I. Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting on May 9, 2012

II. Welcome and Introductions
   a. New Councilors
   b. New Graduate School Staff

III. Major Initiative Reports
   a. Hobson’s Apply Yourself
   b. Office for Diversity Initiatives
   c. Office for International Initiatives

IV. Discussion Topics
   a. Graduate Writing Initiatives
   b. Graduate Certificates and Masters Degrees: Program Surveys and GOA Plans
Welcome and Introductions
New Graduate Councilors

- David Tilley
  - **AGNR, Environmental Science and Technology**

- Michelle Rowley
  - **ARHU, Women's Studies**

- Laura Dugan
  - **BSOS, Criminology and Criminal Justice**

- David Inouye
  - **CMNS, Biology**

- Charles Delwiche
  - **CMNS, Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics**

- André Tits
  - **ENGR, Electrical and Computer Engineering**

- David Colon Cabrera
  - **President, Graduate Student Government**

- Lenisa Joseph
  - **EDUC, Special Education**

- Shelby Patricia Cooley
  - **EDUC, Human Development**
New GS Associate Deans and Staff

- Dr. Alexander Chen: AD for Academic Standards and Policies
- Dr. Mark Shayman: AD for Student Success
- Dr. Robert Steele: Director, Office for Diversity Initiatives
- Dr. Lee Thornton: Ombuds Officer for Graduate Students
- Dr. Michelle Brooks: Coordinator for GRAD PRO
- Katie Brown, Director: GS Information Center
- Kerry Lipitz, Assistant to the Dean, Special Projects
- Dr. Chuan Liu, Senior Faculty Advisor, China
- John McKee, Development Director
- Kim Pedersen: International Intern
- Dr. Arthur Popper, Senior Faculty Advisor STEM Initiatives
- Heather Blain Vorhies: Postdoctoral Associate, Writing Initiatives
Hobsons *Apply Yourself*
Graduate Admissions System

### Implementation Timeline

- **Implementation process begins** Spring 2012
- **GS completes core application** Summer 2012
- **College and programs complete supplemental applications Fall 2012**
- **Staff and faculty training** Winter 2012-13
- **Go “live” Spring 2013**
Creation of Data Catalogs

- September 2012: First Round
- October 2012: Second Round
Communication Pyramid

- Grad School
- Super User Advisory Group
  - Selected by GS
- College Representatives
  - Appointed by Deans
- Program Representatives
  - Appointed by Deans
Keys to Transition from MEGS

- Conduct gap analysis to determine critical functions in MEGS
- Maintain MEGS student module until alternative is in place
- Review needs for historical data
- Ensure ability to support scanned admissions files in Optix
Office of Diversity Initiatives
- Advance innovative, data-based, recruitment, retention, and support initiatives targeted to underrepresented minorities;
- Develop ongoing academic initiatives to encourage campus conversation on diversity in graduate education at UM and beyond.

GS Diversity Advisory Committee
- "Blue ribbon" panel of campus faculty and scholars with seniority and expertise.

Universities at Shady Grove
- Provide undergraduates at USG with tools to recognize benefits of graduate education, identify appropriate graduate schools and graduate programs, apply for admission and financial support, and succeed once enrolled.

AGEP: Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate
Collaborate with UMBC and UMB on NSF proposal for new iteration of PROMISE grant.
Chengri Ding, Associate Professor, Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Colleen M. Farmer, Assistant Dean, School of Public Health
Marisa Franco, Doctoral Student, Psychology
Sylvester James Gates, Jr., Professor, Physics
Sharon Harley, Associate Professor, African American Studies/History
Patricio Korzeniewicz, Professor, Sociology
David Mayo, Doctoral Student, Aerospace Engineering
Heather Nathans, Professor and Associate Director, Theatre
Siba Samal, Associate Dean and Chair, Veterinary Medicine
Leon Slaughter, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Saul Sosnowski, Professor, Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures
Terri Wright, Director, McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
International Research Fellowships

- Eight students, two faculty, five colleges: AGNR, ARHU, CMNS, CRIM, ENGR
- Six locations: Argentina, China, Egypt, Hungary, Israel, Norway
- $14,700 in GS funding (representing 1/3 of total funding for students)

University of Tübingen

- Collaborative Initiative in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science
- Other Potential Areas for Collaboration

University of Maryland China Task Force

- Task Force Mission and Objectives
Discussion Topics
Graduate Writing Initiatives
Charge to Task Force

- Map existing campus initiatives and resources and develop a set of recommendations for expanding and improving them.
- Recommend a plan that (a) helps graduate students with writing and (b) improves the quality of graduate student writing. The plan should (a) add value to students and programs, (b) be feasible with respect to organization and resources, and (c) remain fully responsive to disciplinary demands and differences.

Specifics

- Survey, analyze, and map existing campus initiatives.
- Survey initiatives at peer campuses for best practices and costs.
- Solicit input and from campus units and organizations, including student groups.
- Develop a three tier plan for initiatives at campus, college, and program levels.

Task Force Report

- [http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/faculty_staff/Grad_Council_Uploads/TaskForceReport_Graduate_Student_Writing.pdf](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/faculty_staff/Grad_Council_Uploads/TaskForceReport_Graduate_Student_Writing.pdf)
Drivers for Writing Initiatives

- Graduate students want programs to assist and improve their writing.
- Graduate faculty want programs to assist and improve student writing.
- Current available programs and help are limited and want enhancement.
- ESL and native speakers are large populations with different needs.
- We should address writing and writing process proactively to avert crises.
- Address discipline-independent writing issues, e.g., multiple genres.
- Address discipline-specific writing issues, e.g., rhetoric and vocabulary.
- Address motivation, planning, and time management issues.
Planning and Coordination of Coherent Program of Writing Initiatives

Large Lectures/Workshops on Broad Writing Topics

Website for Writing Resources and for Interactive Initiatives

Writing Center for Graduate Students (Facilitated Peer Groups)

Seed Grants for Colleges and Programs for “Best Practices”
College and Program Levels

- **Colleges**
  - Lectures/workshops on writing specific to discipline(s)
  - Mini writing centers for tutoring on writing specific to discipline(s)

- **Programs**
  - Writing intensive courses / writing assignments in core courses
  - Sessions on writing in colloquia for professional development
  - Seminar/workshop in writing specific to discipline
  - Guide to disciplinary writing
  - Peer writing groups
Graduate Certificates and Masters Degrees: 
*Program Surveys and GOA Plans*
Program Surveys

- Create taxonomy to facilitate strategic planning and the creation and development of new programs.

- Programs to identify characteristics and define objectives; this is *not* a program review or assessment.

- Programs to complete an online survey for each program code; approximately 20 questions, most closed.

- Collateral benefit: defining objectives will simplify GOA plans

GOA Plans

- Programs create GOA plans for masters degrees/graduate certificates.
- Campus GOA Committee will develop and implement process.
- GOA Committee will streamline previous doctoral GOA process.
- Masters/certificate GOA plans will differ from doctoral GOA plans.
- Masters/certificate GOA will also be biannual.
- Plans to be developed in AY 12-13 and used for AY 13-14.
- Tentative timeline: TBA, with plans due in Spring semester.
Thank You!