The meeting was called to order at 3:33. The Graduate Council opened the meeting with member introductions. The minutes from April 15, 2009 were approved as distributed.

Announcements

President Richard Lariviere has confirmed his attendance at the next Graduate Council meeting on November 18, 2009.

New Business

Three people agreed to be nominated as Officers:

Benedict McWhirter as Chair
Yuan Xu as Vice Chair
Kim Sheehan as Secretary

There were no additional nominations from the floor. The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Revised Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Ph.D. in Architecture

Dean Friestad began the discussion by reviewing the process for approving a Program proposal and noted that there is currently a moratorium from OUS on new degree programs. After discussion of the revised proposal it was decided to table this issue in order to allow new Council members sufficient time to review the Proposal. Dean Friestad asked Council members to forward to her by email any comments or questions regarding the Proposal, and she will forward these to the Department. It is anticipated that the Council will take a vote on the Proposal at the November 2009 meeting.

Graduate Student Experience Survey

Dean Morgen reported on the Graduate Student Experience Survey completed last year. The Survey was distributed to all graduate students, and yielded a 51 percent response rate. Dean Morgen reported that she, Dean Linton, and Dean Friestad would be meeting with the Deans of each School and College to have an open-ended discussion about graduate enrollment growth, what the Survey revealed, and to determine the best method to get survey information disseminated to department heads and faculty. At the same time, there will be a parallel set of meetings with the Graduate Council, the Graduate Student Advisory Board, and other leadership entities on campus.

Dean Morgen will bring actual data to the next Graduate Council meeting for the members to review.

Student representative Park asked if information from the Survey will be disseminated to graduate students. Dean Morgen responded that this would definitely occur and that after discussions and
presentations on campus, the Survey results will be published in some format. Dean Linton suggested that a progress report could be posted on the Graduate School website.

New Business

Removal of Degree Programs: Decision Sciences, Art

Dean Friestad noted that this is an administrative action that the Graduate Council has been asked to take by the departments of Decision Sciences and Art. First, the Decision Sciences Department in the Lundquist College of Business would like to remove the majors designated as Decision Sciences: business statistics and Decision Sciences: production and operations management, while retaining their degree authority for M.A., M.S., and Ph.D degrees in Decision Sciences. Second, the Art Department would like to remove the MFA majors designated as Ceramics, Digital Arts, Fibers, Metalsmithing and jewelry, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture; while retaining the MFA for the Art major.

Receiving no objections from the Graduate Council, Dean Friestad agreed to notify the departments. The removal of these degree programs will take effect Fall of 2010.

Committee Assignments

Council members were asked to review the list they of Graduate Council Standing Committees. There was a discussion of the Committees’ purposes and the responsibilities of members for each Committee. Chair McWhirter invited Council members to consider their preferences of the Committees on which they would like to serve and to email Professor McWhirter or Dean Friestad their first, second, and third choices for service.

Topics for the Council to Address

After a brief discussion of suggested topics from the agenda, Chair McWhirter asked Council members to consider topics they would like the Council to address in the coming year and to bring these suggestions to the next Council meeting.

Dean’s Updates

Dean Linton reported that it has been a remarkable year for research opportunities due to the increase in Federal Stimulus funding. These opportunities continue to be updated on the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies website

Dean Linton announced that a Committee has been formed to develop a research misconduct policy.

Dean Friestad reported that graduate student enrollment numbers are up, with about 100 more graduate students enrolled than last year.

Other

Professor McWhirter announced that the date of the December Graduate Council may change. Council members will be notified if this change occurs.

The Council adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Sheehan, Secretary