Council Members Present:

Dr. Lowell Caneday, Vice-Chair
Dr. William McGlynn, Group I
Dr. Merrall Price, Group II
Dr. David D’Andrea, Group II
Dr. Rob Whiteley, Group III
Dr. Lan Zhu, Group III
Dr. Karina Shreffler, Group IV
Dr. Kathleen Kelsey, Group V
Dr. Tim Passmore, Group V

Graduate College:

Dr. Mark Payton
Dr. Craig Satterfield
Dr. Jean Van Delinder
Mr. Mike Heppler

Caneday called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Approval of November 19, 2010 minutes.

Following a motion (Passmore) and a second (Whiteley) the minutes of the November 19, 2010 meeting were approved.

GPSGA report

No representative

Graduate College Report

Craig Satterfield gave a report on the upcoming Research Symposium to be held during Research Week in February. There will be approximately 250 presentations. Satterfield also gave a report on Spring 2011 enrollment. We have an increase of about 150 students over Spring 2010 enrollment. Applications for Fall 2011 has also increased compared to this time last year. Rosslyn announced that a call for nominations for the Graduate Research Excellence Award was sent out to graduate coordinators and members of the Council.

New Program Requests/Changes

Option Deletion in Educational Psychology Ph.D., Student Personnel Administration, Special Education

Since this was a deletion and we had no other business, Payton decided not to send this paperwork to the Academic Program Committee. Program officials were invited, but were
not present at the Council meeting. This action was requested in 2005, but it was overlooked and the options were never deleted. Following a motion (Price) and a second (Kelsey), Council unanimously voted to delete the options.

Old Business

Alterations in GF1 Forms

Several Council members reflected that the current version of the GF1 form is inadequate in determining whether nominees conform to group requirements. A supplemental form utilized by Group V was distributed. Several options were discussed, including allowing each group to establish their own supplemental form and placing the form on the web along with the GF1 form. After lengthy discussion it was decided that the current GF1 should be altered to meet the needs of all the groups. The Vice Chairs will form an ad hoc committee that will revise the current form. Passmore will serve as chair of this committee.

New Business

Group Meetings/Graduate Faculty Nomination Reminder

Payton reminded Council members that groups needed to have meetings in March as required by the Graduate Faculty Bylaws. Related to that, Payton distributed a spreadsheet showing instructors in Fall 2010 that were teaching graduate level courses but not members of the Graduate Faculty. Payton fears that this could be damaging to us when evaluated for accreditation. Kelsey remarked that she has difficulty imparting the importance of certifying graduate faculty and that there are no consequences for not complying. Payton warned that graduate courses that don’t have members of the Graduate Faculty listed as the instructor of record could be cancelled, which would wreak havoc on the campus. Satterfield also noted that we could deny graduate credit for courses taken under this scenario. Council agreed that a report for Spring 2011 should be run to determine the courses in jeopardy. Payton asked the group chairs if they wanted to contact the relevant department heads once this information was obtained. It was decided that it would be more appropriate for Payton to contact the departments, and Caneday agreed to assist Payton in this effort.

Policy on Acknowledgements in Theses/Dissertations

Van Delinder briefed Council on a troubling trend where the acknowledgement page is contested by committee members. Some faculty members are even trying to dictate the contents of the acknowledgement page of a thesis, some going so far as refusing to sign the document. It should be made clear that the acknowledgement page is not required and should have no impact on the scientific or scholarly merit of the document. However, since it is a part of the thesis template that the Graduate College provides, it is interpreted as required by the students. As it stands now, the student’s advisory committee must approve the document that is loaded onto UMI in its entirety, including the acknowledgement page. Payton also stressed that some students make unconventional religious remarks on this page. He cited one case in which a faculty member was concerned that these remarks were being
associated with work funded by NSF, and this document was up on the web for the world to see. Payton also noted that a student could make racist or anti-Semitic remarks. Would we be comfortable signing a document with this in it? Council asked how difficult it is to remove the acknowledgement page from the thesis and dissertation templates. Heppler responded that he could have them out in a matter of an hour if that was Council’s wish. Whiteley stated that there are instances in which the research performed was supported by a grant and that needed to be acknowledged. Payton responded that this could be done in the body of the thesis with specific guidelines. Van Delinder requested that Council consider not allowing acknowledgements in the document that was to be loaded on UMI, but allow students to place acknowledgments in the document that was given to the committee for review or in the defense presentation. Council determined that it would be wise to discuss this in group meetings this Spring, and Van Delinder and Heppler agreed to provide specific wording for this policy change by the February Council meeting.

It was announced that the next Council meeting would be February 18.

Other

Caneday reminded the Council that his term as Vice Chair is about to expire, and we would hold an election for his replacement this Spring. It is a three year term. Caneday urged Council to keep potential candidates in mind and to nominate them for this important role.

Whiteley had a concern about the Graduate Commencement. In particular, he noticed that Gallagher–Iba staff members were clearing people out of the building 45 minutes after the ceremony had ended. A source of this problem was the limited places available to take photos to commemorate the evening, and if more photo stations were made available, this might help solve the problem. Satterfield agreed to ask the Commencement Committee for two more backdrops and additional time to take photos. The time that the reception ends will be noted on Commencement web page in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.