I. Approval of the minutes from November 1, 2017
   - Eveleth moved to approve. Seconded by Murdoch.
   - Approved with 2 abstentions (Holyoke, Hunter)

II. Announcements and Reports
A. Clinical Faculty Follow-up from last meeting
   - McMurtry said the Clinical Faculty issue will be taken over by Faculty Affairs this Spring.
   - He asked for a volunteer from Graduate Council to attend Faculty Affairs meetings to discuss this issue and Graduate Council’s concerns.
   - Warner offered to do this if it is allowable as a non-official member of Graduate Council. Eveleth is on Faculty Affairs and offered to serve in this role; although, he will no longer be on Graduate Council in Spring with the return of Jeff Bailey.

III. Discussion
A. Buffington Petition (Dean of Students office)
   - Kwasi Buffington was tentatively admitted last spring before he completed his Bachelor’s degree. He failed the last math class he needed to get his Bachelor’s, so he is not eligible to be in a graduate program. It was brought to Dean McMurtry’s attention in October.
   - McMurtry asked Buffington to get a letter from U Mississippi indicating what math class would be transferrable back there to complete the requirements for his Bachelor’s Degree. He has not yet done that.
   - Brian Dulin from Student Support Services attended to speak on behalf of the student. He has a documented disability. Student Support Services is asking that Buffington be given an extension through Spring 2018 to complete a math course in the Polya lab. It must be a course that Mississippi will allow to be transferred back to count toward his Bachelor’s degree.
   - Questions/concerns from Councilmembers:
     - Does he qualify for tutoring services to help him be successful?
       --Yes.
     - This seems like a slippery slope.
     - What if he completes coursework without completing the Bachelor’s?
       --He cannot. He will be removed from the program if he does not get a Bachelor’s.
- If this is not approved, could there be a legal case against UI?
  --It is doubtful.
- Can we limit the number of credits he is able to take while he completes this math course this spring?
  --Council needs to set the parameters.
- What are the options here?
  --Let him continue taking graduate courses without his Bachelor’s Degree and continue with his assistantship, while he completes the math course.
  --Decline the petition and not allow him to take any graduate courses until the math course is completed and the Bachelor’s is earned, and terminate his assistantship.
- Is he receiving an assistantship that someone else should be getting?
  --No.
- Murdoch moves to decline the petition with the caveat that Buffington stays here and receives disability services and completes the math class.
- Quinnett and Strawn suggest he be allowed to stay in the program with a one semester deadline to successfully complete the math class and get the Bachelor’s.
- The petition is approved with a vote of 5:4 with the following conditions:
  - Maximum of 9 credits for Spring 2018
  - Successfully complete a math course that is acceptable to UMiss.
  - Documentation from UMiss stating they will transfer the math course from here to satisfy requirements for his Bachelor’s Degree.
  - If the above are not met by the end of Spring 2018, he will be dismissed.

B. Co-Major Professors
- McMurtry said in the past, co-major professors were only allowed in M.A.T.
- A few councilmembers expressed being in favor of allowing co-Major Professors.
- McMurtry gave some recent examples:
  - Ph.D. student – the major professor has a Ph.D. and the co-MP does not. The MP and co-MP must, at a minimum, have the same degree that the student is trying to get.
  - Ph.D. student wanted a co-MP from BSU. MP/co-MP must have UI Graduate Faculty Status.
- A clear policy is needed.
- This will be brought back to a future meeting.

C. Thesis/Dissertation Statements
- Zadehgol recommended the words “and committee” be removed from the second sentence of the thesis definition.
- Strawn said the dissertation statement is ready. He asked if it could be sent back to him for his faculty to review it.
- The thesis/non-thesis parts need more work.
- Members felt the non-thesis requirements need to be clarified; the exit requirement needs to be open enough to accommodate various programs.
- Councilmembers were asked to take this back to their faculty for feedback.
D. Pearson’s Academic English Test (Rance Larsen/Polly Tohaneanu – Grad Admissions)
   - Rance Larsen and Polly Tohaneanu from Graduate Admissions attended the meeting to discuss the PTE Academic Test and ask Graduate Council to add this to the tests that are accepted for admission.
   - Tohaneanu explained that the test is 100% computerized; therefore, it is more widely available.
   - Questions/Answers:
     - Is it graded by computer?
       --Yes.
     - Does Navitas have a conflict of interest with Pearson?
       --Graduate Admissions does not believe there is a conflict.
   - Larsen suggested we accept a score of 58 on this test, which is about equivalent to a 6.5 on IELTS.
   - Proposal to accept the Pearson’s Academic English Test with a score of 58.
     - Eveleth moved to approve. Seconded by Zadehgol. Approved unanimously.

E. New TA Processing Guidelines
   - McMurtry asked members to take the TA document to their departments for feedback.
   - He is waiting for final numbers from the budget office.

F. Continuous Registration Category of Enrollment
   - McMurtry said this is happening more frequently across the US. He suggests UI adopt such a policy.

Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Spring Meetings:
January 31
February 28
March 21
April 18
May 9
All meetings are on Wednesdays at 3:30-5:00 p.m. (Pacific) in IRIC 321.