# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2016, GBB 202, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

*Members Present:* L. Broberg, F. Brown, C. Dumke, J. Farnsworth, K. Harris, G. Morrill, M. Murphy, S. Ross, D. Schuldberg K. Swift  
*Ex-Officio Present:*   
*Members Absent/Excused:* L. Economides, L. Frey, G. Lind, C. Palmer, S. Whittenburg  
Guest: Reed Humphrey, Dean, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences

Call to Order

* Approval of the minutes was postponed.

## Communications

* Dean Humphrey provided some background to the proposal for Occupational Therapy. He was contacted by the Office of Public Instruction and given $20,000 to do a feasibility study. Montana needs occupational therapists and it is part of the University’s mission to meet the needs of the state. It is common for schools with Physical Therapy and Speech Language Pathology programs to also offer Occupational Therapy. Often the various majors will share classes. He has been told by the President to use the same start-up model as Communicative Sciences and Disorders, which involved a start-up funding request.

The physical location of the program is currently unknown. The program requires a transitional living space, which is unique. The new Missoula College building currently has two empty floors. Dean Humphrey has had some preliminary discussions with the UM’s Architect, Jameel Chaudhry. Renovations to the building could be possible by fall 2018. He has also been in discussions with Community Medical Center regarding a partnership for occupational therapist clinical training. The Center needs Occupational Therapists.

The first step once the program is approved by the Board of Regents would be to hire a director to develop curriculum. Course syllabi are fairly standard. The program would not admit students until fall 2018. The question remains, where will the funding come from to hire the director? The Office of Public Instruction may have funding available. Another option could be the Department of Labor.

Billings also submitted Intent to Plan Form for occupational therapy. Dean Humphrey has reached out in an attempt to collaborate. Hopefully the campuses can work together; otherwise there will be competition for the clinical site and faculty. This issue will certainly be of interest to the Board of Regents.  
  
The Council briefly discussed how it should proceed. It would like to see a firm commitment regarding the location and start-up funding. A possibility would be to send it forward to the Senate noting that it supports further development of the program given the University’s mission. Camie will send the 2006 proposal to Dean Humphrey to reference.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.