Members Present: Caroline Alexander, Cynthia Czajkowski, Kristen Eschenfelder (not present for first voting item), William Karpus (Chair), Daniel Kleinman, Lisa Martin, John Pfotenhauer, José Pincheira (not present for first voting item), Patricia Rosenmeyer, Stephanie Tai, Fernando Tejedo-Herrero, Monica Turner, Kirsten Wolf

Members Absent: Susan Babcock, Mary Louise Gomez, Christa Olson, Nicole Perna, Parmesh Ramanathan, Tracy Schroepfer

Guests: Greg Downey, Elaine Klein, Jocelyn Milner, Susan Zaeske

Staff: Judy Bauman, Katie Block, Eileen Callahan, Marty Gustafson, Emily Reynolds, Kelly Haslam, Michelle Holland, Elena Hsu, LaRuth McAfee, Meghan McMackin, Cassandra Rademaekers

Dean William Karpus called the meeting to order.

The minutes of October 14, 2016 were approved as a matter of automatic consent.

Dean William Karpus introduced new Graduate School staff member, Emily Reynolds, who will act as the new academic planning specialist.

Approval:

1. Dean William Karpus introduced Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean in the College of Letters and Science, who presented the request to rename the M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in African Languages and Literature to African Cultural Studies, effective Fall 2018. Zaeske explained that the name change will bring the names of the programs in line with the name of the department and reflect a new emphasis on cultural studies within the curriculum.

Motion: Moved and seconded to approve the renaming of the “African Languages and Literature” M.A./Ph.D./Doctoral Minor to “African Cultural Studies.” The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval Updates:

1. Senior Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman presented the three-year approval update response from the Capstone Certificate in Post-Graduate Psychiatric Nursing. Kleinman stated that following the September 9, 2016 GFEC meeting in which the GFEC had a discussion of the Capstone’s progress at the three-year mark, the GFEC had a question regarding governance over the Capstone Certificate, including
what faculty committee provides curricular oversight. In response to the GFEC’s request for more information, the program provided sufficient clarification regarding its governance structure by detailing the Graduate Programs Committee (GPC), which provides oversight for the Capstone Certificate.

2. Senior Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman presented the three-year approval update for the Capstone Certificate in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The GFEC learned that the capstone certificate’s purpose is to prepare students who have bachelor’s degrees in other fields to apply for graduate study in speech-language pathology or audiology. Kleinman explained that because students attend regularly scheduled undergraduate courses within the department, there is no increased instructional load or cost associated with the program. He also stated that the program generates substantial revenue and supports four TA positions for the department. With respect to the fact that the program’s main goal is future entry into a graduate program, the members of the GFEC expressed concern regarding the lack of information on graduates’ post-graduation plans, and the GFEC encourages the program to follow-up with graduates who are not accepted into UW-Madison’s graduate school.

Program Reviews:

1. Former GFEC member Lisa Martin (and now Graduate School Associate Dean) introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication. Martin noted the program’s strengths, including extremely low attrition rates, timely completion of degrees, and a collegial faculty with strong advising practices. Martin also noted strengths specific to each track within the program, namely good placement of graduates into Ph.D. programs and flexibility of the program within the research track, and access to internships and faculty attentiveness to finding new student audiences within the professional track. Martin also discussed review committee recommendations, including creating two separate named options (in lieu of separate tracks), revising the graduate handbook to clarify requirements and processes for the two tracks, improving advising on methods courses for the research track, and evaluating the professional MA program to include an increased focus on professional development. Martin added that, while the review committee did not specify it, the program should also aim to increase its diversity. The GFEC specifically requests that the program communicate with the Graduate School Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Funding to generate a plan to increase the number of students from underrepresented applicants. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths and also recommends that the program engage in efforts to address the review committee’s concerns.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication. The motion was passed with 11 for, 1 abstention.

2. GFEC member Patricia Rosenmeyer introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Ph.D./Doctoral Minors in Library and Information Studies. Rosenmeyer noted the graduate program’s strengths, which include an open, engaged, and responsive faculty, who are aware of challenges faced by their students and supportive of them both on campus and in the job search. Additionally, Rosenmeyer commended the program on its improved communication tools, including a new listserv which connects students. Rosenmeyer also identified the review committee recommendations,
including that the program incentivize or require graduate students to attend Graduate School professional development events, leverage available UW funds to bring speakers in to assist with professional training for graduate students, and explore options for the fulfilling the departmental requirement for a Statistics course in the degree curriculum. Additionally, the committee believes it is important that the program faculty continue to study the reasons for high attrition and low funding rates and the implications of both for its students. Finally, the GFEC joins the review committee in recommending they continue to discuss renaming the School and how to create alignment with the social sciences, balance online M.A. needs with traditional Ph.D. program needs, and articulate high-value non-academic placements while utilizing resources to train students who identify this as a goal.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Ph.D./Doctoral Minors in Library and Information Studies. The motion was passed with 11 for, 1 abstention.

3. GFEC member Kirsten Wolf introduced the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Social Welfare. Wolf noted the graduate program’s strengths, including a strong core curriculum with an interdisciplinary approach, which exemplifies the Wisconsin idea through preparation of future faculty to instruct social workers for the state. Wolf also outlined the review committee recommendations, including creating higher levels of professional training and job market preparation applicable to all students, strengthening the curriculum/training for qualitatively-oriented students, finding ways to guarantee 5-year funding, and re-introducing an official visit day for prospective doctoral students. The members of the GFEC took notice of the program’s high attrition rate and suggested that the program engage in a survey to identify the reasons behind the levels of attrition. The GFEC commends the program on its strengths, and joins the review committee in recommending the department make efforts to address review committee recommendations.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to accept the Institutional (10-Year) Review of the Ph.D./Doctoral Minor in Social Welfare. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

1. Senior Associate Dean Daniel Kleinman led a discussion regarding recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the Dissertation as a follow-up to the GFEC’s initial discussion of this topic at the October 14, 2016 GFEC meeting. Kleinman acknowledged the importance of obtaining feedback across campus using a variety of methods/sources, and explained that he has presented this report to a variety of stakeholders to elicit feedback. Kleinman also stated that he has met with legal services to discuss any potential implications of the recommendations. Additionally, he plans to present to the University Academic Planning Council in December, after which further decisions will be made regarding which recommendation items to move forward with. The GFEC discussed individual recommendations about which the members of the GFEC had questions or concerns.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.