1. **Introductions**

Walt Loveland asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. **Approval of Minutes – June 3rd, 2010**

June 3rd, 2010 minutes approved with no corrections.

Martin Fisk commented on the minutes, #3, page 3, regarding a fix to the Banner system to properly identify who gets credit for advising. It seems that the capability for this fix is present, but that this would require substantial time and effort to input and check the data that is entered into Banner. Carolyn Aldwin responded that she used a BANNER feature when she was at the University of California and that the adjustment is not complex or difficult to implement. This issue will be reevaluated.

3. **Summer Actions**

Loveland reported that the Graduate Council (GC) participated in a large number of reviews during the summer. He praised the GC members for the work they have done. The Council’s work on reviewing the Category II proposals has brought praise from the university and he wanted to let the Council know that their efforts on this and other issues has been appreciated.

He informed the Council that Provost Randhawa was not pleased with the decision by the Entomology Program to not provide a self study for its Program Review. He directed the Graduate School to suspend admitting students to the program for now, until further notice.
Loveland presented his list of possible GC agenda items for the year. We have thirteen Category I proposals in the pipeline. More are being suggested. He then informed the Council that he had received an email from Dan Edge indicating that both President Ray and Provost Randhawa were in favor of the Category I proposal renaming Fisheries & Wildlife Department to Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Department and asking the Council what he needed to do to respond to its request for changes. Loveland replied to Edge that the Council would be happy to review his Cat I proposal but the re-submitted proposal should address the issues raised by the previous review.

5. Request for postponement of Public Policy Graduate Program Review
The Council then started a discussion regarding the requests for postponement of graduate program reviews, and discussed how such requests should be handled. Except for programs that are reviewed by external accrediting bodies, the only assessment of continuing program quality is the graduate program review. Loveland reported that Leslie Burns, President of the Faculty Senate, would like to see a revision of the guidelines to make sure that the required information is being used in the program review. Fisk indicated that the program review guidelines are being revised and will be presented to the Graduate Council soon for their review.

Fisk reminded the Council that the programs start getting reminders from the Graduate School five years in advance of their upcoming review year. Loveland pointed out that, although the program review process focuses on past performance, it provides key information for making forward looking decisions about reorganization and other changes that are needed. Ideally, much of the information should be provided by the Office of Institutional Research to reduce the record keeping and analysis needed by academic programs. Unfortunately, the Office of Institutional Research has had a hard time assembling needed data in a timely manner. A Director of Institutional Research will be hired soon. Interview candidates are most promising and a new hire should go a long way toward resolving this issue.

Nagwa Naguib will send a list of the site visit dates of the upcoming program reviews to the Graduate Council.

Brent Steel, Director, Master of Public Policy Program (MPP), was introduced to the Council. He asked the Council to approve a postponement of the MPP Program Review during the ninth year of its existence (first degree awarded was in 2003) as opposed to the eighth year. The Program is applying for membership to the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), a year after which they can apply with NASPAA for accreditation. He then asked for some leeway of one year for the above to be accomplished. He is waiting to hear back from NASPAA regarding their application for membership, and is hoping to know by October 15th. Although informal contacts suggest that the MPP Program exceeds the Association’s standards, a full accreditation visit will be required. He would
prefer holding the graduate program review the same year as the accreditation visit.

6. **Request of postponement of Zoology Graduate Program Review**

   Joe Beatty, Executive Associate Chair, Zoology Department was introduced to the Council. He presented the Department’s request for postponing the Zoology Graduate Program Review from Winter 2011 to Spring 2011. He indicated that this request is due to the fact that the department is currently involved in three faculty searches, two P&T cases, in addition to the reorganization in the Life Sciences. All these activities require a large amount of committee work.

7. **Discussion of 5 and 6 above**

   Theresa Filtz wondered why a postponement of a program review within the same academic year, should really matter to the Graduate Council. Couldn’t the Graduate School make the decision instead? A discussion regarding the criteria and principles for postponement followed and resulted in the following:

   **Principles for allowing postponement of Graduate Program Reviews:**
   1. When synchronizing within plus/minus one year with either professional reviews or accrediting body reviews; when and if requested.
   2. When eliminating the program.
   3. When reorganizing and a Category I proposal will be used to change the program. In this case a one year postponement will be approved and the Cat I must be submitted within that year. If the Cat I is not submitted, the review will take place a year from the originally scheduled date.

   It was also decided that the 10 year review cycle starts when the first student is enrolled in the program.

   The Graduate Council approved postponement of both the Zoology Graduate Program for a term (Spring 2011) and the Master of Public Policy Graduate Program for one year (2011-12).

8. **Accreditation**

   Loveland indicated that he is the Council’s representative on the Accreditation Committee. OSU is the first PAC-10 university to undergo this review by the NWCCU group, after the standards have been changed. We will be evaluated in three areas: undergraduate education, graduate education and research, and outreach and engagement. These areas are called the “Core Themes” of the University. We will be judged by certain “institutional indicators.” A request has been made to provide data for these indicators and assign a “grade” for each indicator/objective/Core Theme.

   The timeline for this review is:
   - Data will be given to the groups by October 15th;
   - Preliminary Review by November 30th;
• Report to the Accreditation Committee by December 15th;
• Accreditation Report to be submitted to the NWCCU by end of February 2011.

He then asked Council members their opinion on how to approach this process. Should the Council be divided in two groups, each group would review half of the objectives; or should the whole Council review all the objectives? We will need to define the expectations, and answer Objectives 2.1 & 2.2. The document will be short.

After a short discussion, the Council decided to dedicate meetings at the end of October or early November to work on the Accreditation project, as a group.

9. **Assessment:**
Gita Ramaswamy, Director of Assessment, presented the Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (GSLO) Based Assessment which she was charged by the Provost to lead. She, with a colleague, led this project at Purdue University.

She indicated that Assessment is the accreditation agency requirement. Assessment needs to be kept simple and meaningful. There is a tie between outcomes assessment and quality of graduate education if we focus on graduate students’ success. The most important reasons for dropping out of PhD programs are 1) Lack of mentoring; and 2) Personal reasons (family and cost). The Council of Graduate Schools has conducted major studies of problems with doctoral degree completion. Ramaswamy will forward information about the CGS studies to Council members.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 pm.