans Retreat on July 18th with President Kaler.
   d. Workshop with Council of Graduate Schools on Assessment of International Collaboration in Graduate Education: Henning co-presented this session and shared that the U of MN is not as strong as many other universities in this area. This may be a topic to revisit over the coming months.

For discussion and action:
4. Report from the ad hoc review subcommittee (Chris Phelan)
   e. Request to discontinue the free-standing, interdisciplinary graduate minor in Bioinformatics: Phelan reported on behalf of the subcommittee, which also included Kristin Kari Janke and Kimi Johnson. All the program faculty want to discontinue the minor. All the involved deans agree, and there is a plan in place to allow current students to complete in a reasonable time period. The subcommittee recommends the request be approved.

   Motion for approval: made by Greg Lindsey, second by Mike Kilgore. Motion passed unanimously.

   f. Proposal for a joint Au.D./Ph.D. degree program with a Ph.D. major in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences: The program would like students to pursue these degrees simultaneously to encourage students to pursue the Ph.D. and increase efficiencies related to “double counting” of course credits for students pursuing the proposed joint degree. The subcommittee felt this was a reasonable request and would recommend approval.

   Motion for approval: made Greg Lindsey, second by Emily Combs. The motion passed unanimously.
For information and discussion:

5. Update on the status of the proposal for a free-standing, interdisciplinary graduate minor in Whole Earth Dynamics and Sustainability (Shawn Curley): Shawn Curley, Caroline Hayes, and Steve Polasky met with Clarence Lehman to discuss the issues raised in the previous GEC meeting regarding the proposal (e.g., the scope of the proposal is too broad, it is not clear which students were being targeted). Lehman indicated that he would revise the proposal in light of comments and the GEC is waiting for the revised version.

6. Update on the status of the proposal for a co-directed Ph.D. degree program with the University of Liege/Belgium (Mike Bowser): The proposers are still working on their response to the questions raised at last GEC meeting. The Council anticipates that their comments will be received by the meeting in September. Their initial desired start date of fall 2011 will not be feasible.

7. Next steps for the election of a permanent Graduate Education Council: Vicki Field reported that approximately 40 nominations have been received to date. Another solicitation for nominations will be sent via email the week before the start of the fall semester.

The GEC discussed issues related to the nomination and election of members to the permanent GEC, including such things as the process for determining the slate of candidates to be considered, the timing of the election, and the best means to ensure adequate and appropriate representation on the GEC.

8. Draft by-laws: The GEC review a draft of proposed by-laws. Comments and suggested revisions will be sent to Vicki Field and an updated draft will be considered at the September meeting.

Next meetings:

Monday, September 26, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Friday, October 28, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, November 29, 10:00 a.m. – noon
Friday, December 16, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.