Members Present: Alex Lebedinsky, Carl Myers, Martha Day, Justavian Tillman, Mercy Ebuette, Eric Reed, Wes Berry, Ann Ferrell, Allie Crume, Laurie Branstetter, Richard Dressler, Kristie Guffey, Merrall Price, Scott Lyons, Chris Groves

Members Absent: Leyla Zhuhadar, Kirk Atkinson, Towhid Mahmood, Carl Dick, Dominic Lanphier, Amy Cappiccie, Clarissa Lightsy, Gabrielle Bradley, Divya Gangavelli, Molly Kerby

Guests: Sylvia Gaiko, Tony Norman, Danita Kelley, Laura Burchfield

1. Call to Order *Reed

2. Consideration of December 7, 2017 minutes (Appendix A)
   Reed/Dressler motion to approve; passed.

3. Graduate Enrollment Report (Appendix B)
   *Lyons reports we are down 85 students overall compared to this time last year. We are down 106 international students and up 21 domestic students.

4. Committee Reports
   a. Policy Committee: Admissions Policy (Appendix C)
      *Reed mentions there is no one to lead the Policy Committee.
   b. Curriculum Committee: Kirk Atkinson (Appendix D)
      *The report is accepted as presented.
   c. Student Research Grants Committee: No report; next applications due 31 January 2018
      *Wes reports there were twelve applications – most were fully funded and some were partially funded. They started this third submission cycle with about forty-nine thousand in the budget. There will be about twenty to twenty-five thousand after this third cycle.

5. Report from Dean of the Graduate School: Dean Scott Lyons
   *Lyons shared that the Graduate School’s typical practice is to look at what the department and college dean commits to. The Graduate School will typically match the lower amount. They were able to do a little bit more this year since there was a little more in the budget.
   *The graduate enrollment management software RFP is done. They have had the presentations
from the two vendors. Ashlee Tilford is in the process of scheduling a meeting for the RFP committee to reconvene. They will make reference calls and to speak with people who use these systems. Julie Harris and Scott Gordon want to be on reference calls and potentially visit banner schools who use the software. Lyons would like the contract signed by the end of the semester. *The new appeals process is underway. The appeals are being reviewed by the committee and Dr. Lyons.
*The first Lunch and Learn of the spring semester will be March 1st. The theme will be getting the job. The students will bring their resume and can review them with mentors from their college.
*The IMPACT speaker for spring 2018 will likely be a Tibetan Monk and his two protégés.
*The Graduate School newsletter has been sent out. Graduate Students, Administrators, Staff, and Graduate Coordinators should have received the newsletter. Lyons will also send it out to everyone on the Graduate Council. The third party platform had some issues with filters that had to be worked out.
*The Graduate School GA is working to create a summer magazine. It will be printed. It will be sent out to Alumni, Students, and campus.
*Lyons announced he had tried to keep the resident rate flat for next year since we are a little high on that side. His proposed tuition plan for next year was denied. There will be a three percent increase on resident and non-resident tuition. 
*The Program of Study is being sent for another round of testing. They are optimistic it should be ready in a week or so to begin testing in the Graduate School.
*Dressler mentioned SLP is looking at a centralized application. Lyons explains we cannot use that to replace The Graduate School application. Dressler liked the aspect that it might automatically calculate GPA in the system.
*Lyons noted that all they can award for graduate assistantships it what is in the index. He suggested doing more partial assistantships. He will hopefully know how much they will have to award in the next 2-3 weeks.

6. Public Comments
   *Dr. Norman will be attending Graduate Council for the rest of the semester as a guest.

7. Announcements and Adjourn
   *Reed makes a motion to adjourn