Directors of Graduate Studies Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 6, 2017  
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., IMU Iowa Theater

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Dean John Keller.

Welcome and Introductions
The Graduate College staff present at the meeting were introduced by Dean Keller. Associate Dean Sarah Larsen led the Directors of Graduate Studies in introducing themselves.

Announcements and Updates
From the Dean: In June and July the Graduate College hosted Summer Research Opportunity Program (SORP) and Summer Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC). In August the Graduate College offered 4 hours of programming to the Graduate Coordinators, the annual Report was released, our new website was launched, orientation included over 700 new students, and Graduate College partnered with the Center for Teaching for the “New TA Orientation”. Recently the Graduate College Annual Report was released.

Plans are underway for the December 15, 2017, Graduate Commencement Ceremony @ 7:00 PM in Hancher Auditorium. The Graduate College is exploring improvements for Spring commencement regarding shortening ceremony length and improving facility accessibility. Under consideration is providing two commencements (one for Masters and one for Doctorals) at Hancher.

Associate Dean Sarah Larsen shared the Graduate College’s communication mechanisms with DGSs. Besides the monthly DGS meetings, the DGS Digest is a regular email communication providing timely reminders and information. If you have information to include in the DGS Digest or have a recommendation for DGS agenda item, please email sarah-larsen@uiowa.edu. To aid DGSs in communicating information to students, a PDF document is attached to the DGS Digest email. Feel free to forward this to your students. A recommendation was made to include this PDF in a communication to the Grad Program Coordinators as many DGSs funnel communication through their coordinator.

Academic Affairs Office:
Assistant Dean Heidi Arbisi-Kelm states the Electronic Thesis Dissertation (ETD) Workshop for depositing students will be held on September 26, 2017. Students should register at http://bit.ly/Fall17ETD. For students unable to attend, the Graduate College also provides guidance on preparing and formatting the thesis on its website.

Recently the summer Doctoral Exit Survey was distributed. The response rate was very high (>80%).

Website and Communications
Director of External Relations, Kim Chickering updated the DGSs regarding the Graduate College website remastering. Throughout the spring and summer the Graduate College was working on a new website. Certain needs needed to be met in the new site such as ADA compliance and mobile friendly. Other objectives in the website remastering was to improve navigational structure and enrich visual content.
The launch of the remastered website happened in August. A new feature of the main page is the “Profiles of Success.” This is a forum for highlighting the interesting work being done by graduate students and alumni. Please refer people for this Profiles of Success by emailing kimberly-chickering@uiowa.edu. Another new website feature is the DGS Digest Archive.

Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) and Graduate Student Senate (GSS) built a website by students for student. The UI Grad Guide is a community resource for the new University of Iowa graduate student.

Professional Development
Assistant Dean Jen Teitle reported sorting icons on the Professional Development webpage continue to be populated by University of Iowa Events Calendar. Anyone needing directions in the process of appropriately tagging the University of Iowa Event, can contact jennifer-teitle@uiowa.edu.

The Graduate College will be bringing professional development programming to the program colleges. Request a Workshop form how programs request workshops from the Graduate College Professional Development Office. The form includes both pre-designed workshops as well as build-your-own workshop options.

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition and pre-competition workshop deadlines are approaching. Cash prizes are awarded. The competition is especially valuable to students who value communicating their research to a wider audience.

NEW this year is the Thesis In-Focus competition. Contestants submit images associated with their research along with a short narrative in the following categories: Photography, Microscopy, Graphics and Illustrations. Submission deadline is October 2, 2017, cash prizes awarded. Students can participate in this competition without participating in the Three Minute Thesis competition.

Fellowship Communities exist for students interested in applying to nationally competitive fellowships such as AAAW, Ford, NSF, Mellon and others. These communities partner previous winners of the awards with interested applicants. The Fellowship Communities in conjunction with the Fellowship Incentive Program positions our institution for an increase in the number of quality applications.

Fellowships
Interim Associate Dean Shelly Campo reported 174 summer post-comprehensive exam fellowships were awarded along with close to 100 other summer fellowships (e.g., recruitment, Digital Studio, URM pre-comprehensive summer). Both the Ballard Seashore fellowship and the Post-Comp fellowship deadlines are September 29, 2017. A new Under-Represented Minority (URM) thesis completion fellowship applications are due October 15, 2017. Please review the entire internal fellowship deadline schedule.

Two awards are now accepted by the Graduate College on a rolling basis to better serve students with differing discipline needs (T. Anne Cleary and Kenneth T. Kay).
The Graduate College’s [T. Anne Cleary fellowship](#) is to support international *dissertation* research travel whereas International Program’s [Stanley Graduate Award for International Research](#) offers reimbursement for international *non-dissertation* research travel.

Pilot programs, Digital Scholarship and Underrepresented Minority Pre-Comprehensive were successful.

 Refreshments were provided to meeting participants. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.