I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She started the meeting welcoming members, and asking new people to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of September 14, 2011 were unanimously approved.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean

1. John Mullin noted that Hills is considered a sick building and the departments and offices within the building, including IPO, will have to relocate.
2. The Doctoral Program Review will be coming up in the near future and John McCarthy will coordinate this.
3. There has been some discussion that there will be some new schools. There is speculation for a School of Landscape Architecture and Architecture Design, a School of Arts and a School of Sustainability. John McCarthy indicated these schools will report to a dean, but these new schools will have no dean of their own. This is a chance to share resources and may eventually lead to a separate dean. Any proposal for these schools will come from the Provost and no committees have been formed yet.
4. John Mullin spoke with Jack Ahearn from IPO regarding the risk assessment of UMass students traveling abroad. These students register for classes on-line and perhaps a tsunami hits or something goes terribly wrong while studying in a foreign country and what are the ramifications to the Graduate School? As the overseas presence of students expands with many on-line courses, this would be a good study to undertake.
5. The AQUAD on the Northeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (NEAGEP) was outstanding.

6. The NRC doctoral review will check the peer institution lists to make sure the appropriate benchmark schools are listed correctly and have similar departments.

7. John Mullin announced the first draft of the tracking study on why students don’t choose the University of Massachusetts Amherst for their graduate study has been done. Patrick Sullivan or Claudia Donald will do a presentation at the next meeting on the tracking system. The results are in and the students are not choosing a higher quality school, but rather schools that offer the most money. It is clear the Graduate School needs to be more aggressive in providing funding to increase competitiveness with its peers. We will need $2.5 million to do this.

8. Susan Chinman met with UHS, GEO, GSS and Deputy Chancellor Todd Diacon regarding GEO and the medical plans on October 11, 2011. The students are requesting that they have both graduate and undergraduate representation and input in the health plan design.

9. It was noted that many departments are behind on responding to the Graduate Bulletin with their updates this year. If the departments don’t submit any changes, the Graduate School will use last year’s submission. Patricia Stowell is handling this.

10. John McCarthy was asked to assist with the PSM and it was clear to him that the deans are not interested in this. A letter was sent from the Dean’s to the Provost and they are more interested in writing NSF grants.

11. The Provost and a Dean Mullin are disappointed in the slow start to development of new 5th year masters degrees? Linda Shea noted that based on the number of calls she is receiving from departments across campus, there are many such programs in the pipeline. Those developing 5th year or “Accelerated Master’s” programs will be directed to the Graduate School for assistance.

12. Ernie May spoke up mentioning the Chancellor has indicated more faculty will be hired to match the increase in enrollment and questions whether more teaching assistants should also be hired with the increase in enrollment. At the present time, teaching assistants are not meeting the instructional demand. It was also noted that 85% of graduate students have either a teaching or research assistantship.

13. John McCarthy indicated in the 1960’s the Board of Higher Education voted to allow a community college a doctorate degree in collaboration with UMass. A state representative and student from Salem State blocked this Ph.D. initiative. A flash point may need to be sent to the state representatives per Ernie May regarding this issue.

14. Again, questions regarding accelerated programs should now be directed to John Mullin.

IV. Old Business

New Graduate Council Chair Nominations

Dean John Mullin proposed that members submit nominations for a new GC Chair to Linda Shea by e-mail at the last Graduate Council meeting and Linda Shea received none. With further exploration, one nomination for a new chairperson for Graduate
Council was made for Linda Griffin from the School of Education. She was formally nominated. She was supported unanimously and will resume duties as GC Chair immediately.

Accelerated Master’s Degree
Linda Shea spoke about the accelerated master’s degree vs. the 5th year or undergraduate degree. She will remain on the Academic Matters Council to promote the accelerated master’s degrees. The accelerated program is revenue generating and there are no associated teaching assistantships for those enrolling in the program. Half of the tuition for these programs goes back to the deans. It is estimated that the College of Engineering receives $180,000, the College of Natural Sciences receives $94,000, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts $14,000 and the School of Education is in the negative.

Graduate Dean’s Search Committee
Linda will chair the internal search committee for a new Graduate Dean. The search is expected to be completed by the end of this semester. The job description will be written by the Provost. It is expected interviews will take place after Thanksgiving and the final candidate will start in the spring semester in the role of Associate Dean and shadow John Mullin. The Provost is looking for faculty and graduate staff to serve on this committee. Linda indicated there were many graduate school staff volunteers however, it was noted they need to be elected by their respective staff unions to serve. The new Associate Dean of the Graduate School will review IGERTs, new programs, new certificates, Ph.D. programs etc. The Graduate School has remained the flattest within the organization and heavily relied on retirees to carry a large portion of the workload. The Associate Dean position should remain after the new Graduate Dean is appointed to replace John Mullin upon his retirement.

V. New Business

Report of the ASCC
Seventeen course proposals and three program proposals were approved the ASCC and subsequently approved unanimously by the Graduate Council.

The seventeen (17) course proposals were:

1. HM&FNART 500 Introduction to Arts Management
2. HM&FNART 501 Arts Fundraising
3. HM&FNART 502 Arts Marketing
4. HM&FNART 503 Arts Programming
5. HM&FNART 504 Financial Management in the Arts
6. HM&FNART 505 Strategic Planning
7. HM&FNART 506 Arts Education and Policy
8. HM&FNART 507 Board Development
9. HM&FNART 508 Creative Economy
10. HM&FNART 509 Greening Your Nonprofit Arts Org.
11. HM&FNART 510 Program Evaluation
12. ECE 544 Trustworthy Computing
13. ECE 644 Trustworthy Computing
14. SCH-MGMT 508 Alternative Investments
15. SCH-MGMT 551 Information and Project Management
16. SCH-MGMT 552 Business Processes & Enterprise Systems
17. SCH-MGMT 553 Business Intelligence & Analytics

The three (3) program proposals were:

1. Accelerated MA in Economics
2. Master of Science in Public Health
3. Accelerated Master in Public Policy

**Pat Vokbus, Guest Speaker, on the Pearson Test of English**

Pat Vokbus from the International Programs Office and Patrick Sullivan from the Graduate School have researched the possibility of using the Pearson Test of English (PTE) just as the Graduate School presently accepts TOEFL and IELTS. Pat Vokbus consulted Carolyn Geer at the Language Institute in Northampton who has endorsed this exam and she has met with Puck Fernsten from Pearson. At one time the Graduate School used only the TOEFL score and when students had a difficult time trying to get a seat to sit for the exam, IELTS started to be accepted. The PTE is a computer based test of listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. Students are tested using twenty different question types. The test was field tested to over 10,400 candidates from 21 countries. The test has a high reliability of overall test scores (.96). The test is delivered by Pearson with flexible test dates by demand. Test scores would be available to the Graduate Admissions Office within 2-4 days and free to institutions to access. The test would be given in randomized test forms to minimize the opportunity for cheating. The PTE is already recognized by the UK and Australia governments for student visas and accepted by over 2700 academic programs worldwide. Iraq is using the TOEFL and the University is having some issues with sponsored students from Iraq that are having difficulty with their English speaking skills. This test might help us with future Iraq and Brazilian students coming to us on sponsored programs in the future. After much discussion Patrick Sullivan and Pat Vokbus feel very comfortable using the PTE as one way to demonstrate language proficiency. The web address for council members and admission coordinators to review the PTE is [www.pearsonpte.com](http://www.pearsonpte.com). The PTE is valid for 2 years and those taking the PTE will get a discount if they also sign up for the GMAT. The cost of the PTE is comparable with the IELTS and TOEFL.

Linda Shea wondered how Pearson tested for speaking proficiency. There is an audio recording for this part of the test. Some faculty members who are on the admission committees would like to look at this exam. Jose Ornelas is comfortable with the PTE and mentioned the National Evaluation System in Hadley is using this exam.

There are benefits of this exam and we need to take this seriously and make a decision quickly if we are to use this in the next admission period since the deadlines for Fall 2012 are quickly approaching.
Ed Ferszt, Assistant Provost of Summer Programs might be able to integrate a summer program to improve English speaking skills before students start as matriculated students.

There has also been discussion to raise the minimum TOEFL test score results for admitted students. There was also discussion on problems with waiving the TOEFL exam.

**VI. Committee reports as necessary**
There were no committee reports.

**VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others as appropriate**
There were no reports.

**VIII. Announcements**
Chair Shea bid the GC farewell and was thanked by the group for her service.

**IX. Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.