Welcome
Bryan Porter led the meeting in place of Robert Wojtowicz, who was at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS).

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the Thursday, October 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

Announcements/Updates
Graduate Alumni Homecoming Reception. On Thursday, October 24, 2019 the Graduate Alumni Homecoming Reception was held at the Barry Art Museum. Guest speaker was Lamar Giles, an MFA graduate. It was suggested that attendance could have been higher had the event been hosted on a Friday and if faculty had proper notice. Further feedback is encouraged and can be directed to the Alumni Association or the Graduate School.

3MT Competition. The 3MT Competition will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm in the University Theatre. The reception will begin at 5:00 pm, and the competition beginning at 6:00 pm. Nine finalists will be competing. There are 90 people RSVPed to attend. RSVPs are still welcomed and can be done through the following link: http://bit.ly/ODU3MT2019. It was discussed that the date of the event is always dependent upon the University Theatre’s availability.

Spring 2020 GTAI Institute Registration. The deadline for submitting student names for the Spring 2020 GTAI Institute is Monday, December 2, 2019. Names can be submitted for students who still need to take the SPEAK test.

Catalog Reminders. Deadlines for course and curricular changes will be strict this year due to publishing delays for the Catalog in the past. Monday, December 2, 2019 is the hard deadline for course changes. Monday, December 9, 2019 is the hard deadline for curricular changes. It was asked that council members distribute this information to their colleges.

Advanced Degree Luncheon. The Advanced Degree Luncheon will be hosted on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 11:30 am in the Big Blue Room. Speaker recommendations should be sent to Missy Barber. Speakers must be students graduating in December. Council members will be sent invitations to attend.

Marketing Funds Update. In past years, the Graduate School has taken proposals for funds to support marketing efforts. This year, there is a refocus to provide funding in strategic areas. Rather than small amounts of funding being given to many people, large amounts of funding will
be given to a select few. Enrollment decline is linked to budget reductions.

Certificates & Credentials
Robert Doherty spoke on behalf of Renee Felts from the School of Continuing Education. There was discussion about nationally recognized credentials paired with graduate degrees making students more marketable in their field. Credentials focus on certain areas companies are looking for in industry. Some classes match up with industry credentials, and with an addition of non-credit courses, students can double dip and obtain a degree and credential. Associate Deans should be made aware of collaboration efforts. Additionally, the testing centers on campus are being retooled. Internal testing will be in one center, with the other being open to the public for credentialing. A credentialing center will be formed after the testing center switch in January.

SCHEV and Program Productivity
SCHEV has flagged programs not meeting productivity standards for full time equivalent (FTE) majors and grads. Data is suggested to be reported by ODU. Combined bachelor and master programs are treated separately, with Brian Payne in charge of bachelor programs and Robert Wojtowicz overseeing graduate programs. There was discussion around departments not meeting SCHEV standards having to justify their programs’ viability to SCHEV. Programs should pay attention to this data and use it as a tool, as it is suggested to increase graduate enrollment in upcoming years. Link to website: https://research.schev.edu/Productivity/232982/Old-Dominion-University.

Forms & Policies Committee
Master’s Degrees, Education Specialist Degrees, and Doctoral Degrees. University auditors noticed discrepancies in policy and practice. Language was added to make graduate program directors executive decision makers. Graduate program directors must still follow policy regarding transfer credits and cannot waive things outside of the degree framework. Paperwork processes are set in place to catch transfer credit limitations. Edits will be passed to faculty senate to put into catalog midyear.

Thesis & Dissertation Committees. The two policies were revised and written in the same order with the same content for ease of flow. Language was added regarding committee chair, emerti faculty, and approvals by committee. The difference in policies lies in that dissertation committees’ third member can be a non-University person. However, all committee members must be grad certified. There was discussion on grad certification and the process of the T3 form.

Faculty Pool for Dissertation Readers
Regina Karp introduced the issue of getting members for dissertation committees. There was discussion on what incentives do people receive for donating their time. Suggestions included possible publications, recognition by the department for tenure promotion, and the satisfaction contributing to student success. Members favored in creating a faculty pool to assist with the struggle of getting people from outside disciplines to participate on committees.

Meeting adjourned.