Present:
Dr. Brenda Smith, Vice-Chair
Dr. Brian Arnall, Group I
Dr. Justin Moss, Group I
Dr. Randi Eldevik, Group II
Dr. Tonia Sharlach, Group II
Dr. Albert Rosenberger, Group III
Dr. Sundar Madihally, Group III
Dr. Ajay Sukhdial, Group IV
Dr. Amanda Morris, Group IV
Dr. Rebecca Sheehan, Group IV
Dr. Jon Ramsey, Group V
Dr. Adrienne Redmond Sanogo, Group V
Dr. Earl Blewett, Group VI
Dr. Tom Oomens, Group VI

Graduate College:
Dr. Sheryl Tucker
Dr. Jean Van Delinder
Dr. Ken Clinkenbeard

Guests:
Dr. Steven O’Geary

Meeting
Vice-Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm with a quorum present. Following a motion (Dr. Ramsey) and a second (Dr. Arnall), the minutes of the meeting on April 24, 2015 were approved. A further motion (Dr. Ramsey) and second (Dr. Arnall) brought the minutes of August 28, 2015 to a vote and was so approved.

Deviation of Agenda
Vice-Chair Smith asked the Council for a deviation of the Agenda to accommodate the guest in attendance. Dr. Madihally moved to allow the deviation and Dr. Sukhdial seconded the motion, and the Council passed the motion.

New Business
Academic Program Committee (APC). Recommended and moved by APC the “Master of Arts in Teaching.” After an introduction by Dr. Van Delinder, Dr. Redmond Sanogo outlined a plan to provide a program specifically designed to help rectify the Oklahoma teacher shortage by seeking and educating non-traditional candidates who wish to teach in the State. Dr. Redmond Sanogo then answered questions posed by the Council. Seconded by Dr. Sukhdial. Approved.
Institutional Biosafety Policy (P&P 4-0301). Dr. O'Geary outlined the proposed changes to this policy and answered questions posed by the Council. It was moved to accept by Dr. Ramsay and seconded by Dr. Oomens. Approved.

Care and Use of Animals in Research, Testing, and Teaching (P&P 1-0505). Dr. O'Geary outlined the implementation of this policy and answered questions posed by the Council. It was moved to accept by Dr. Oomens and seconded by Dr. Arnall. Approved.

Institutional Laser Safety Policy (P&P 4-0303). Dr. O'Geary outlined the implementation of this policy and answered questions posed by the Council. It was moved to accept by Dr. Arnall and seconded by Dr. Ramsay. Approved.

**Graduate College Report**

Dr. Tucker reminded the attending members to schedule subject group meetings for the following month and to coordinate with the College to ensure that a member of the Graduate College can attend.

**Budget**. Dr. Tucker then discussed the challenges of meeting the institutional commitment to higher graduate student stipends this year in light of university-wide budget cuts in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and those anticipated in FY2017. To continue to maintain stipends just at the 40th percentile in FY2016, additional funds were needed. Recruiting funds that had been underutilized for a couple of years, college and Top Tier funds were used to cover more than a $500,000 shortfall, with an additional $200,000 anticipated next year. Dr. Clinkenbeard elaborated on current recruiting resources still available to the graduate programs and encouraged their use.

**Old Business**

*Catalog Language Update: 60 Hour PhD Option.* Dr. Tucker proposed new Catalog language to reflect the previously approved (by Graduate Council) option for a 60-hour, post-baccalaureate PhD. A graphic was distributed for comment that will help graduate programs and administrators visualize the interplay of doctoral candidacy, reduced continuous enrollment, degree credit hours and time to degree. After discussion, Dr. Sheehan moved to endorse the Catalog language, and Dr. Eldevik seconded. Approved.

*Individual Development Program (IDP):* Dr. Van Delinder discussed the IDP as a move to increase student professional development as required by NIH. Dr. Tucker then answered questions posed by the council. Dr. Madihally moved to endorse the program, and Dr Sukhdial seconded. Approved.

**New Business**

*Waiver of Resident Tuition for Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants (P&P 2-0103).* Dr. Tucker reported that the new Graduate Student Support Initiative (GSSI) program for graduate student tuition waivers was completely implemented. Given GSSI no longer distinguishes between resident and non-resident students, current
policies and procedures need to be updated and reflected the changes. After discussion, Dr. Sheehan moved to accept the changes, and Dr. Sukhdial seconded. Approved.

**Waiver of Non-Resident Tuition of Graduate Assistants (P&P 2-0105).** Because of the updates to P&P 2-0103 that incorporated P&P 2-0105, Dr. Tucker proposed P&P 2-0105 be retired. After discussion, Dr. Sheehan moved to accept the changes and Dr. Arnall seconded. Approved.

**Students Receiving Assistance from the Office of Veteran’s Affairs (VA).** After discovering that post-candidacy graduate students who are veterans receiving assistance from the VA were erroneously being denied reduced continuous enrollment, Dr. Tucker proposed Catalog language to clarify their eligibility for reduced continuous enrollment. Dr. Tucker will work with Academic Affairs and the Registrar Offices to implement the updates. Current students are already being addressed. Dr. Ramsay moved to approve the changes and Dr. Oomens seconded. Approved.

**Creative Component Grades** – Following an issue concerning widespread academic integrity violations in creative components, Dr. Van Delinder brought forward inconsistencies in enrollment and grading in creative components. After lengthy discussion about creative component that highlighted numerous concerns, inconsistencies, and the lack of governing policies, Dr. Ramsay moved to allow Vice-Chair Smith to appoint a committee of no less than three members of the Council to look into the issue and present their findings to the Council. Dr. Eldevik seconded and the motion was carried.

**Other**

Dr. Arnall moved to adjourn and Dr. Sheehan seconded. After passing, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.