Dean William F. Tate called the meeting to order on December 11, 2017 at 1:04 PM, in the Graduate School Conference Room, Cupples II 221.

The committee considered and unanimously approved the minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

Report of the Committee Chair
Dean Tate opened his report summarizing the potential impact of the proposed tax reform on graduate education. He clarified that the most recent version passed by the Senate did not include tuition remission being taxed. Dean Tate reported that Washington University, along with other top institutions, has been lobbying against tax reform that includes the proposed taxation of graduate student tuition remission because of the enormous impact it would have on graduate education. Dean Tate further clarified that students are encouraged to contact their representatives.

Dean Tate then discussed funding recently awarded to re-examine doctoral education in the humanities and consider strategies and methods to rethink and improve PhD education in these fields. Additionally, based on recommendations made by graduate student groups, additional housing is nearly complete to bring students with a common interest from different programs together.

Report of Assistant Dean Ashley Macrander
Ashley Macrander, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Affairs, presented the current application for student representatives to Board of Trustees. Dean Macrander described the two-step application process, accessible on the ProGrads website which will open 1/16/2018 and close on 2/13/2018. Dean Macrander stated that when the application window closes, all documents will be made available to ProGrads committee members to prepare for interviews.
on 3/21/18. During the application cycle, the current representatives to the Board of Trustees (Catherine Hoyt and Ramin Lalezari) will host one information session at each campus during a lunch hour for interested students.

Dean Macrander then described that the Saudi Student Association was up to be considered for full student group status at this time. Dean Macrander reported that the Graduate Professional Council (GPC) voted for the Saudi Student Association to become a full group with the contingency that group membership had to extend beyond the Law School. At this time, more than 40% of the membership in the Saudi Student Association is from one school, and Dean Macrander proposed that this group remain with provisional status for one more year as they recruit members from other programs.

The committee voted unanimously to have the Saudi Student Association remain in provisional student group status for one more year.

**Report of the Graduate Professional Council President**

Jack Zhang of the School of Business, spoke as the new President of GPC. Jack discussed achievements of the GPC this past semester, which were focused on bringing students from different departments together through recreational and community service events. Jack clarified that the GPC aims to host weekly events, with one larger event per month. Jack reported that the GPC is planning to focus on bringing people of different cultural backgrounds together in the coming semester.

Jack closed with reinforcing that graduate students are currently communicating concerns regarding the proposed tax reform and disparities across departments in graduate student compensation.

**Report of the Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees**

Catherine Hoyt presented a summary from the Board of Trustees meeting in early December 2017. Catherine reported that a tuition increase was approved. Catherine discussed the search process for the new Chancellor, and that much of the most recent meeting was spent in small groups discussing qualities and characteristics that Trustees view as important in the consideration of a new Chancellor for Washington University. Catherine stated that to date, several listening sessions have occurred on the Danforth campus to get input from staff, faculty and students on what is important to consider in a new Chancellor. Dean Tate encouraged committee members to voice their opinion online or at future listening sessions.

**Review of NCHA Data**

Dr. Cheri LeBlanc, Director of Student Health and Wellness, presented data from the February 2017 National College Health Assessment Survey which looks at physical, mental and health behavior trends across campus. This online survey was sent randomly to 33% of students on the Danforth campus, with a total of 1,116 students responding (23%). The responses represented graduate and undergraduate students nearly equally (55%, 45%). Of those who responded, age varied widely (range: 21-60 years, mean: 22-30 years). International students represented 1/3
Dr. LeBlanc stated that 19% of graduate students reported working more than 40 hours per week, which may be a consequence of the wording of the question and may need to be improved for future surveys. Compared to national data, students at Washington University largely rely on the student health plan (~45% v. 77%). Perceived overall health has declined, from 95% to 85% reporting very good or excellent health from 2013 to 2017. Following national trends, graduate students at Washington University reported a slight increase from 6% to 9% in psychiatric concerns from 2013 to 2017. The top conditions that students reported being diagnosed with or treated for in the past 12 months included: anxiety (16%), depression (13%), insomnia (5%), panic attacks (4%) and ADD (4%). Panic attacks and ADD were reported more frequently among undergraduate students. Similar to the national data, students reported that in the past 12 months they felt overwhelmed/exhausted, very sad/lonely, overwhelming anxiety, hopelessness, and depression that made it hard to function with 8% reporting to have considered suicide and <1% attempting suicide. Over 50% reported having these feelings in the previous two weeks and 64% reported tremendous or overwhelming stress. Similar to national reports, students reported that the most stressful events in the past 12 months were related to academics, career, intimate relationships, sleep difficulties, and finances.

Graduate students reported that stress, anxiety, depression, sleep difficulties, relationship difficulties, and work had negatively impacted their academic progress. Just over 1/3 of students reported feeling that they had enough rest 5 out of 7 days in the past week. There was an increase in the report of verbal threats from 2013 to 2017 (9% to 15%) while reports of sexual violence (6%), abusive intimate relationships (8%) and stalking (4%) remained static.

Treatment for substance abuse increased significantly from 2013 (0.3%) to 1.4% in graduate students and 0.7% in undergraduate students in 2017. The substances used were alcohol, cigarettes, hookah, marijuana, and combined other drugs. Five percent of graduate students reported using stimulants. Students at Washington University sought mental health services slightly more than national reports; nearly 1/3 of students reported that they had utilized student mental health services while 88% indicated that they would consider seeking help in the future.

Dr. LeBlanc reported that more students are being reached through health promotion efforts than in the past, and students requested more information about sleep and nutrition. Student Health will be using this data to target programming and resources to the highest need areas.

Review of Graduate Student Housing Progress
Mary Campbell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Real Estate, reported on new housing initiatives. In 2016, a housing survey was sent to graduate students and the primary feedback was that graduate and professional students indicated a need for housing that would bring together people with similar interests from different programs. A new housing unit, Lewis Center, is
under construction and is intended to be a hub for students interested in arts and design. In addition, the old Shriners building is under construction to create additional housing options for students on the medical campus with a focus on entrepreneurship.

Additionally, 6679 Kingsbury is currently under construction to create 30 units that will include studios, 1- and 2-bedroom living spaces that will be available starting in August 2018 (the building and unites will be ADA accessible). Much of the construction is remodeling the interior of the building, creating public spaces such as a deck and common kitchen, and adding an elevator to increase accessibility. Pricing will become clear in the first quarter of 2018.

**New Business**

Due to time, Dean Tate moved for adjournment.

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine R. Hoyt
Rehabilitation and Participation Science