Graduate Council Members Present:
Gunjan Agarwal, David Bowers, Kristy Browning, James DeWille, John Freudenstein, Jane Hathaway, Alan Hirvela, Samuel Hodge, Chris Pierce, Scott Scheer, Jeff Walline

Graduate School Staff Present: Randy Smith, Matt Page, Jen Schlueter, Kathleen Wallace, Susan Reeser (recorder)

A. Approval of Minutes
- Professor Freudenstein called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the minutes from the January 29, 2018, Graduate Council meeting. The minutes were approved.

B. Updates
1. Vice Provost Smith reported on the positive outcome of the Graduate Enrichment and the University Fellowship competitions and said that he was very impressed with how well the Fellowship review process went. He complimented Theresa Hazelwood, director, Fellowship Services, on the competition and on her professionalism. Dr. Smith plans to hold a follow-up meeting with each review committee to discuss possible ways to improve the review process for next year and to address some of the concerns expressed by committee members such as having a mission charge for reviewing the nominations and to hold a review tutorial for new committee members.

2. Dr. Smith reported that the search for the next vice provost and dean of the Graduate School continues and that the search is a top priority for Provost McPheron.

3. Dr. Smith reported that external reviews of two (MCDB and Neuroscience) of the five Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs (IGPs) took place during the week of February 19. Each of the IGP programs have prepared self-study reports in preparation for the external reviews. The reviewers for MCDB and Neuroscience met with each programs faculty and staff and Ohio State administrators. External reports are to be completed within one month following the review so that a plan of action can be developed. The reviews are being conducted to determine the administration and reporting lines for the IGP programs and to ascertain how the IGP’s will be funded. The remaining IGP programs (Biophysics, Environmental Science, and OSBP) will be reviewed on March 18, 19, and 20.

4. Dr. Smith reported that Professor Freudenstein will give welcome remarks and make the award presentations at the Edward F. Hayes Graduate Research Forum on March 2. The Forum showcases the groundbreaking research being conducted by Ohio State graduate students and is co-sponsored by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS), the Graduate School, and the Office of Research. It is coordinated by CGS Vice President Tracey Walterbusch.

5. Dr. Smith reported on the discussion that took place at the Academic Program Advisory Committee (APAC) meeting on February 13 about next steps in distance education at Ohio State where there are currently more online graduate programs at the master’s level than there are online undergraduate programs. Rob Griffiths, Distance Education, is chairing a sub-group to review student leaning to determine what the impediments are to distance education and to identify if students are learning as much as those in the classroom. APAC is a group of 19 associate deans, chaired by Dr. Smith, that meet monthly to discuss graduate and undergraduate curricular issues, develop guidelines and identify ways to implement.
6. Dr. Smith distributed the March 2008 Graduate School proposal to the University Senate “Proposal to amend rules 3335-5-32 to 3335-5-36 of the Administrative Code regarding the Council on Research and Graduate Studies to establish a Graduate Council.” Dr. Smith said that pages 2 and 3 of the document described the membership and duties and responsibilities for Council. He pointed out that Council was not doing some of the things that the group had originally been tasked with such as to provide oversight for interdisciplinary graduate programs or to make recommendations about establishing and abolishing academic centers. Dr. Smith asked the group to think about what Council should or should not be doing for discussion at the next meeting.

C. Curriculum Committee Reports and Actions

1. Professor Schlueter explained the proposal from the College of Nursing to make minor revisions to the fully online Masters of Healthcare Innovation (MHI) Professional (tagged) Master’s Degree Program. The MHI program was initiated in January 2017, and program evaluations have identified some needed refinements to the program content and delivery. The program emphasizes evidence-based leadership skills in complex healthcare systems.
   - Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

2. Professor Schlueter reported on the proposal from the Interdisciplinary East Asian Studies MA program to make adjustments to the required curriculum and change the required number of graduate credit hours for the degree from 48 to 37. Though required, language credits will not be part of the required 37 graduate credit hours. Changes are also proposed to the “Introduction to Graduate-Level East Asian Studies” course from requiring each student to take a 3-credit course one time, to a requirement that each student take a 1-credit course four times. The changes are supported by the East Asian Studies Center.
   - Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

3. Professor Schlueter explained the proposal from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs to create a new online Master of Public Administration and Leadership (MPAL) degree. Directed toward the working professional, the MPAL degree highlights skills that can be immediately used in the workplace while still meeting the needs of public and nonprofit employers. MPAL requires 32-33 credit hours of coursework, 12 credits of electives in one of four initial areas, and a capstone experience. The new degree meets the flexible scheduling needs of the working professional and expands the programs visibility.
   - Professor Freudenstein called for a vote and the proposal was unanimously approved by Graduate Council. It will be forwarded to the Council on Academic Affairs for further processing.

D. Council Discussion

1. Dr. Smith reported that the Graduate Studies Committee Chairs meeting and the Graduate School semester meeting for Spring semester had been cancelled but that in place of those meetings he will hold approximately 5 separate smaller meetings, during March and April, for Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Health Sciences, and Engineering/FAES/BUS/SWK, and Public Affairs. Dr. Smith plans to discuss with each of the groups the same three questions he posed to Council in preparation for the new vice provost and dean.
2. Dr. Smith shared two handouts with Council, 1) Ohio State’s Mission/Vision Statement that highlights what Ohio State is dedicated to doing for the state, regional, national, and global communities, its shared values of excellence, and its core goals of teaching and learning, research innovation, outreach and engagements, and resource stewardship.

The second handout, Research and Creative Expression from the Office of the President, showcases the goals from Ohio State’s Strategic Plan to 1) attract, retain and support leading scholars in programs, 2) be a national leader in research, and 3) provide world-class support and enhance accountability for faculty researchers. Dr. Smith said that Provost McPheron plans to include comments on ways to enhance graduate education in his State of Academic Affairs speech at the University Senate meeting on March 8.

3. Dr. Smith asked the group how the goals of the University’s Strategic Plan relate to the Graduate School and graduate education. Council said that in order for the university to attract and retain leading scholars it needs to be able to provide equally available world-class resources for programs and students. It was felt that most graduate students are unaware of the role the Graduate School plays and how it can be supportive to students when problems occur.

Council further stated that in order for the Graduate School to be a national leader in graduate education its representation needs to be more than just a dean. It should be comprised of a strong graduate studies committee at the department level and support or by-in at the college level. The Graduate School also needs to have a voice in decision making at the university and be empowered to promote graduate education at Ohio State and beyond.

Dr. Smith said that the discussion will be continued at the next meeting on March 26.

Professor Freudenstein adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.