Members Present: Barbara Altmann (ex officio), Marcin Bownik, Patricia Dewey, Jeffrey Ewing, Sara Hodges, Ruth Keele (ex officio), Sandra Morgen (ex officio), Dorothee Ostmeier, Andrew Pokorny, Mia Tuan (ex officio), Mark Watson (ex officio)

Members Absent: Cynthia Anderson, Kimberly Espy (ex officio), Michele Henney, Joseph Lowndes, Andrew Marcus (ex officio), Brian McWhorter, Debra Merskin, Cecilia Enjuto Rangel, Bish Sen, Frances White, Alia Yasen

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Jered Nagel, Kyle Reynolds, Marcia Walker

Guests: Shawn Lockery, Professor of Biology, Director of the Institute of Neuroscience (ION)

The meeting was called to order at 3:40pm. Approval of the February 20, 2013 minutes did not come to a vote as there were not enough Graduate Council members to constitute a quorum. Similarly, the Graduate Council will use email votes for other business.

Old Business

New Graduate Specialization: Sustainable Business Practices

Dean Morgen began the discussion by reviewing questions about this proposal from the Graduate Council’s last meeting. Professor Ostmeier noted that this specialization uses courses that are already in place. Dean Morgen stated that the Graduate School has now received a copy of the proposal with signatures from the Deans and Department Head of the Lundquist College of Business (LCB).

At the February Graduate Council meeting, the Council asked LCB to create a list of viable courses that could be taken outside LCB to be added to the proposal. Although the list was not included in the revised proposal, Dean Morgen suggested that this did not seem reason not to approve. She noted that the list was more for clarification for students in the program. No additional issues were raised by Council members. There appears to be support for approval, but Council members will need to vote by email due to lack of a quorum. Dean Morgen will send out an email ballot to Graduate Council members and will ask that ballots be returned by April 3, 2013.

New Business

Graduate Specialization in Neuroscience: Unlocking the Biological Basis of Mind

Dean Morgen reported that this proposal is one of four Innovations in Graduate Education proposals that was approved and funded by the Graduate School. The Graduate Council welcomed Shawn Lockery from the Biology Department who attended to answer questions about the proposal.

Professor Lockery stated that there has long been strong neuroscience training in both the Biology and Psychology departments. For years these departments and Human Physiology had a training grant in neuroscience. When that grant was not refunded, the faculty involved decided to rebuild the program with a tighter focus, shrinking it to two departments. The new program is compatible with what NIH wants to see and was developed by Professor Edward Vogel of Psychology and Professor Lockery. Professor Lockery reviewed for the Graduate Council the course of study for graduate students in this specialization.

Dean Morgen asked Council members if there were any questions or concerns.
Dean Morgen asked if this specialization is approved by the Graduate Council, what would happen if the training grant is not awarded. Professor Lockery responded that the program would continue, as they are already operating without the grant. The cohort size is now comprised of approximately 15 students, and all but two of those students are funded by other grants; two are funded through UO contributions. At most, the training grant would fund four slots, so sustainability is not an issue.

Professor Dewey asked about the relationship between the Institute of Neuroscience (ION) and the two departments involved: Biology and Psychology. Professor Lockery described the robust relationships between ION and the departments and responded that ION creates an umbrella under which this program exists.

Dean Morgen noted that this proposal was vetted extensively before this submission and appeared to be very strong. There were very few questions about the proposal from Council members. Dean Morgen noted that this proposal has been signed by the Department Heads in Biology and Psychology, which means that these departments have worked out an understanding of the financial aspects and have resources to implement the program.

Dean Morgen stated that an email ballot regarding this proposal, along with the previous one, will be sent to Council members for a vote.

Mark Watson stated that specializations such as this will benefit students by giving them a credential for their work. Dean Morgen reported that during departmental data distribution meetings, she has noted an excitement among the departments to offer specializations. She believes that the graduate specialization in neuroscience will provide an example to other departments of a well-done proposal.

**Professional Development**

Dean Morgen stated that during data distribution meetings with departments it has been noted that the data show cross college/cross departmental concerns about available professional development. She asked Council members, who represent different parts of the University, what their students indicate they are not getting and what the Graduate School can do to be of assistance.

Kyle Reynolds distributed a handout of the 2012-13 PACE Graduate Student Workshop Series. Each workshop is geared to meet at least one of the following dimensions: professional development, academic success, community and wellness, and engaging in research. Kyle Reynolds stated that the Career Center also partners in these workshops. Ideas for workshops are often developed from ideas from students’ responses to a survey administered by the Graduate School.

Kyle Reynolds stated that the Graduate School is looking at ways to make workshops more departmental specific, which may be accomplished by providing a “tool-box” to departments in which they could tailor the materials to their students’ needs. The Graduate School has conducted mock interview workshops, and the “tool-box” method could make it easy for Departments to do the same. Workshops are advertised in the Graduate School newsletter, Grad Post, and departments are targeted when there are workshop topics that would be of special interest to them.

Mark Watson suggested looking into overseas opportunities for graduate students. VP Altmann said that International Affairs could cooperate in such a program. She said that the Gabon in Africa program regarding sustainability would be a good avenue to explore.

Graduate student Ewing stated that exploring career opportunities outside academia would be very well received in his department, Sociology.

Professor Hodges suggested having alumni speak to graduate students and help them be aware that they have skills they have learned while pursuing their degree that could be marketable in other areas.

VP Altmann said that she is on the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association who is working on “alt-ac” or alternate academic careers. Dean Morgen stated that resources might be found on websites within professional associations.
Kyle Reynolds reported that the UO Career Center is developing their website to include a section for graduate students, and that it should be up by fall 2013. He also referred to the Versatile Ph.D. which is dedicated to helping graduate students find jobs outside academia. The Versatile Ph.D. can be found on the Graduate School website and is available for UO graduate students to use.

Professor Hodges stated that she was not aware that the UO Career Center’s services were available to graduate students. Dean Morgen responded that the new head of the Career Center wants to create a unit focused on graduate students, and Robin Holmes supports this idea.

Professor Ostmeier brought up editorial work in students’ dissertations, especially for students whose primary language is not English. Often students do well in research and teaching, but need help when writing their dissertation. She suggested linking students to review each other’s work and provide editorial feedback. It might be especially useful for non-native speakers to have a native speaker review their work.

Dean Morgen noted that the Linguistics Department offers a course in writing for graduate students, and it is not only for Linguistics students. The course gives international graduate students who are non-native English speaking students an introduction what writing looks like in this country. It could also be good for native English speaking students who need help with writing.

Graduate Student Andrew Pokorny said that in his department, Music, he thought the Graduate School was doing everything he would expect. With regard to employment, he gave an example of students in Music Theory and Composition and noted that the job market is tough right now. He noted that many of his peers have graduated and given up finding work in their field. They have an "all or nothing" mentality: If I don’t find a job in one to two years, I'll find work in a restaurant. More awareness of other options available could be helpful to them. Graduate Student Pokorny asked, with the great overload of students graduating in Music compared to the number of jobs available, if we are addressing the real problem.

Dean Morgen recognized that there is a national conversation about whether we are training more students than there are jobs, especially in certain fields.

Professor Bownik stated that in his department, Mathematics, there are enough jobs for mathematicians who graduate. Many get jobs in four year colleges.

Professor Hodges suggested having alumni come back and speak to graduate students about the variety of jobs available. Dean Tuan reported that the alumni route has been tried, but it was a struggle to find speakers. Dean Morgen noted that we at this point we don’t track non-academic jobs for graduating students. Professor Hodges suggested that the speakers don’t necessarily have to be UO alumni.

Graduate Student Jeffrey Ewing noted that in the PACE Graduate Student Workshop Series handout there is an idea for future workshops titled Entrepreneurialism and the Graduate Student. He asked if there could also be a non-profit portion in the workshop. There was further discussion about helping students consider entrepreneurial opportunities. Dean Morgen stated that last year the Graduate School funded a non-profit proposal and suggested contacting Professor Renee Irvin to conduct a comparable workshop for the non-profit sector.

Professor Hodges stated that since a lot of interest regarding professional development came from the graduate student survey, would it be possible to follow up with those students and ask what they would like and what their concerns were? Dean Morgen replied that we are starting to see departments follow up with their students. We could look at the tools they developed and share them with other departments. It may also be possible to do a short Qualtrics follow-up survey.

Dean Morgen suggested continuing this discussion when there are more Graduate Council members present. She noted that the Graduate School doesn’t have a lot of resources. We are moving in the direction of making templates for departments. For example, one focuses on alternative careers in applied math and sciences. We need to target sectors. Dean Morgen stated that we will continue this discussion about how to use our resources in a targeted way.

**Deans’ Updates**
Graduate Student Research Forum

The Graduate Student Research Forum will be held May 9, 2013 this year. The Graduate School will be contacting faculty in the near future to serve as moderators. It is important for faculty to come to the event, even for a short time, to support graduate students.

Three Minute Thesis and RIGE Research Week

Kyle Reynolds, Coordinator of Student Affairs, of the Graduate School described the Three Minute Thesis competition as an academic competition developed by the University of Queensland, Australia, for research students. The exercise develops academic, presentation, and research communication skills and supports the development of graduate students’ capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience. The trademarked name of this event is Three Minute Thesis, but students may present research they are conducting for a thesis, dissertation, or terminal project. The UO will be holding its first Three Minute Thesis competition in Spring of 2013. The championship will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 during RIGE Research Week.

Some background
- Students must present their research in under three minutes and may use one static power point slide or image as a visual aid during the presentation
- The goal is for students to practice communicating their research in a comprehensible, accessible, and concise manner while engaging the audience
- Students may present any thesis, dissertation, capstone, or research project they are working on
- The top five finishers from each of the opening rounds will advance to the championship on Wednesday, May 8.

Schedule of Events
- Opening Round 1- Tuesday, April 23 from 4-6 in McKenzie 221
- Opening Round 2- Wednesday May 1 from 4-6 in Ford Alumni Ballroom
- Championship- Wednesday May 8 form 4-5:30 in the EMU Fir Room

The deadline to register is Friday, April 5, 2013. More information can be found on the Graduate School website.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Enjuto Rangel