# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2018, GBB 202, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

*Members Present:* F. Brown, L. Broberg, C. Dumke, J. Farnsworth, G. Morrel, C. Nelson, C. Palmer, S. Ross, S. Stan, J. Wiltse, N. White   
*Members Absent/Excused:*  B. Baker, M. Corkish, K. Harris, M. Murphy, N. Lindsay, R. Smith, V.P. Whittenburg   
*Ex-Officio Present:* A. Kinch  
  
Call to Order

* The minutes from 4/11/18 were approved.

## Communication

* Graduate Council was charged by ECOS to identify recommendations that do not seem controversial and/or problematic from the perspective of curricular review; as well as recommendations that will require additional information and/or action before Faculty Senate can adequately assess impact. ASCRC Chair Coffin sent a spreadsheet with the various recommendations sorted by Colleges to Senators, Department Chairs, and Deans.
* At the listening session The Chair of the Faculty Senate read a communication from the Chief of Staff.

1. The only item up for approval by the BOR in May will be the new Mission Statement. Everything else presented will be informational. President Bodnar will NOT be putting forward to the Regents in May specific areas for reduction, numbers of FTEs, or details around re-organization. He’ll only share that we have started important conversations around these topics.
2. Anything identified in the draft recommendations required to go through the regular FS processes will go through the appropriate FS committees in the fall.
3. Reorganizations in particular will take place along varied timelines as various programs and colleges figure out the logistics. Timelines will vary depending on the need for refinement and depending on the implementation logistics. What the re-organizations will finally look like will depend on faculty input and the new Provost’s input.
4. This summer the President, the Provost, and Deans will work together to refine the plan for FTE reductions, which will go to the appropriate Review Committee in late summer, per the CBA. This process is clearly outlined in the CBA.

## Business

* Associate Dean Kinch started a draft document that identifies policy/ quality issues for accelerated graduate programs. The Council needs to define the criteria. It would be valuable to have the procedure in place before the curriculum proposals are submitted in the fall. He is available to work with other volunteers to refine the document. Members interested in helping with this should send him an email.
* The Council discussed wording concerns with the draft Mission Statement. It made the following suggested edits. Professor Nadia White will bring the concerns and suggestions to the UPC meeting on Friday.   
    
  “The University of Montana’s mission is to provide a high-quality, ~~and~~ accessible education and produce world class research. ~~university.~~ We shape global citizens who are creative and agile learners prepared to build and sustain communities. As Montana’s flagship university, we lead conversations that question and expand ~~the frontiers of~~ knowledge to tackle the world’s most complex challenges.“
* The Council agreed on the following principles in response to the Strategy for Distinction draft recommendations.
  + The impact of FTE adjustment on graduate education must be a primary consideration.
  + Attrition based FTE reduction will affect UG courses that serve critical functions in graduate education.
  + Student credit hour based performance metrics undervalue graduate education.
  + Combining units with graduate programs with units without graduate programs in a division is not recommended.
  + Preserving unit identity, recruitment, retention, research benefits of graduate education is a critical consideration in reorganization.
  + Graduate degrees must stay with units.
  + Graduate Council must review changes to graduate education.

Professors Broberg, Nelson, and Ross volunteered to meet with Vice President Whittenburg to ensure the message is consistent over the summer when the reorganization plan is refined.

* Professor Broberg will consider chairing next year.
* The IIP and annual report will be circulated electronically or postponed until the fall. The Graduate School is waiting for responses from students.

## Good and Welfare

## Adjournment

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