The meeting was called to order by President Tracy Kitchel at 3:30 pm in 2206 A & B Student Center.

Senators and administrative representatives attending: Sam Cohen, Signe Cohen, Doug Bowles, Jeni Hart, Tracy Kitchel, Earnest Perry, Carol Snively, Ton Stam, Maxwell Philbrook, Rajeev Dorolia, Leona Rubin (Grad School), Ashley Siebenaler (Grad School), Karen Gruen (Grad School), Terrence Grus, (Grad School), Larry Linneman (Registrar’s Office), Kim Humphrey (Enrollment Management) Mannie Liscum (Grad School), Julie Brandt (Office of Institutional Research and Quality Improvement), Leon Schumacher (Ag Systems Man’t), Sanjeev Khanna (Eng), Tom Johnson (Ag Econ), Jim Schoelz (Plant Sci), Kathryn Chval (Ed), Candace Kuby (Ed), Rachel Pinnnow (Ed), Larry Ries (Stats)

Senators and administrative representatives absent: Sounak Chakraborty, Jeff Pasley, Janine Stichter, Marty Townsend, Lisa Zanetti

A motion and second were made to approve the minutes of the March 2014 meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Dr. Kitchel presented the agenda for the meeting and it was approved.

**Special Business for the day**

**Graduate Student Association**

Mr. Philbrook indicated that the GSA was working on a Graduate School Bill of Rights. In addition, the GSA was honoring faculty and students at their upcoming banquet on Saturday.

**Election of GFS Officers**

The senate went into a session of elections. The following were elected to GFS office:

President – Doug Bowles  
Vice President – Earnest Perry  
Academic Affairs Chair – Charlie Nilon  
Award Chair – Sounak Chakraborty  
Member-at-Large - Jeni Hart

Tracy Kitchel will remain on the Executive Committee as Past President.

**Graduate School Report**

Dr. Rubin shared that the Task Force put in place by the Chancellor had been selected (except the Faculty Council rep). The first meeting is this Thursday; the group will continue to meet every week in May. Dr. Rubin also asked if the minimum amount for graduate stipends should be
increased. Some discussion ensued. If you have specific comments, those can be shared with Dr. Rubin.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Energy and Policy

Drs. Khanna, Johnson and Schumacher requested the senate reconsider their certificate proposal. After some discussion, a solution was reached. Because the certificate group had already submitted proposals for 7001/8001 courses, they would only need to do a course change to get permanent numbers for the courses. A motion was moved and seconded to accept the proposal pending acceptance of the course changes. Motion passed.

Reports from Committees

Awards

Dr. Bowles indicated the Committee had completed their work for the academic year.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Nilon indicated the list of courses for approval had been distributed. A motion and second were made to approve the Academic Affairs report. The motion was approved.

TOEFL Scores (Ad Hoc)

Dr. Kitchel indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Other New Business

Consideration of Emphasis Area on Data Analytics in Masters in Statistics

Larry Ries briefly provided some background and information regarding this request. In essence, the request helps facilitate online programming for department. A motion to approve the proposal was moved, seconded and passed.

Consideration of the Graduate Certificate in Qualitative Research

Drs. Chval, Pinnow and Kuby presented on behalf of the certificate request. The intention of the certificate started as a service to College of Education students, but later expanded to be open to students outside the college. There was concern that the multi-disciplinary nature of the certificate did not match with the make-up of the certificate faculty and advisory committee. A motion was moved and seconded to allow for either 1) the certificate be approved as “Qualitative Research in Education” or 2) the certificate garner support for outside units. The motion was discussed and passed. Some senators expressed hope that the group would engage in option 2.

Presentation of Template and Student Contract for Accelerated Degree Programs

Ashley Siebenaler and colleagues presented the concept of an accelerated degree program template. Such programs would allow undergraduates to be admitted to a graduate program without having finished the undergraduate degree. Once completed, the student would earn both a bachelor’s and master’s degree. Other implications include what to do with graduate assistantships, etc. The group designed the template around “exceptional” students. Dr. Kitchel had seen one draft of the materials. A second draft was distributed. A motion was moved and
seconded to refer this to a committee of Tracy Kitchel, Rajeev Darolia and Maxwell Philbrook to work closer with Ms. Siebenaler and colleagues. Motion passed.

Last 60 hours GPA Calculations

Dr. Snively brought to the attention of the GFS that when students retake courses both GPA’s are calculated in the last 60 hours. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to only include the retake grade and not include the initial course’s grades in the last 60-hour calculation for admissions. Motion was discussed and passed.

Outside Members on Graduate Student Committees

Dr. Schoelz presented a proposal regarding the outside member on graduate student committees. Historically, the Division of Plant Sciences has several (4-5) separate degree programs. In 2005, they merged as one degree program. This has created an issue with students seeking outside committee members who would have contributed much to the committee and historically been able to serve, but under current policy cannot serve as the outside member because those faculty members are in the same program. He proposed to allow programs to decide what the outside committee member criteria are. It was surfaced that the outside member protects the student and that an outside member from the same program may not be in a place to protect a student. After some discussion, it was decided to continue the conversation in the fall as there are other consolidated programs with those issues.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tracy Kitchel
GFS President