The Graduate Council met on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. in 229 Terrell Hall.

Members present: Fikri Avci, Nicholas Berente, Georgia Calhoun, Mary Caplan, Cindy Hahamovitch, Victoria Hasko, Janette Hill, John Hulland, Jennifer Lindstrom, Javad Mohammadpour, Masaki Mori, Jeffrey Mullen, Amanda Murdie, Daniel Perez, Amy Pollard, Patricia Reeves, Kaori Sakamoto, Aaron Thompson, Katherine Thompson, and Dehai Zhao. Suzanne Barbour, Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, Robin Bingham, and Kristin Lawrence represented the Graduate School.

Members absent: Hamid Arabnia, Houjian Cai, Gary Green, Tina Harris, Denise Lewis, Jessica Muilenburg, Craig Osenberg, James Reap, Welch Suggs, Marc Van Iersel, and Johnita Daniel (GPSA).

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

Minutes of the November 15, 2017, Graduate Council meeting were approved as posted on the Graduate School website.

Graduate Council Committees Reports and Action Items

A. Administrative Committee
   No report.

B. Program Committee
   Welch Suggs, Chair (report read by Georgia Calhoun)
   Since the last meeting of the Graduate Council, the Program Committee has reviewed and approved eight proposals. The Program Committee would like to bring the following action items to the Graduate Council for its approval.
   • From the Terry College of Business and the College of Pharmacy, a request to create a new dual Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration. Approved.
   • From the Terry College of Business, a request to offer a new Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship. Approved.
   • From the College of Education, a request to offer the Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education in Griffin. Approved.
   • From the College of Education, a request to offer the Master of Education in Special Education in Griffin. Approved.
   • From the College of Education, a request to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Multicultural and Diversity Studies to the Graduate Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Approved.
• From the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a request to offer a Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Data Science. Approved.
• From the College of Veterinary Medicine, a request to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Medical Illustration to the Graduate Certificate in Comparative Medical Illustration and Interactive Educational Media. Approved.

There is a tremendous amount of resources needed for online and dual proposals. Steve Balfour, Director of Online Learning, is a good person to talk to when you are getting started with an online proposal.

C. Curriculum Committee
Mary Caplan, Chair
No report. The Curriculum Committee was disbanded, effective with the vote in the November 15, 2017, meeting.

D. Appeals Committee
Nicholas Berente, Chair
Since the last report to the Graduate Council, the Appeals Committee met once on January 31, 2018. The committee members present were Nicholas Berente, Jennifer Lindstrom, Jessica Muilenburg, Amy Pollard, and Dehai Zhao. Ron Walcott, Cheri Bliss, and Kristin Lawrence were present from the Graduate School. The Committee met to hear an Enrollment Policy fee appeal and a dismissal appeal. The Enrollment Policy fee appeal was upheld, and the fee was not waived. The dismissal appeal was overturned, and the student was reinstated.

E. Strategic Planning Committee
Tina Harris, Chair (report read by John Hulland)
The Strategic Planning Committee met on January 26, 2018. Tina Harris, Janette Hill, John Hulland, Javad Mohammadpour, Aaron Thompson, and Suzanne Barbour (Graduate School) attended. The committee discussed the transition to Graduate Program Faculty and plans to develop a template for Graduate Program Faculty Guidelines. Suzanne Barbour will discuss this and other issues related to the transition with the other deans at their February meeting (note: February meeting was canceled; next meeting will be March 2018). The committee will incorporate their suggestions into its recommendations and report to the Graduate Council at the March meeting. There are no action items for this meeting.

The question was raised as to whether the Strategic Planning Committee has been able to look at capturing research dollars to use for graduate program support yet. That topic is still under consideration.

Old Business
The transition to Graduate Program Faculty should be relatively seamless. We will be holding a series of conversations with deans and graduate faculty between now and the next academic year with a goal to begin fall 2018. A suggestion was made to have it mentioned at departmental and program meetings to get feedback from faculty. The hope is that it will be a simple, straightforward process.
A guidelines template was developed by the Strategic Planning Committee. Schools/colleges should be able to cut/paste pieces of the current Graduate Faculty guidelines. Each school/college will be responsible for overseeing their guidelines. It is up to the schools/colleges to decide how to best serve their graduate students.

The Graduate School will collect the Graduate Program Faculty procedures from each school/college to have as a library. The Graduate School will also handle Graduate Faculty appeals.

**New Business**

With the disbanding of the Curriculum Committee, do we need to repurpose the committee? Do we even need another committee? If we disband and don’t replace the committee, any ideas about reducing the size of the Graduate Council?

A call was made for ideas. One suggestion: a committee responsible for deciding awards. A still inherent problem with the awards process is decisions made in isolation. A committee would allow for a conversation across disciplines. Committee would also compensate for a new graduate coordinator, who is not yet familiar with the position and in the place of making award recommendations. New studies show, however, that the reference letter is the most reliable source of information. Another possibility: a committee to research best opportunities for our graduate students (graduate education advocacy, graduate student resources, etc.).

We are currently doing a survey of peer/aspirational institutions to see structure of their committees; discussion will be held at next meeting.

**Information Items**

The topic of the $1000 fee per semester was raised. The fee came about during the recession in order to not raise tuition. Idea was to get rid of the fee when the economy improved, but it hasn’t gone away and likely is not going away. Exploring options is tabled until One Source comes on board.

There is not a lot of transparency on fees when it comes to international students, which can lead to problems once they arrive. Many universities pay the fees rather than the students. Stipends, fees, and health insurance are key for students rather than tuition. Summer involvement is inhibited by the $1000 fee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.