# Graduate Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2018, GBB 202, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

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

* The minutes from 1/31/18 were approved.

## Communication

* There are 116 Bertha Morton Applications. Departments will have the materials by Monday. Graduate Council members were sent the procedures to review.
* The Council discussed possible topics and times for the meeting with President Bodnar. If possible, the Council should meet with him before he makes any dramatic decisions. The Council could send a letter of introduction to open the line of communication and outline the Council’s concerns regarding Graduate Education and the current budget climate. He would like the University Planning Council (UPC to make actionable recommendations by the end of the semester, building upon the work of the SPCC and APASP. He will be chairing the UPC and has asked ECOS for nominations. It is likely that VP Whittenburg will also be on the UPC. He has been meeting with department heads. It was suggested that the Council develop talking points to keep in mind if UM is to become the premier research institution of the Northwest.   
    
  Preservation of TARA is critical to recruiting students. Expanding opportunities for out-of-state students could increase student enrollment. Graduate students make up 25% of the student body and therefore should receive a percentage of the resources focused on recruitment and retention, especially considering the growth in research. The President should be informed about the common elements of how TA’s and RA’s benefit programs. TA’s cost less than adjunct instructors and the lines must be preserved. The higher cost of graduate education is mitigated by the benefits. [A cost benefit analysis would be informative if numbers are available.]

Programs have grant funding opportunities to support graduate students that also contribute to other dimensions as well, including benefits to the state and university. Graduate programs provide career advancement opportunities and some graduates are starting local businesses (Media Arts). The President will need a general primer about the functions and structure of the graduate programs and the various feeder opportunities such as the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). VP Whittenburg and Associate Dean Kinch could provide this with the Graduate Council filling in specific examples.   
  
The ability of the institution to replace faculty involved in graduate program will have a long -term impact. As will increasing the teaching load of current research faculty. Requiring a minimum number of students for enrollment could weaken the ability to offer courses. The GPSA has data that graduate students are having difficulty getting the courses they need.   
  
Another concern is the FTE driven budget model. It does not adequately give credit for the additional time involved in mentoring graduate students.

Chair Ross will collaborate with Associate Dean Kinch on a letter to President Bodnar.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.