The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, August 16, 2017, at 3:30 p.m. in 229 Terrell Hall.

Members present: Hamid Arabnia, Nicholas Berente, Houjian Cai, Georgia Calhoun, Mary Caplan, Gary Green, Cindy Hahamovitch, Tina Harris, John Hulland, Denise Lewis, Jennifer Lindstrom, Masaki Mori, Amanda Murdie, James Reap, Kaori Sakamoto, Katherine Thompson, Marc Van Iersel, and Dehai Zhao. Suzanne Barbour, Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, Meredith Welch-Devine, Robin Bingham, and Kristin Lawrence represented the Graduate School.

Members absent: Fikri Avci, Victoria Hasko, Janette Hill, Javad Mohammadpour, Jessica Muilenburg, Jeffrey Mullen, Craig Osenberg, Daniel Perez, Amy Pollard, Patricia Reeves, Welch Suggs, Aaron Thompson, and Johnita Daniel (GPSA).

Dean Suzanne Barbour called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

New and returning members introduced themselves and were welcomed by Dean Barbour. Dean Barbour spoke on the structure of the Council as well as the various subcommittees.

Minutes of the April 19, 2017, Graduate Council meeting were approved as posted on the Graduate School website.

Graduate Council Committees Reports and Action Items

A. Administrative Committee
   Nicholas Berente, Chair
   No business to report.

B. Program Committee
   Welch Suggs, Chair
   No business to report.

C. Curriculum Committee
   Mary Caplan, Chair
   Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Curriculum Committee has approved 39 new courses, 170 course revisions, and 6 course deletions.

D. Appeals Committee
   Nicholas Berente, Chair
   Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee met once on August 2, 2017. The committee members present were Tina Harris, Michelle Lease, Denise Lewis, Scott Merkle, and Aaron Thompson. Suzanne Barbour, Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, and Kristin Lawrence from the Graduate School were present. The committee met to hear one dismissal appeal. The appeal was upheld.
E. **Strategic Planning Committee**  
Tina Harris, Chair  
No business to report.

**Old Business**  
No old business.

**New Business**

The Strategic Planning Committee will be looking at “best practices” in graduate education and how to incorporate those into what we do at UGA. Dean Barbour envisions the committee critically looking at the “nuts and bolts” of how we do graduate education at UGA. Several possible topics were presented:

1. Should graduate faculty be disbanded?  
2. Should faculty above the instructor level be allowed to obtain a doctoral degree from UGA?  
3. Should second and third authorship in products be allowed in dissertations/theses?  
4. Is there a fundamental way to “handle” graduate education at UGA?

Possible ideas mentioned by Graduate Council members:

1. Graduate student mental health issues and providing additional support.  
   a. The Graduate School is co-piloting “Health Coaching” with the Health Center with an initial 12-13 member group this fall.  
   b. Dr. Sakamoto discussed that Vet Med has two embedded counselors, student support groups, and other initiatives in place to help their student population’s special needs.

2. The impact of low stipend levels, specifically in the Arts & Humanities.  
   a. The Graduate School’s new development coordinator will work with schools/colleges to plan focused, development events for fund raising.  
   b. The Double Dawg program is up and functioning. Through the program, a student can graduate with both their undergraduate and masters in five years. If they accomplish it, $3000 goes back to the department ($1000 undergraduate, $2000 graduate). 100 Double Dawg programs have been approved so far.

The Administrative Committee will look at how we do business. One issue will be the idea of allowing representation by “proxy” when a Graduate Council member cannot attend.

**Information Items**

Academic Year 2017-2018 is the “year of professional development” for the Graduate School to focus on graduate students. Various options are being considered to assist our students with professional development opportunities, including website-based initiatives, guest speakers, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.