The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.

Nomination & Election of Chair

Assistant Vice Provost, Jered Nagel, nominated Professor Christopher Chavez to serve as Chair of the Graduate Council. Christopher accepted the nomination, and the Council voted in approval.

Revised Graduate Council Charge

It had been determined that several aspects of the existing Graduate Council charge have become outdated and no longer reflect the activities that have been taking place within the committee. Vice Provost, Krista Chronister, and Jered Nagel took the suggestions from the previous meeting and drafted a revised charge which more accurately reflects what the Council does, as well as its goals and aspirations. Council members provided some minor feedback to the language of the revised charge. Jered Nagel will create a second draft to include those edits.

Course Regularization Policy

UOCC Representative, Frances White, spoke to the Council to provide additional context on the University's regularization process and how it relates to the Graduate Council's charge as a Senate body. The main points are as follows:

- The Graduate Council must have a system to provide academic oversight of programs to ensure the integrity of its courses and the credit that is awarded.
- Courses must go through a review process to ensure that the curriculum is robust and rigorous at their appropriate levels.
- Generic courses, however, are different and do not go through this process. They do not require any content, structure, outside review, syllabi, etc. They are generally taken as electives and cannot be required for a degree. A student's completion of a generic course is entirely at the discretion of the instructor.
- Some generic courses are an exception, such as 603, where there is rigorous oversight written into the course description.
- The lack of oversight in generic courses is worrisome because there is no way to guarantee that the course is fulfilling its goal and that students are receiving credit appropriately.
Other issues surrounding the regularization process and generic courses that were voiced by Council members include:

- No program auditing process in place so incompliances usually are not caught until revisions are made.
- No tracking process in place to determine which courses went from generic to regularized.
- Generic courses have not been included in metrics because of low enrollment.
- Implementing a systematic process for regularizing courses will be challenging since it will affect faculty workload, metrics, GE funding distributions, etc.
- There is a fear across departments of a proposal being rejected, so clear guidance on the regularization process would be beneficial.

Council members agree that there is an ongoing issue of how programs should best document specialized experiences, such as terminal projects, research, internships, etc., Frances White offered some suggestions:

1. Regularize generic courses and assign them a new number
2. Make those activities a program requirement with clear criteria and oversight. Also set general parameters that can be used across programs, but not associate it with any credit.
3. Instead of changing criteria for generic courses, create an emergency course number to be used across programs that has its own exclusions, such as those pertaining to enrollment or counting in load.
4. For terminal projects, create a track that covers elements that fit the structure of a terminal project and provide oversight on it.

Unfortunately the Council was unable to determine a solution at this time, so the topic will be revisited.

**Multimedia Journalism Accelerated Master’s Program**

This proposal was previously discussed in the spring, but could not be voted on since UOCC is still reviewing the program’s new course numbers. Once the proposal is approved by UOCC, the Graduate Council will plan to vote by email.

Until the program is approved, Assistant Vice Provost, Jered Nagel, has been advising that departments allow seniors to start taking graduate courses and once the AMP program is official, those courses will show as counting toward their masters.

**Action Items**

- Jered Nagel will create a second draft of the Graduate Council’s charge.
- Frances White will share examples of proposals that have successfully gone through the regularization process, that show different parameters that have been set for special experiences such as terminal projects.
- Vice Provost, Krista Chronister, will consider other solutions to the course regularization issue that maintains integrity but does not create additional and unnecessary work.

The Council adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Straka
Graduate Council Secretary