Twenty-five (25) individuals attended the meeting. Lori Baronas, Susan Chinman, Nigar Khan, John Mullin and Patrick Sullivan from the Graduate School attended. Graduate Council members Jane Baran, Leslie Horner Button, James Cathey, Matthew Ferrari, Edward Ferszt, Linda Griffin, A. Yemisi Jimoh, Beth Lang, John Lopes, Ernie May, Bill McClure, Jose Ornelas, Alan Robinson, Fred Schaffer, Hongmei Sun, Anna Strowe, Nate Therien and David Vaillancourt. John McCarthy attended as the Provost’s designate to the Graduate Council and Wesley Autio as a guest.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of March 14, 2012 were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
1. John Mullin announced and congratulated John McCarthy who will be the new vice provost for Graduate Education and dean of the Graduate School.
2. John Mullin also congratulated Nigar Khan, Assoc. Graduate Dean on receiving her Ed.D.
3. The dean announced there will be changes to the ESL program in the Graduate School.
4. Susan Chinman announced the union negotiations with GEO will begin at the end of April and health insurance will be the hot topic.
5. John McCarthy announced there will be a gradual change in AQUAD and committees will be given specific questions and the graduate dean will get involved in the early stages. The overall opinion of the doctoral study is that we do well with a lot of things and it’s very positive for the campus.
6. Nigar Khan indicated the ISC is taking another look at the dual degree option.
7. David Vaillancourt Associate Dean of Student Life works with GSS and graduate students who make challenging choices and attended a recent meeting on graduate housing. Undergraduate enrollment is expected to increase by 3,000 – 5,000 students and will displace graduate students and their families in housing. At the present time 400 students are living in lounges and doubles have been converted to triples. There are concerns with international graduate students needing cars and paying much higher rents in other locations yet being restricted to 20 hours of work and can’t afford the rent increase. John Mullin asked Nigar Khan to get in touch with Pat Vokbus in IPO to discuss the situation. Some graduate students are fully funded by agencies and the University must give them housing per the agreements. GSS indicated the decision was made without any input from the graduate students. GSS is to get Dean Mullin data and he will go to Jean Kim on behalf of the Graduate Council with this issue.
8. There was a recommendation that David Vaillancourt in his role as Associate Dean of Students be appointed on the Graduate Council.
9. John Mullin suggested we look into the Gateway for mixed use for private development for graduate housing and possibly private co-ops. The master plan doesn’t include any graduate housing and the town of Amherst doesn’t want undergraduate housing in the gateway.
10. ESL and housing issues need to be elevated up the administration.
11. The post docs have reached a tentative agreement through negotiations and are working out the details on the medical payments.

IV. Old Business
None
V. New Business
A. Program and Course Proposals
Two course proposals and three program proposals were approved by the ASCC which could now be approved by the Graduate Council. The proposals were:

The two (2) course proposals were:
1. EDUC 671 – Survey Research Methods
2. NRC 575 – Case studies in Conservation

The three (3) program proposals were:
1. Full-Time MBA – Finance Focus (Program Revision)
2. Dividing the Department of Plant, Soil, & Insect Sciences into the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the Department of Applied Biology and Ecology
3. B.S. Degrees in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture (New Program)

All the proposals were unanimously approved.

B. Graduate School Fellowships Timing
Patrick Sullivan distributed a printout of the department admissions deadlines in response to the fellowship timing concern. Patrick Sullivan indicated the dates could be pushed up if the departments wanted them. Jane Baran was concerned that final grades would not be on the transcripts if deadlines were pushed up too much.

VI. Committee reports as necessary
None

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and others as appropriate
John McCarthy spoke about the Ph.D. review and distributed handouts he wasn’t able to cover at the last Graduate Council Meeting. One handout included information about the funding of doctoral students at UMass Amherst and its peers. The document also reported the data collected in 2012 on stipend levels and university fellowships at peer institutions. He also distributed a handout on where the graduates were located in 1999-2011 and also whether the graduates were employed.

Bill McClure distributed a report on the Continuing and Professional Education face to face and online enrollments. The overall report shows the face to face time has decrease while the online enrollments have increased slightly over the last year. The gross revenue fell over the last year. This is due to the counts in the Isenberg School of Management and also Nursing. Nursing stayed flat while increasing over the last few years and the accounting students are not being funded by business as in the past.

Nate Therrien of the Five Colleges spoke about the Mellon grant to the Five Colleges, which is in two parts. One is to promote the use of digital technologies in teaching and student scholarship. The other is to build bridges between liberal arts education and professional education. Under the “Bridging” grant they awarded 3, two-year projects bringing together teams of faculty from the University and the colleges to connect liberal arts and professional education. These are in Public Policy and Social Innovation; Architecture and Architectural Studies; Environmental and Sustainability. The Five Colleges is the only proposal to be awarded under this new granting rubric this year. They also expect to award two more 2-year projects in the course of this 4 year grant.

VIII. Announcements
There will be no Graduate Council meeting per Dean Mullin in May and any course or program proposals can be reviewed and approved with the permission of the Graduate Council Chair.

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