# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2017, GBB 202, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

*Members Present:* L. Broberg, F. Brown, C. Dumke, J. Farnsworth, M. Murphy, C. Nelson, S. Ross, D. Schuldberg, S. Stan, K. Volk, N. White,  
*Members Absent/Excused:* B. Baker C. Fitspatrick, K. Harris N. Lindsay, G. Morre, C. Palmer, R. Smith, V.P. Whittenburg  
Ex-Officio Present: A. Kinch   
Guests: R. Bridges, S. Certel, E. Voronina  
  
Call to Order

* The minutes from 11/8/17 were approved.

## Communication

* The Council welcomed Professor Rich Bridges, Sera Certel, and Ekaterina Voronina and members introduced themselves. Professor Voronina’s is visiting to preview the committee’s work.   
    
  Professor Bridges was invited to address questions regarding the proposed joint BS/MS in Neuroscience. The program is designed for advanced students that are actively involved with a lab. It is not uncommon for students to stay an extra year to finish the research they started. This is a 4 +1 accelerated master’s program. The student would take graduate level courses their 3rd and 4th year as an undergraduate. This will require 12-16 graduate credits count towards the undergraduate degree. These courses will provide the student with increased depth rather than breadth. Professor Bridges is going to the Board of Regents meeting tomorrow to answer questions from MSU.   
    
  The student would apply to the program in their junior year, in partnership with their faculty mentor. One issue to consider is whether current MS requires the GRE. The requirement should be the same for the dual program. The application process will be similar to the summer undergraduate fellowship that has been successful with 38% of the students going on to graduate school and 28% to medical school.

This type of degree seems to be a national trend. Other disciplines are very interested, as is the Dean of the Honors College. The proposal mentioned successful programs at other institutions. The Council should consider developing guidelines to ensure quality and appropriate structure. Some of the Graduate School’s policies will need to be modified as well. Dean Kinch will review these and make recommendations.

## Adjournment

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