The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Associate Dean Sarah Larsen.

Announcements and Update

Reminder of fellowship deadlines Friday, October 14, 2016.

Ballard Seashore Dissertation Fellowships and Post-Comprehensive Research Awards nominations for Spring 2017 deadline is this Friday. The awards are for one semester only. Iowa Recruitment Fellows are eligible to be nominated for the post-comprehensive and Ballard Seashore Dissertation fellowships when they have matriculated to that timeline in their academic career. Questions regarding award submissions should be directed to Shelly Campo @ shelly-campo@uiowa.edu or 319-335-2136.

Academic Affairs Office updates were presented by Anne Sparks. A streamlined workflow form has been developed to request thesis committee participation. The Committee Approval Request Form can be located by clicking on Current Students > Rules and Deadlines >Academic Forms > Current Member Request >. Completion of the form and suggestions regarding filling it out were shared. Two documents that can be used for reference are the Faculty approval table and table of people who need approval. There are text boxes to upload additional documentation. Questions regarding approval of prospective committee member forms should be directed to Anne Sparks.

Graduate Student Success Office updates – Jen Teitle reminded DGSs of the Three Minute Thesis – Preliminary Competition being held Friday, October 14, 2016 at 1 p.m. in Art Building West. There are 45 participants this year (up 5 from last year) plus this year it was opened up to include masters students (4 entries). 3MT Finals will be on Nov. 4 from 3-5 p.m. in Art Building West.

Graduate Student Success Office has several programs within the next few weeks. Please visit our website and share with your students.

International Programs (Downing Thomas/Maureen Burke)

Downing Thomas addressed DGSs regarding international sponsored student programs. These students are funded by their countries. Admitting these students addresses the required departmental funding which allows awarding of RA/TA lines for other applicants. Two admissions – conditional (lagging academically) and provisional (are on par scholastically but do not have the required English proficiency.) Downing also provided a spreadsheet for International Graduate Scholarship Programs List for departments to use during their admission review process.

Maureen Burke discussed the TAPE program and the improvement in international student’s English proficiency. Additional instruction is provided to students who do not meet English proficiency levels.
Doctoral Program Reviews – Sarah Larsen

Larsen discussed the review of [Doctoral Graduate Programs – Final Report May 13, 2016](#). Larsen presented an overview of the report and relevant information for programs to consider. Larsen encouraged departments to meet with her to discuss the outcomes of the review process if they have concerns. A question about placement data led to a discussion of the factors that are important in assessing doctoral placements. Program data can be found on the Graduate College website.

Internal Fellowships – Shelly Campo

Campo began by reminding DGSs of the $750K decrease in student aid suffered by the Graduate College. The college was then faced with how to improve distribution of the reduction in fellowship funding. The ultimate goal was to help lessen/lower the TTD (time to degree) and increase the rate of completion.

The [Ballard Seashore Dissertation Fellowship](#) is now a one semester award but being inclusive of programs in the STEM field. The Ballard Seashore now offers nominations each semester (fall for spring/spring for fall). Data shows fellowship recipients are completing at a rate on average of 93 to 96 percent.

The [Post-Comprehensive Fellowship](#) (departmental nomination) continues to be competitive and successful for students in the beginning stages of their dissertation preparation.

Summer fellowships (self-nominating) are wildly successful. The GC was able to award an additional 38 summer fellowships in 2016.

Areas of need continue to be under-represented minority fellowships. Departments indicate with the change in recruitment fellowships makes it more challenging to recruit good students. Also once they arrive on campus more support may be needed to help them finish and not languish in the middle of their academic career(s).

The DIMAC report addresses that exact issue, that minority students require/need more support. Under-represented minorities unfortunately are not among the nominees for the dissertation and post-comprehensive fellowships. This needs to be addressed in the departments, but the GC is considering a number of new minority specific funding mechanisms including a post-comp/dissertation award, a pre-comprehensive summer fellowship to work with faculty on their research earlier in their programs, and a master’s thesis competition fellowship for underrepresented minorities instead of providing only a partial tuition scholarship fund. The GC is discussing innovation fellowships. The Digital Humanities is being considered for a few students to participate in a summer program in this area through the Digital Studio in the library. Also being considered are professional development summer fellowship opportunities for non-profit and government work where there are not stipends provided. Minnesota and UNC have these.

The GC has heard the concern that the Iowa Recruitment Fellowships are not competitive in recruiting and there may be a “sweetening of the pot” for these fellowships. However, in order to do this, something has to give because the old model was extremely expensive. For example, 1 old presidential funds 30 summer fellows. Where do we want to sacrifice funding to make the recruitment fellowships more competitive/attractive to incoming students?
The GC will be providing a 1-page handout organizing fellowships by timeline (when nominations are to be submitted, i.e., recruitment fellowship nominations, Ballard Seashore (fall/spring nomination period), Post-Comprehensive fellowships (fall/spring nomination period), summer fellowships (spring), etc. Campo will re-visit the organization of the fellowship page to redesign and make it more user friendly. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.