The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by Graduate Dean Judith Walker de Felix. Members in attendance: Wilma Calvert, Adrian Clingher, Donald Gouwens, Alan Heisel, Andrew Hurley for Maris Gillette, Susan Kashubeck-West, David Kimball, Haitao Li, John Meriac for Matthew Taylor, Donald Sweeney, George Taylor for Michael Griffin, Terry Thiel for Wendy Olivas, Ben Torbert. Members absent: Carl Bassi, Beth Huebner.

I. Minutes

The minutes from the October 24, 2014 were approved.

II. Nominations to the Graduate Faculty

Dr. Corinne Harmon, Assistant Teaching Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Dr. Dawn Garzon, Teaching Professor, Nursing were approved for membership in the Graduate Faculty.

III. Curriculum Items

The Dean indicated that several departments wished to change some of their research, dissertation or thesis courses to an S/U option instead of letter grades. She will be making a blanket request to the Senate C & I. Council approved the recommendation.

Council reviewed and approved the following course proposals pending verification of a course prerequisite:

- Art Hs 5590 Special Study in Art History New
- Bio 5069 Topics in Cellular and Molecular Biology Change D
- Bio 5099 Biology Colloquium NEW
- Bio 5177 Graduate Research Writing Workshop New
- Bio 5178 Introduction to Graduate Research in Biology NEW
- Bio 5179 Ethical issues in Biology Change D
- Bio 5302 Advanced Evolution New
- Bio 6112 Advanced Evolution of Animal Sociality Drop
- Bio 6618 Practical Next-Generation Sequencing New
- Bio 6642 Advanced Plant Biology and Biotechnology Change P Change N, D, P
- Chem 5652 Spectroscopic Identification of Organic Compounds
- Infsys 5890 Internship in Information Systems Change H, P
- Infsys 6845 Database Management Systems Change P
- Infsys 6847 Project Management Change T, P
- Infsys 6891 Seminar in Information Systems Change T, P
- Infsys 7890 IS Research Seminar Drop
Council approved the following program proposals as presented.

- Ph.D. in Nursing (BSN to Ph.D.) (change)
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (new)
- Graduate Certificate in Autism Studies (change)
- M.Ed. in Special Education (change)

IV. Proposed Graduate School Policy Changes

7.1. Grades
Because the IP grade was never implemented as intended, it has to be removed from the policies. 7.1 will be revised to delete IP – In Progress and 7.2 will be deleted. The Dean also noted that S/U needs to be changed from “A or B equivalent” to S/U “A or B equivalent or unsatisfactory”. Council approved the recommendations.
11.6 Filing the Educational Specialist Degree Program

The Proposal changes the timeline for submission of the Ed.S. degree program which will make it similar to the recently approved M-4 process.

Current wording:
An educational specialist degree student enrolled shall file an approved program plan with the Graduate School before completing two-thirds of the credit hours required in the program. Students may petition the dean of the Graduate School to change the degree program after it has been filed.

Proposed wording:
An educational specialist degree student enrolled shall file an approved program plan with the Graduate School before completing two-thirds of the credit hours required in the program. The S-4 must be filed by the posted deadline of the final semester in the program. Students may petition the dean of the Graduate School to change the degree program after it has been filed.

Council approved the change.

V. Review of Dissertation Fellowship Applications

Council reviewed applications for the Spring/Fall 2015 dissertation fellowships. Logan Brown, Physics and Cynthia Palazzolo, Political Science were chosen for the award. Each will receive $15,000 in 2015. Another competition will be held in March.

VI. Dean’s Report

A request was made to indicate on the transcript that a student’s thesis or dissertation was exceptional. The rationale was to indicate good quality since the thesis and dissertation courses are given S/U grades instead of letter grades. Council recommended “with distinction”. The Dean will work on a process to recommend students for this distinction and will present it at the January Council meeting.

Curt Coonrod received feedback from the Graduate Student Orientation held in August. Students want more joint social activities and more connections to the campus. They want a sense of community among the graduate students in various programs.

The dean will work with the Graduate Program Directors to find student nominees to be a part of the University-wide Graduate Student Leadership Program. Preferably the student should be a second or third year Ph.D. student.

The Dean had a request for underrepresented minority students to meet others across campus and across disciplines. Suggestions should be submitted to the Dean.

The Graduate Program Directors discussed whether the Graduate Council should be made up of Graduate Program Directors. Some felt there was different discussions between the two groups. Council might make different decisions if the GPDs were approving policies versus
faculty members who are not highly involved in the process. Another person thought that we should retain the two separate bodies, or make the Graduate Council a subset of the GPD group where they would meet briefly after the GPD meeting and vote on any pending items. Council is comprised of the number of graduate faculty, not the number of graduate students.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Heckel for
Susan Kashubeck-West, Secretary
And Vice Chairperson