Twenty-eight (28) individuals signed into the meeting. Lori Baronas, Susan Chinman, Claudia Donald, John McCarthy, Sue Roberts and Patrick Sullivan from the Graduate School attended. Graduate Council members present were Jane Baran, Tom Braden, Tony Butterfield, Leslie Button, Derek Doughty, David Ford, Linda Griffin, Steve Goodwin, Mark Hamin, A. Yemisi Jimoh, Arthur Kinney, Beth Lang, John Lopes, Stacey Matarazzo, Ernie May, Bill McClure, Frederic Schaffer, Jocelyn Silverlight, Anna Strowe, Hongmei Sun, Nate Therien and David Vaillancourt.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of March 13, 2012 were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
None

IV. Old Business
None

V. New Business
A. Report of the ASCC
The ASCC presented 13 course proposals before the Graduate Council.
ANTHRO 527 – Repatriation and Issues of Cultural Property
ANTHRO 588 – Field & Laboratory Methods in Bio archaeology & Forensic Anthro.
ANTHRO 627 – Archaeology of Food
ANTHRO 652 – Indigenous Archaeologies
EDUC 6647A – Assistive Technology for Learners with Disabilities
HERIT 563 – Global Heritage and the City
HERIT 560 – Introduction to International heritage Studies
MICROBIO 695 – Applied Molecular Biotechnology Laboratory
NRC 579 – Cree Culture, Natural Resources and Sustainability
PSYCH 687 – Ethics and Professional Development in Psychology
PSYCH 688 – Theory and Practice of Psychotherapy with Children, Adolescents & Families
PUBP&ADM 614 – Professional Development Seminar
SCHMGMNT 633 – Financial and managerial Accounting
All 13 course proposals were unanimously approved.
B. Doctoral Program Review
Dean John McCarthy pointed out some of the major findings and recommendations regarding the Doctoral Program Review Report. This review was requested by Provost James Staros. Our overall research productivity is high and often exceeds that of public AAU institutions, but our programs are undersized. Our faculty numbers are low compared to the counterparts at AAU institutions. We have inadequate funding for fellowships and it hurts our ability to recruit top students. The time to degree is generally too long and the doctoral completion rate is average. The doctoral student population is quite diverse and nearly all graduates are able to find employment. The Report recommends a “right-sizing” exercise intended to better fit doctoral enrollments to available resources, job opportunities, needs for graduate employees, and other factors.

C. Chancellor’s Planning Document
The Chancellor’s Planning Document was discussed at length. The following are comments regarding the present draft of the strategic plan:

Absence of an overall vision for graduate education
• The Planning Document does not present a vision or justification for graduate education. Graduate students mainly appear as an adjunct to the University’s research enterprise, and then only in science and engineering fields. The overall impression is created that graduate education will not be a very high priority if the University goes forward with this plan.

The value of graduate students
• Graduate students are more than just adjuncts to the campus’s research mission. They are absolutely essential to it. Their contributions are sometimes as important as those of the faculty.
• Graduate students are more than just adjuncts to the campus’s teaching mission. They are absolutely essential to it. If TAs and TOs disappeared, teaching on this campus would grind to halt. So would a great deal of teaching innovation, in which graduate students often play an important role.
• The Planning Document rightly emphasizes the contribution of undergraduate education to the Commonwealth’s economy. But the contribution of graduate education is no less important: how would the Massachusetts knowledge economy exist without master’s and doctoral level teachers, engineers, professors, managers, scientists, artists, and poets?
• Because it says relatively little about the topics of internationalization and diversity, the Planning Document overlooks the contribution to our community made by the large numbers of international graduate students and the inclusion of many graduate students from underrepresented minority groups.
• The Planning Document notes only in passing the important contribution that graduate students can make to the goal of giving a research experience to every undergraduate who wants one. This instructional role of graduate students is standard in lab sciences, but is not often recognized. This role of graduate students is also important in relation to Commonwealth Honors College.
Priorities

- Senate Secretary May asked the Council what is the single most important thing they would request for graduate students. Without discussion and without dissent, Council members immediately agreed unanimously that more money for fellowships is their highest priority.

Other

- It was noted briefly that the Planning Document omits or gives short shrift to certain other matters as well: internationalization, diversity, co-curricular activities, and outreach.
- Revenue matters were discussed:
  - Senate Secretary May pointed out that graduate student fees are often waived, so undergraduates are the principal source of revenue.
  - Dean Goodwin observed that the undergraduate revenue model is now broken as well, at least for CNS: the marginal cost of adding an additional out-of-state student in one of CNS’s majors exceeds the additional revenue to the College.
  - Dean McCarthy discussed the difficulty of creating new graduate programs with revenue potential because of cumbersome approval processes.
- Branding was also discussed:
  - Nate Therien of Five Colleges Incorporated noted that access to the four liberal arts colleges is a distinctive feature of our campus.
  - Further discussion:
    - Flagship is one distinctive idea.
    - Some other thoughts were to promote “Community Flagship”, “Team Based Learning”, “Building Mass” or “Research and Public Service”.
    - Yemisi Jimoh mentioned we should identify who we are, where we are strong and what we have to offer.

VI. Committee reports as necessary
None

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and others as appropriate
None.

VIII. Announcements
None

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Baronas
Administrative Assistant to the Graduate Council