Dean William F. Tate called the meeting to order on October 18, 2017 at 3:01PM, in the Graduate School Conference Room, Cupples II 221. Dean Tate welcomed everyone and invited those present to introduce themselves.

The committee considered and approved the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting of the Professional and Graduate Student Coordinating Committee.

**Report of the Committee Chair**

Dean Tate spoke to the committee about the drop in international applications among the graduate schools, except for the Law School which saw an uptick in international student applicants. International student applications decreased significantly for Engineering and DBBS. This trend is a reflection of recent political discourse patterns; however, the Chancellor continues to articulate support for international students. This is essential given the political climate.

Mary Campbell will provide an update about the Lewis Center (a housing hub for students in design, art engineering, computer science, etc.) during the December meeting. The project is moving along and we are excited to offer this new opportunity for a living/learning environment for graduate and professional students at WashU.

**Report of Assistant Dean Ashley Macrander**

Ashley Macrander, the Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Affairs, gave a preview of the selection process for the Graduate Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees for the May 2018 – May 2019 term. She requested that committee’s involvement in getting the word out about applications. The candidate must be full time and in residence during the term and must be in good academic standing. The two-step applications will open in January and stay open until mid-February. Application criteria, and the application, can be found at [http://trusteegradrep.wustl.edu](http://trusteegradrep.wustl.edu). The committee will convene to review applications on March 1, 2018 from 4:00 – 5:00PM and will conduct interviews for selected candidates on March 21, 2018 from 1:30 – 4:30PM.
Dean Macarander also reported on two student groups that were recommended by the Graduate Professional Council for provisional status. Prior to the vote, she reviewed the requirements for becoming a university-wide graduate student group. WUSTL Ballroom and SGI Buddhists for Peace were approved unanimously by the committee for provisional status as well.

**Report of the Graduate Professional Council President**

Alan Zhang, president of the Graduate Professional Council, reported that GPC aims to focus less exclusively on social programming and this year has taken measures to increase civic engagement events. The GPC offered a “Bus Tour History of St. Louis” that had thirty available seats, and sixty students register. The group will likely repeat the event during the spring semester. GPC has also supported Graduate Student Senate’s legislative action call days, and sent postcards to Missouri Representatives and Senators in Washington, D.C. highlighting issues of import to the university’s graduate and professional student population. Upcoming events include: a Forest Park clean-up, 300 tickets to a Cardinals game with a pre-event mixer, and a Holiday Party hosted in collaboration with Sam Fox’s Parabola Art Show.

GPC is also unveiling a new podcast initiative called Gradcast. October 31 is the release date for the first episode and the podcasts will be distributed via the new Gradcast website, which is still under construction. The goal of Gradcast will be to focus on one central topic per episode and connect graduate and professional students across departments to discuss research and resources.

An emerging issue for graduate and professional students that GPC wants to highlight is the need for additional space on campus for collaborative study, student group meeting and events, and for social gathering.

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

Ramin Lalezari and Catherine Hoyt presented to the Board in October about what project they want to undertake this year during their tenure as graduate student representatives. The project will focus on interdisciplinary academic and non-academic opportunities, bridging the two campuses, and incentivizing students to work across campuses. Outlets for this activity could include classes that are comprised of students from multiple disciplines and research that brings people together to tackle issues from multiple different angles.

**Report of Student Affairs Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives**

James Parker reviewed the Second Annual Graduate and Professional Student Welcome. The Taste of St. Louis event was held in the Fieldhouse. Approximately 800-900 students participated, which was a little less than last year. This year, the event featured resource tables, food from local vendors, and provided students with an opportunity to engage across schools in a social setting.
New Business

Dean Tate identified the importance of ProGradS and how this committee has helped to introduce new initiatives to support graduate and professional students at WashU. Last year, ProGradS identified the need for embedded counselors for graduate and professional students. This year, a new counselor that will focus exclusively on graduate and professional students has been hired. Dr. Karolyn Senter has a background in serving graduate and professional students, as well as training in marriage and family counseling. She will be housed in Seigle Hall on the fourth floor near the RSVP Center and the Ombuds. She will be in place by the beginning of next semester.

Dean Tate called for ideas for new initiatives that the committee could take up this year. These ideas included:

- parking challenges (commuting to campus, red parking along Forsyth after 5:00PM,)
- potential space in the Cortex Building that could be used as collaborative graduate student study space,
- an assessment of community study space at WashU,
- centralizing information about all diversity and community engagement-related activities happening on campus.

Dean Tate adjourned the meeting at 3:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marina P. Gross