Graduate Programs Blue Ribbon Committee Report – The Blue Ribbon Committee was charged with collecting best practices in graduate recruiting and admissions and making recommendations for improvement at the college level; creating an inventory of graduate fellowships in our college and a process for stewarding graduate fellowships; and recommending coordinated programs, courses, certificates or other efforts that will improve our graduate programs. The recommendations from the Committee were reviewed (see attachment) and broadly supported with these additional actions taken:

1. A recommendation to pilot a college-wide visit program for students who have accepted admissions to CEAS in AY2013/2014 was supported by the Materials Science and Engineering Program. This pilot will be an alternative visit date for students who were unable to attend their department’s college visit program.
2. Each department agreed to provide a resource to help review all gift fund/endowment agreements to assure that the use of the funds are properly characterized and prioritized.
3. Each department was encouraged to make full use of the new funding being provided from the Graduate School for proposing new professional degrees and/or certificates.

Strategic Faculty Hiring – Rob noted that campus priorities include Biotechnology, Energy, and Materials Science and Engineering, for which growth lines have been provided and interdisciplinary searches are underway; growth lines have also been set aside for Aerospace in the future. Discussion continued on how we might be more strategic in our faculty search and hiring process targeting to fill interdisciplinary needs versus departmental needs. An updated search process for RASEI is attached. An analysis of research award data was shared by Kurt with the Council (see attached); it shows substantial collaboration on grants within the same department but with collaboration between departments rather low, typically limited to a few faculty members within each department. Additionally, it was concluded that changes on multiple fronts, including hiring strategies, are needed if an increase in collaborations among CEAS departments is desired. Kurt agreed to complete further analysis to determine whether there is a relationship between collaborations on research and research award size, and if our distribution of award amounts is similar to the overall distributions from the main granting agencies. There was also a recommendation to engage more with campus research institutes.

Brief Items – The following items were also noted:

- The Materials Science and Engineering graduate degrees were approved by the Regents
- Renovations proposals are due March 15th. Proposals to upgrade locally controlled classrooms and linking with EEF proposals (due March 22) are encouraged.
- Outstanding Graduates and Distinguished Seniors nominations are due March 1st
- Dean’s Graduate Assistantships and Fellowships nominations accepted from now – March 15th

In Attendance - Rob Davis, Kurt Maute, Penny Axelrad, Dan Schwartz, Jim Martin, Victor Bright, Jackie Sullivan, Jeff Scechowski, JoAnn Zelasko, Carin Knickel, Diane Sieber, John Bennett, Mike Brandemuehl for Keith Molenaar, and Bob McLeod for Mike Lightner.