The October 2013 Graduate Council meeting was held November 1, 2013. The meeting was called to order by Juan Silva at 1:30 P.M. Silva asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dwight Hare, a long-time professor in the College of Education and a Council member who passed away suddenly on October 21. Silva also read A Resolution of Respect and Gratitude for Dr. R. Dwight Hare and asked members to sign it. The Resolution will be delivered to his wife.

The September 27, 2013, minutes were approved following a motion by Lara Dodds and a second by David Morse.

Report from University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC) Since Swortzel was not present, Silva called on Dodds to report on the M.S. and Ph.D. program modifications in Chemistry approved by UCCC. Dodds chaired the subcommittee that reviewed the proposals and reported that both are well done and provide clear rationale for the changes. She moved their approval and Scott Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Stephen Foster, Chemistry graduate coordinator, was present to answer questions.

Graduate Dean’s Report: Dr. Bruce
Bruce mentioned several aspects of her written report, which is attached.
- The Student Highlight focused on recipients of an NSF grant called INSPIRE that places graduate students in Geosciences, Physics, and Engineering with four area public schools where the students work with teachers and students.
- Graduate admission applications are down 37%, a large increase over one year ago. She discussed possible reasons for the steep decline, including the federal shutdown. She is in conversation with other graduate school deans about this trend.
- 3MT—the Three Minute Thesis competition is scheduled for the following week. Approximately 40 graduate students have applied.
- The name of the Financial Literacy program has been changed to Maroon Money Management. The state treasurer recently visited the Graduate School in support of this program.
- The Return on Investment Committee has met once.
- The Ethical Conduct of Research program had a lower attendance than expected, due in part to the weather that day, but around 20 graduate students participated.

Graduate Student Association (GSA): Vemitra White
No report.

Old Business:
Silva called on Morse, chair of the MS/PhD requirement committee. He reported that members are comparing actual program requirements with the graduate bulletin requirements at both the master’s and doctoral level.
They are also researching program requirements at other SEC schools. He expects the committee will have a report at the next meeting.

Certificate Committee
No report.

Silva recognized Bruce who asked Council to review time limits for Committee Participant and Teaching Participant appointments. Currently Graduate Faculty Levels 1, 2, and Associate hold five-year terms, while Teaching Participants and Committee Participants serve for two and three years respectively. She asked that Council consider approving the same term of five years to both Participant appointments or, if not five years, to approve equal-length terms. A five-year term would reduce the frequency of reappointments. The move is also logical, since most students do not complete their degrees within three years. Dan Reynolds moved to change the Committee and Teaching Participants terms to five years to be consistent with term limits for the other levels. Russell Carr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Silva announced that the next meeting will take place on November 22, 2013 at 1:30 PM in Allen 611.