I. Announcements

a. Graduate Council Chair (Baumgarth)

The administration has agreed to a review the existing budget model by outside consultants, as requested by Academic Senate. Nicole together with former GC chairs, Kyaw Tha Paw U and Andre Knoesen and GC member Beth Levy met with the consultants to outline the challenges of graduate education funding in the current budget model. Nicole also shared the GTA proposal with the consultant.

A Strategic Planning Steering Committee, chaired by Chancellor May and Ken Burtis, has been formed to develop a 10-year strategic plan for the University. The steering committee includes representation for graduate education (Nicole and GSA representative Roy Taggueg). Contact Nicole directly for any ideas that should be brought up to the steering committee regarding strategic planning efforts.

b. Vice Provost and Dean Graduate Studies (Mohapatra)

Prasant has also met with the consultants reviewing the budget model and shared his thoughts on the financial challenges for graduate education at UC Davis.

There has been discussion regarding the proposed Senate tax bill and the effects it will have on graduate students. Lobbying is being done and UC Graduate Deans are also providing their thoughts to the legislators.

Graduate Studies is working on a temporary solution regarding payment as GSRs for the DACA graduate students. The University of the President and the deans are looking at a long-term solution to address this issue. The number of enrolled graduate students identified as “dreamers” is small.

Discussion regarding online degree program proposals will be brought up to Council at a later date.

c. Graduate Studies Associate Deans (Waterhouse & Delplanque) Not in attendance.

d. CCGA – Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (Hsu)
CCGA discussed the UC-Historically Black Colleges and Universities (UC-HBCU) Initiative Fellowship. CCGA is currently working to get the information out.

CCGA also discussed self-supporting degree programs and the review procedures.

e.  GSA – Graduate Student Association (Fogleman)
Elyssa provided the GSA updates. The second General Assembly meeting was held last week, the Chancellor was in attendance at this meeting. GSA has confirmed all committee positions for Graduate Students.

GSA would like to hear from the subcommittee chairs on what the expectations are for graduate students serving on committees. It was noted that students should feel empowered to provide their input during committee discussions for the committees they have been appointed to.

f.  PSA – Postdoctoral Scholars Association (Abdelfattah) Not in attendance.

g.  GSADC – Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean and Chancellor (Hope)
Jeanelle announced that Graduate Studies is planning to integrate a workshop within the existing Chancellor Seminar Series to learn about the structure of the University. This workshop might provide an opportunity to integrate information about the responsibilities and expectations for graduate students serving on the various committees.

II.  Consent Calendar 1:50 pm
    a.  Meeting Summary from November 3, 2017
    b.  Program Closure Nursing Science and Health Care Leadership
    c.  Program Closure Agriculture and Resource Economics
    d.  Program Closure Designated Emphasis in Translational Research

    **Motion to accept consent calendar: unanimously approved**

III.  New Business 1:55 pm
    a.  Educational Policy Committee (Gong)
        i.  International Agricultural Development Degree Requirements
            Discussion of a minor additional alteration to the degree requirements: The last sentence in the bullet point from Section 8a. does not seem to be applicable “Rigorous in approach (design, methodology, and analysis), but not as extensive as a Ph.D. dissertation.”

            **Motion to accept contingent upon removal of “but not as extensive as a Ph.D. dissertation.”**
Motion to approve degree requirements contingent upon GC recommended edit: unanimously approved.

ii. Environmental Policy and Management Degree Requirements

3. Course Requirement
Graduate Council recommends one additional minor changes to the description of course requirements.

Motion to approve degree requirements contingent upon GC recommended edit: unanimously approved.

b. Program Review Closure (Temple Lang) 2:15 pm

i. Graduate Group in Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Physiology
A brief overview provided by Duncan. The program has been overall somewhat responsive to the recommendation. For example, it met with Graduate Studies to rectify discrepancies in enrollment statistics. The program has discussed need for support with the Dean of CBS and will engage other Deans to discuss support for the Group’s efforts in the future.

PRCC recommends that the Deans and respective Colleges participate in the review of funding mechanisms and allocations made to the Graduate Groups by the Administration in the context of the strategic planning and budget review process currently ongoing. Graduate Council members noted the recurring issue that graduate groups face with the budget and at times the difficulty with identifying who should be providing funding.

The concept of lead-deanship could be discussed by GC in the future. It was recommended that this be done once the current ongoing budget review discussions by the administration have concluded. It was noted that Dean Winey (CBS) has already questions the validity of the model and instead favors a model in which allocations are made based on faculty participation and their affiliations to the various schools and colleges at UC Davis.

Motion to approve recommendation for closure: unanimously approved.

Action Item: Nicole will draft the GC transmittal letter.

ii. Graduate Group Study of Religion
Brief overview provided by Duncan. The reviewers noted that students in the program may face challenges with job placement due to the interdisciplinary nature of the graduate program. Graduate Council members were interested to learn alumni data can be made available to track the ability of recent graduates to find adequate jobs.
In response to the recommendations by the Program Review Committee the incoming Chair of the Study of Religion Graduate Group indicated that there are ongoing efforts to strengthen and to clarify the curriculum. Given these efforts, Graduate Council members were interested to learn what metrics of success are currently being used for enrolled students.

It was noted by PRCC that Graduate Council asked for an update to be submitted by May 31, 2018. Given that this was the first review for the program and given the ongoing efforts to implement the recommendations from the program review, PRCC recommends keeping the review open until the update report has been submitted. This would not impact the Graduate Group’s ability to submit revisions to bylaws or degree requirements per the Programmatic Changes Policy.

**Motion to accept PRCC recommendations: unanimously approved.**

**Action Item:** Nicole will draft the GC transmittal letter. It was recommended that the transmittal letter include the following:

- The Graduate Group should include alumni data on the update report
- The Graduate Group should include the metrics of success used for the currently enrolled students
- The transmittal letter should indicate that per the Programmatic Changes Policy the program can submit changes to degree requirements and bylaws.

iii. Animal Behavior

A brief overview was provided by Duncan. The main concerns with the review included issues regarding financial support, graduate student advising, diversity, core curriculum and training in advanced quantitative methods. The Program Review Committee noted in their recommendations that the Dean explore ways to provide common office space for all students in the program. It was noted that office space tends to be a recurring issue across other programs as well, and that this is something that should continue to be included in the transmittal letters and recommendations to the Deans.

**Motion to accept the recommendation to close the review: unanimously approved.**

**Action Item:** Nicole will draft the GC transmittal letter.

c. **Graduate Council Courses ICMS System Modification Request (Longo) 3:00 pm**

Margie Longo presented the request by the Courses committee that the complete approved course descriptions of all currently taught courses be made available to all UC Davis faculty and instructors involved in teaching.
Graduate Council members agreed that this is important information that faculty should have access to. The committee discussed whether this is something that should also be made available to students or open to anyone, if in line with university policy. Members indicated that making the information available to anyone would require more research to determine what the implications of doing this would be. In general, members agreed with the proposal presented and were in favor of making the course descriptions accessible to all UC Davis faculty and instructors.

**Motion that faculty and instructors have access to course proposal information:**
unanimously approved.

**Motion that course descriptions be accessible, if in line with university policy, to anyone:**

- 2 approved
- 5 opposed
- 4 abstain

**Action Item:** Nicole to submit request for access to the ICMS data to Academic Senate Chair, Goodhue for discussion by Executive Council.