Members Present: Mariah Acton, Susan Anderson (ex officio), Shanka Chakraborty, Hank Childs, Krista Chronister, Stephen Frost, Tory Herman, Sara Hodges (ex officio), Kaori Idemaru, Alison Kwok, Scott Pratt (ex officio), Thomas Ptak, John Russial, and Mark Watson (ex officio)

Members Absent: Adell Amos (ex officio); Bruce Blonigen (ex officio), Ron Bramhall (ex officio), Alexandre Dossin, Leonardo Garcia-Pabon, David Riley, and Ben Yang

Graduate School Staff in Attendance: Kellie Geldreich, Marcia Walker

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm. The October 21, 2015 minutes were approved as distributed.

New Business

Feedback on Master's Degree Guidelines

Associate Professor Russial noted that in the section General Academic Requirements of the Master's Degree Guidelines (Guidelines) it states that “a minimum of 30 credits in major and in residence are required for a master's degree. At least 9 credits in courses numbered 600-699 must be taken in residence.”

Associate Professor Russial asked why the guidelines call for 9 credits as many, probably most, graduate classes are 4 credit classes. Associate Professor Russial recommended making the requirement 8 or 12 credits, and believes 8 credits would be best because some professional programs are designed to focus on 500-level courses, which may effectively be taught as grad-only classes.

Associate Professor Russial also asked about the wording in the section of the Guidelines titled Mission of the University of Oregon. He expressed concern that this wording could be construed as a basis for rejecting new applied programs, which, by definition, are not research programs. He suggested the wording “comprehensive research university”, to allow applied programs to be more easily included.

Dean Pratt stated that all universities have applied programs and stating that the UO is a research university wouldn’t preclude applied programs.

Associate Professor Chronister commented that the Guidelines should include a statement about collaboration of programs across Oregon universities. Dean Pratt agreed, noting that collaboration among institutions in Oregon is encouraged.

Graduate Student Ptak stated that the language in the section Enrollment and “Market” Viability should reflect broader market trends; e.g., global warming. Dean Pratt agreed to this change.

Associate Dean Hodges stated that these changes/edits will be incorporated into the Master’s Degree Guidelines document and sent by email to Graduate Council members for their vote.

New Procedure for “Dean Approved” Recommendations

Associate Dean Hodges stated that she and Dean Pratt are proposing a new category of Graduate Council business items. When minor and unproblematic proposed changes to programs are identified by the Graduate School, they will be designated as “Dean Recommended Items.” These business items will be forwarded to Graduate Council members no less than two weeks prior to the meeting in which the items will be discussed. If Council members have no objections to what is being proposed, these items will be voted on without discussion. If there are objections, Council members will submit the objections to
the Graduate School no later than one week prior to the next Graduate Council meeting, and the item will go on the agenda for discussion at the next possible Graduate Council meeting.

Dean Pratt explained that this proposed procedure will result in a more streamlined process. The Graduate School always reviews proposals before they go to the Graduate Council for review. This will allow minor changes to be processed more quickly.

Associate Dean Hodges noted that all cases that are recommended for this category will have been carefully vetted by Graduate School staff and deans. A new degree program, certificate, or specialization proposal would not be considered in this category of “Dean Recommended Items.”

Associate Professor Frost asked if there should be another option where the Graduate Council would not need to vote on the proposed item. Associate Dean Hodges responded that a vote is needed so there will be a record of the decision made by the Graduate Council.

Associate Professor Herman moved to approve the proposed procedure to categorize Graduate Council agenda items. Associate Professor Childs seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal.

**Master of Arts: Track in Classical Archaeology and Material Culture**

Associate Dean Hodges explained that this is a track in Classical Archaeology and Material Culture within the Master of Arts degree in Classics Department. It is not a new degree program.

Associate Professor Idemaru asked if it was appropriate that this is in the Classics Department rather than in the Department of Anthropology. Associate Dean Hodges clarified that this is not an Anthropology degree, but instead a track within the Classics Master of Arts program.

Associate Professor Herman moved to approve the Classics Department Master of Arts Track in Classical Archaeology and Material. Associate Professor Russial seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal.

**Conflict and Dispute Resolution Master’s Program Final Project Guidelines**

Associate Dean Hodges explained that this proposal will add a course concentration final project option within the M.A. and M.S. degrees in Conflict and Dispute Resolution. Students can choose to complete either a terminal project, a thesis, or a course concentration (a set of 3-4 courses totaling at least 9 graduate credits.)

Associate Professor Frost moved to approve this proposal. Associate Professor Childs seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal.

**Proposal for Curriculum Change in Media Studies**

The proposed curriculum change would replace J640 Proseminar I with a three-course sequence of Media Theory courses: J612, Media Theory I; J613, Media Theory II; J614, Media Theory III. The addition of these courses is part of a restructuring of the introductory sequence for the Media Studies graduate programs of the School of Journalism and Communication. This new sequence will provide the foundation for more in-depth studies and specializations within the field.

For both master’s and PhD students, this change adds two courses to the core requirements and thus may also reduce the number of electives taken (although students are not restricted in the number of electives they can take by the change).

Associate Professor Childs moved to approve this proposal. Associate Professor Herman seconded the motion. The Graduate Council unanimously approved the proposal.
Roundtable Brainstorming

Preventing Sexual Harassment of Graduate Students

Associate Dean Hodges stated that the idea is to hold a meeting where people could share ideas that have been successful in their departments as well as invite people from departments who have experienced problems in this area. The goal is to develop best practices used to prevent sexual harassment and then to distribute these best practices to other departments across the UO.

Associate Dean Hodges asked Council members for input. Graduate Student Ptak thought it important to include graduate students and noted that appropriate facilitation of these meetings is important. He explained that if the meetings start by focusing on the problem, they may not move to finding the solution.

Associate Professor Chronister stated that it would be best to focus on preventative actions. She suggested including faculty and graduate students at any meeting, so faculty can hear what graduate students have to say about their experiences.

Dean Pratt asked if the Graduate Council should make a formal recommendation to the UO that graduate students be included when developing programs and policies to prevent sexual harassment. He noted that the Division of Student Life and the Office of Equity and Inclusion provide resources for undergraduate students who experience harassment, but the same services are not available to graduate students. Dean Pratt reported that the GTFF would like the Graduate School to provide more training in this area for graduate teaching fellows.

Associate Professor Herman stated that all UO employees completed an on-line training around sexual harassment and reporting requirements. Senior Vice Provost Anderson stated that a one-time training is not sufficient. Faculty need to be reminded of steps to be taken if harassment is witnessed and to whom the harassment should be reported.

Associate Dean Hodges noted that the components to be considered are prevention, identification, and reporting requirements.

Graduate Student Acton suggested that the problem should be viewed in a broader sense to include racial issues.

Career/Advising/Proposal Development

Associate Dean Hodges asked Council members to let her know of individuals or departments who are doing a good job in these areas.

Updates/Announcements

Graduate Student Research Forum

Associate Dean Hodges stated that the call for the Graduate Student Research Forum (Grad Forum) has gone out, and asked Graduate Council members to encourage graduate students to participate. Graduate Council members will also be asked to serve as judges at the Grad Forum.

In addition to poster sessions and panel sessions, this year there will be a new category called “5 Minute Presentation Blitz” in which graduate students will have five minutes to present their research.

Associate Dean Watson commented that last year’s Grad Forum felt like a template for success. Graduate Student Ptak added that last year’s Grad Forum was as good as, or even better, than some professional conferences he has participated in.

Associate Dean Watson noted that last year Interim Dean Berglund did well with external community members’ participation in the Grad Forum as well as soliciting donations for the Grad Forum.
Promising Scholar Awards

Associate Dean Hodges distributed a handout describing the Promising Scholar Award. The purpose of the Promising Scholar Award is to recruit outstanding new graduate students of diverse backgrounds and experiences to advance the inclusive excellence of graduate programs and the institution as a whole.

There are two changes in the components of support this year. The first is that the $5,000 portion of the award is distributed to the student by the Graduate School. (In the past it was distributed to the department to give to the student.) The second change is that the $5,000 must be delivered in the student’s first two years.

Dean Pratt noted that there are two deadlines to submit nominations: February 12, 2016 and March 11, 2016.

Adjourn

The Council adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________________
Krista Chronister
Graduate Council Secretary