Responsibilities of the Department of Biology Graduate Program's Committee

The GPC will have monthly meetings with the graduate advisor to conduct any of the following responsibilities:

- The GPC approves new graduate courses put forth by the faculty.
- The GPC discusses graduate student curriculum concerns brought by the Department of Biology faculty.
- To serve the changing educational needs of the graduate students, the GPC will revise the Graduate Student Course Curriculum and the Department of Biology Graduate Student Handbook.
- The GPC selects recipients for Student Awards.
- The GPC advises first year graduate students on rotation selection and coursework.
- Disputes between students, their thesis advisor, and/or committee that cannot be easily resolved by the Graduate Advisor shall be resolved by the Department of Biology Graduate Advisor after consultation with the GPC.
- The GPC has access to updated Department of Biology graduate student files for assisting the Graduate Advisor to:
  
  i. Monitor the student's first year rotations and officially acknowledge the student's first year committee assessment towards continuing a Masters or a Ph.D. degree.
  
  ii. Monitor the prompt scheduling of the student's Ph.D. oral and written preliminary exam.
  
  iii. Monitor the prompt scheduling of the student's yearly committee meeting, and officially acknowledge the student's committee's written assessment for continuing or terminating progress towards the Masters or Ph.D. degree.
  
  iv. Officially acknowledge the student's committee's written assessment that the Masters or Ph.D. candidate can write his/her thesis and set a defense date.

How these charges are performed procedurally will be at the discretion of the elected GPC, in cooperation with the Department of Biology Graduate Advisor.

Agreed on 08/20/2012

GPC Committee (2009-2012):
James Erickson
L. Rene Garcia
Xiaorong Lin
Deborah Siegele

Graduate Advisor (2012- )
Arne Lekven