The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Associate Dean Sarah Larsen.

Larsen welcomed attendees and asked each to introduce themselves.

1. **Announcements and Updates:**

The Graduate College is undergoing review. The self-study was completed last fall and submitted to the Provost’s office in December 2015. The review committee visit which is coordinated by the Provost’s Office will take place October 2-4, 2016. There are 5 committee members, 2 external reviewers and 3 on campus members.

The Doctoral Program review was completed in May, 2016 and the results were communicated to you from the associate dean for your college. The report is available on the GC website. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me (sarah-larsen@uiowa.edu).

Upcoming DGS meeting topics are the AAU metrics and Doctoral Program review (October); graduate program holistic admission processes (November); and a joint graduate faculty/DGS meeting (December.)

AAAS Communicating Science Workshop announced for UI faculty, grad students. The workshop is described in 9/13/16 DGS Digest. Handouts are available today.

**Dissertation Awards:**

- **Rex Montgomery Dissertation Prize 2016 recipients.**
  Deborah Burdsall, College of Nursing,
  Ernest Chivero, Molecular and Cellular Biology

- **D. C. Spriestersbach Distinguished Dissertation Award 2016 (Social Sciences)**
  Efthymia Evangelia Kapnoula, Psychological and Brain Functions

- **Deans Distinguished Dissertation Award 2016 (Social Sciences)**
  Stephanie Miles, Mass Communication

**L. B. Sims Outstanding Masters’ Thesis 2016** is requesting nominations. The winner in each category represents Iowa in the MAGS outstanding thesis award competition. Submission deadline is Friday, October 14, 2016. Categories for the Sims award correspond to the CGS Outstanding Dissertation Award (Mathematical, Physical Sciences and Engineering and the Social Sciences.) Eligible departments/programs may submit one nomination for consideration.

**Communication Initiatives:**

The DGS Digest has been created to streamline communications to the DGS listserv. The Graduate College will collect information and send the digest out biweekly. All new items being shared will be in red. Upcoming DGS meetings and agendas will be announced here as well and will be posted on the website along with meeting minutes.
The Graduate College is also in the beginning stages of a website redesign. More information will be shared about that process in subsequent meetings.

**Recent External Grants:**

The [Newly Composed PhD: Writing Across the Disciplines](#) and NEH planning grant through the “Next Generation Humanities PhD” initiative is led by PI Judith Pascoe, English. Humanities DGS are invited to participate.

PI David Cwiertny from Civil and Environmental Engineering received an NSF NRT grant to develop a sustainable water graduate program involving an innovative model for STEM graduate training.

### 2. Fellowship Communities and the External Fellowship Incentive Award

Jennifer Teitle (Assistant Dean, Graduate College) discussed some of the career services ([Academic Career Services](#)) available to graduate students.

The [Fall 2016 Fellowship Communities](#) have been formed to assist students through the application process for external fellowships such as the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP), the Ford Fellowship, American Association for University Women (AAUW) and others. The [Graduate College External Fellowship Incentive Award](#) encourages students to apply for nationally competitive fellowships. UI graduate students who apply for a fellowship (whether they are successful or not) and fulfill the Graduate College requirements will receive an incentive award of $500. Last year approximately 39 incentive fellowships were awarded.

### 3. Graduate College Internal Fellowship Deadlines

Shelly Campo (Faculty Fellow, Graduate College) coordinates GC Internal Fellowships. Most of the deadlines have been updated. Submission links will be activated approximately one month before the deadline. Three fellowship deadlines were discussed in more detail below.

The [Post-Comprehensive Fellowship nomination](#) deadline for Spring 2017 awards is October 15, 2016.

The [Ballard Seashore Dissertation Fellowship](#) call was made last spring for funding in either fall 2016 or spring 2017. The GC decided to issue the call in the fall (for spring awards) beginning this fall (spring 2017) and spring (for fall 2017) awards. Nominations must come from the department, students cannot self nominate. The fall 2016 deadline for Spring 2017 awards is an “extra” opportunity.

The [T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship](#) deadline was moved up nearly one month to February 15, 2017. Many students want to conduct research during summer months and the earlier deadline will allow the student more planning time.

The Graduate College has overhauled the way in which nominations are made including spreading out the spring deadlines as much as possible. Nearly all nominations should be submitted in workflow by the
administrative staff in each department/college. This will allow the tracking/process as the nomination maneuvers its way through the process.

GC staff is still in the process of updating the website and examining data to look at the outcomes of students receiving fellowships. For example, fellows receiving Ballard and Seashore awards indicates that the recipients have a 93-96 percent graduation rate. The Graduate College will continue to offer Summer Fellowship awards. A record number of 169 awards were given summer 2016. We are also reviewing all other fellowships to see where changes to existing fellowships or the creation of new fellowships are needed.

4. **Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition**

Joe Cannella (program coordinator, Graduate College) discussed the 3MT Competition. The 3MT competition is being held this fall to allow winners to compete in the regional 3MT competition in the spring. There is no limit to the number of graduate students from a department/program who can participate and the competition has been expanded to include Masters’ students as well.

- The deadline for registering for 3MT is **Saturday, October 1, 2016**.
- The entries have doubled from 15 participants the first year to 30 last year.
- The 3MT competition finals will be held on Friday, November 4, 2016.

Students can prepare by participating in a **Plain Talk Workshop, Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 3:00-4:30 p.m in UCC 1117**. The workshop will assist students in learning ways to communicate their research in a clear and concise manner.

Please contact Joe Cannella (joseph-cannella@uiowa.edu) if you would be interested in being a judge for the 3MT competition.

The winner of the 3MT competition from Spring 2016, Kawther Ahmed from the College of Pharmacy received the first place and People’s Choice award for her presentation, Engineered Cancer Vaccine. Dr. Ahmed is a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Pathology, University of Iowa.

Dean Keller joined the meeting and commented on the collegiate review and the new efforts related to new graduate teaching assistant training.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.