# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, GBB 225, 12:10 – 1:00 PM

*Members Present:* B. Bach, L. Broberg F. Brown, C. Dumke, L. Frey, L. Gray, A. Kinch, G. Lind, , C. Stanick, K. Swift  
*Members Absent/Excused:* X. Chu, T. Gupta, C. Orion C. Palmer

*Ex Officio Members Present:* S. Whittenburg  
  
Call to Order

The minutes from February17th were amended and approved.

## Communication

* Vice President Whittenburg just approved the internal procedure concerning IIP Admission for the Material Science Program. It will come to the Council as information at the next meeting.
* The deadline for departmental Bertha Morton materials is March 7th. It is hoped the materials will be available on Moodle next week. Camie will send a message when they are available. They will be organized by subcommittees. Subcommittees should rank the top 50% of applicants and think about whether there is a candidate that is deserving of a fellowship.

## Business Items

* The Council discussed the proposal to change to the minimum TOEFL score for admission into graduate programs. It eventually approved with one member against changing the unconditional admission to 550 on the TOEFL PBT, 80 on the TOEFL IBT or 6.5 on the IELTS and conditional admission to 525 on the TOEFL PBT, 70 on the TOEFL IBT or 6.0 IELTS. Students admitted conditionally would need to attend the English Language program and retake the TOEFL until they score 550 or above. Individual programs may set higher standards, especially for TAs. It is up to programs to determine the admission standards for specific programs. Strong English may not be as necessary in some of the technical fields. This change will allow for more applications and is consistent with many of UM’s peer institutions. The exact language is still pending. Chair Kinch will work with VP Whittenburg on the language and bring it back for the Council to consider. It would then need to be voted on by the Faculty Senate at the April meeting.
* Although the IDS certificate was approved by Graduate Council it was missing from the Faculty Senate consent agenda. It will be presented for approval at the March Faculty Senate meeting. Learning outcomes are still pending for BIOB 488, *Programming for Biology*.
* The Council will not meet next week.

## Adjournment

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