Seventeen (17) individuals signed into the meeting. Lori Baronas, Susan Chinman, John McCarthy, and Shana Passonno from the Graduate School attended. Graduate Council members present were Tom Braden, Tony Butterfield, Leslie Button, David Ford, Linda Griffin, Cynthia Jacelon, A. Yemisi Jimoh, Beth Lang, John Lopes, Jose Ornelas, Juan Manuel Ruiz-Hau, Fred Schaffer, and Nate Therien.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of October 9, 2013 were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
- Dean McCarthy announced that Shana Passonno, the former managing director of the Institute for Cellular Engineering, had joined the Graduate School. He asked her to say a few words regarding the Office of Professional Development.
- Shana is currently taking an inventory of STEM resources on campus and looking to establish the same inventory with the humanities programs. She would like to expand the network and already has connections with the Center for Teaching and Development, the Library and the Institute for Social Science, to name a few. She is also interested in working with external partners and alumni who could serve as mentors in job search and career development. She sees this as a free, untapped resource. Student groups are also a powerful resource. These groups invite speakers on professional development and career paths. She also mentioned that the relationship is a 2-way street and when her office brings in a speaker for the students in the morning there is also the opportunity for the faculty to meet and network in the afternoon. The industry collaboration is for the campus as a whole. Juan Ruiz-Hau mentioned OIT might be an area to tap for collaboration.
- John McCarthy mentioned he is on a search committee for the new director position in the Center for Teaching and Development. He spoke briefly on two of the candidates. Dean McCarthy is interested in how the Center for Teaching and Development can partner with the Graduate School.

IV. Old Business
None

V. New Business
A. Report of the ASCC
The ASCC presented 2 course proposals before the Graduate Council.
  German 609 – Debates and Issues in Modern German History
  History 609 – Debates and Issues in Modern German History

The ASCC presented 1 program proposal before the Graduate Council.
  M.A. in Comparative Literature Revision
The two course proposals and program revision were unanimously approved.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on Electronic Theses and Dissertation Access
Leslie Button proposed some minor revision on the ETD access recommendations from what was passed by the Graduate Council last fall. These recommendations were revised to assist in the potential negative impact the current recommendations might have on the student’s ability to secure a publishing contract as well as the ability to exert control over copyright or patents. These recommendations provide students with some flexibility and also protect their work. The graduate dean still has the ability to make exceptions at his discretion, but has not had many requests. John McCarthy recommended the recommendations with minor revisions be adopted and David Ford seconded the motion and it was approved by the council.

C. Graduate Mentoring Award
Dean McCarthy distributed information on two new awards the Graduate School will award on an annual basis. The first award will be the Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award. This new award is on the graduate teaching and advising work that faculty do outside the classroom since there are already a number of teaching awards. Three awards will be given. The recipients will chose by a subcommittee of the Graduate Council, receive an honorarium and be recognized at Graduate Commencement.

The second award will be called the Distinguished Graduate Staff Award. Any professional or clerical staff employee on the UMass Amherst campus is eligible to be nominated, excluding the Graduate School employees. Graduate School professional and clerical staff will chose the recipient. The awardee will receive an honorarium, a plaque and be recognized at Graduate Commencement. Current graduate students will submit letters nominating a staff member for this award.

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 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Baronas
Administrative Assistant to the Graduate Council