Twenty Five (25) individuals attended the meeting. Susan Chinman, David Lafond and Patrick Sullivan from the Graduate School attended. Also, in attendance were Graduate Council members Neal Abraham, Jane Baran, Tony Butterfield, Leslie Horner Button, James Cathey, James L. Craig, David Dudek, Larry Goldbaum, Nigar Khan, Christine King, Arthur Kinney, Kevin Klement, David Kotz, Kathryn Lachman, Ben Normark, John Mullin, Jose Ornelas, Linda Shea, Nate Therien, Howard Stidham, and Tiffany Yee, and Zhun Xu.

I. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Linda Shea called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. She especially welcomed the Zhun Xu, the President of the Graduate Student Senate.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes from September 14 were approved with three corrections.

III. Comments by the Graduate Dean
Dean John Mullin reviewed and discussed several items.

a. Deans’ Meeting with the Provost – Budget Cuts
Mid-year budget cuts are coming soon. This year the Graduate School was initially able to get an increase in funding over last year. With personnel savings due to retirements, we should be able to absorb any mid-year cuts without affecting any additional programs. However, the Dean mentioned that next year’s cuts will likely be more than 10%.

b. Deans’ Meeting with the Provost Update – Find Additional Revenue Producers
We have been charged to look for additional programs to produce revenue. Five different types of programs have been identified:

1. Graduate Certificates - there is a high level of interest in graduate certificates now. Every dean spoke about these during the meeting.

2. Five-year Masters Degree Program– It was discussed that there must be a minimum of 30 credits beyond the Bachelor Degree. A key issue is how does UMASS get funds from the other 4 colleges directly without going through the state funding allocation process. Neal Abraham noted that there are 5-year programs at the other colleges already. He said that UMASS should not seek to duplicate programs and compete but to do this cooperatively. It was mentioned that there still is competition in order to enter the different programs. It was also mentioned that there are issues about being able to charge full credit hour fees. An idea of expanding summer school for this type of program was also mentioned. (See also New Business – Item B below for a further discussion.)
III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)
b. Dean’s Meeting with the Provost – Find Additional Revenue Producers (continued)
3. Professional Science Master Degree
   The new College of Natural Science and Engineering now supports this idea.
   There is a question of how we handle internships and put courses together.
4. Joint/Dual/Cotutelle Degree Programs
   The school is looking to the Graduate Council for leadership to determine what is legal.
   Ernie May has contacted Linda Shea and Chancellor Holub encourages expeditious approval of new policies.
5. Master’s Degree in Individual Concentration/Interdisciplinary Studies
   We are beginning to take a look at this. At the undergraduate level, a Bachelor
   Degree in Individual Concentration already exists. We should talk to Dan Gordon
   at University Without Walls (UWW) to see what experience they have. It was
   mentioned that there is an administrative burden to this and the other new types of
   programs. The Dean said he was thinking of hiring a Graduate School Director of
   Innovative Programs. There are also questions about whether there are enough
   courses offered. The Dean also said that the Masters Degree is the forgotten
   degree but that we want to go slow on developing this type of program to ensure
   we do it right.

f. National Research Council
   The release of the National Research Council (NRC) graduate program ranking is imminent.

g. Graduate Program Director (GPD) Meeting
   The GPD meeting on October 6th went well. We had the largest turnout of GPD’s in recent
   memory. We received good feedback on the monthly newsletter from the Graduate School.

h. Graduate Catalogue
   The Graduate School has been informed that Helen Wise, our UMASS editor, will no longer edit
   the Graduate Catalogue.

i. Timeliness of Pay
   Susan Chinman provided background and led the discussion of this timeliness of pay issue.
   There is a state law which requires that graduate students be paid 6 days after the end of the pay
   period. It is difficult to get everyone on the payroll early in the semester so complying with this
   law becomes difficult. About 25% of students do not get paid on time. This issue got the
   Massachusetts Attorney General’s attention this summer, and there could be civil penalties for
   non-compliance. The Attorney General said that they do not care about our internal issues. In
   order to comply with this law, we need paperwork before the start of work. We cannot get a
   waiver because we cannot waive state law.

Several ideas were mentioned and discussed: Could we get the paperwork in May or over the
summer? – perhaps but some Deans hold up TA contracts. Can the work schedule be adjusted?
– perhaps but we need to comply with the union contract. Can we complete assignments
electronically? Yes, we are starting to develop the capability now but it is 2-3 years away from
implementation. It was concluded that we need to go to each college to attempt to resolve this
issue.
III. Comments by the Graduate Dean (continued)

j. Online information updates
New data shows that 14% of graduate students have taken at least one course online. Stanford University has 23 Master Degrees completely online. University of California at Berkeley is promoting a new cyber university as its new campus.

IV. Old Business
None Discussed

V. New Business
A. Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee (ASCC) Requests for Approval
Arthur Kinney briefly reviewed two program proposals that have been approved by the ASCC. The first was a revision to the Master’s in Public Health Practice and the second was a proposal to revise the combined Master’s/Ph.D. Program in Computer Science. Both programs were unanimously approved by the Graduate Council.

Arthur then briefly reviewed six (6) course proposals which the ASCC had approved:
- Education 672: Teaching Math to Students with Disabilities
- Nursing 614: Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
- Nursing 619, Advanced Pharmacology (online course)
- Nursing 701: Healthcare Quality (online course)
- Nursing 703: Pharmacotherapy Management (online course)
- Nursing 735: Informatics for Nursing Practice Council

Arthur mentioned that three (3) of the Nursing courses were online and he requested some input from the Graduate Council about online courses. Christine King mentioned that the Academic Matters Council has concluded that course delivery was irrelevant. Course content is all that matters. Linda Shea noted that there have been two UMASS task force initiatives which have studied online course and they have both concluded that online courses represent an alternative delivery method, but they are consistent with face-to-face courses. All six courses were unanimously approved.

B. Five-year Masters Program
Nigar Khan began the discussion of the Five-Year Masters Program initiative. She said that the most important considerations were:
1. How you build the program. There needs to be a clear program of study.
2. Must identify 11 500+ courses that students can take in their junior and senior years.
3. After completing Bachelor Degree, the student will need to follow graduate application procedures.
4. Course credit transfers must be specified.
5. There can be no “double dipping,” i.e., the same course cannot be used to fulfill the requirements for both the Bachelor and Master Degree. However, David Kotz questioned this requirement.
6. All applicants pay Graduate Entry fees and are eligible for T/A’s and R/A’s. It was suggested that this eligibility be reconsidered because of the intensity of this type of program.
III. New Business (continued)  
B. Five-year Masters Program (continued)  
Arthur questioned what we are committing faculty to by considering this type of program. The Dean then followed up by saying that in order for this type of program to succeed the faculty union must be supportive, and departments and the university would have to benefit from the added tuition dollars. It was noted that the Provost has said we cannot dilute the Bachelor Degree by creating a Five-Year Master’s Program.

A question was raised about the possibility of students who begin Ph.D. programs and do not pass earning a “consolation masters degree.”

A request was made to get list from Patrick Sullivan of all the UMASS Amherst Master’s Programs, the number of credits each requires, and the thesis requirements of each program.

Volunteers to serve on a Five-Year Masters Program Development Committee were solicited. Volunteers came forward. The Committee is currently comprised of Nigar Khan, who will call the first meeting, Neal Abraham, James Cathey, David Kotz, Pat Stowell, and Zhun Xe.

VI. Committee Reports  
A. ASCC – See New Business Item A above.  
B. ALANA – No report.  
C. Fellowship – No Report.  
D. Ethics – Leslie Horner Button requested that the Graduate Council do some additional recruiting for members for this committee. It was also mentioned that Marilyn Billings and Jane Fountain have received a grant as principal investigators to develop an NSF Ethics Clearinghouse. This clearinghouse is currently being developed and a library assistant has been hired for the semester.  
E. Special Admission – No Report  
F. Student Affairs – No Report.  
G. Mentoring – No Report  
H. Travel – Kevin Klement provided the report. He noted that the program was now getting up and running for the new academic year.

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others  
None

VIII. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David E. Dudek