I. CALL TO ORDER:

Dean Susan Strehle called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. MINUTES

The minutes from the October 20, 2014 Graduate Council meeting were approved as written.

III. COMMITTEES

**Academic Standards Committee** This committee met on November 10, 2014. The proposal for the Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document was developed and was discussed more in depth under new business.

**Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research** This committee met on November 13, 2014. The call has gone out to submit proposals for new Organized Research Centers, an invitation coming from the Vice President on an annual basis. There is a proposal deadline of 3/1/15 for new ORC’s; ACSR will review the proposals in March and April. The guidelines for annual reports and budget requests from ORCs and Institute for Advanced Studies have been reviewed and approved by ACSR and have been distributed to ORC and Institute directors with a return deadline of 2/2/15. The Research Foundation makes $150,000 available to the graduate school to support graduate assistants in organized research centers and institutes, and applications for these Gas are due by December 12. Nominations for the Chancellors Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Research were due by November 25, and ACSR will discuss nominations at the meeting on Dec. 11. Two institutes and centers will be going through external reviews: the Institute for Intergenerational Studies and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities will be reviewed in the spring.

**Budget Advisory Committee** This committee has not met.

**Clark Fellowship Committee** This committee has not met.

**Curriculum Committee** The committee did not meet.

**Student Affairs Committee** This committee met three times, once on November 17th to review a grievance appeal to the graduate school. After the committee reviewed the documents, a vote was held and the department’s decision was allowed to stand. The second meeting was on November 19th to discuss the applications for the Binghamton Foundation travel grant; 15 applicants with ABD status recommended for the travel grant. The last meeting was on December 5 to discuss nominations for the graduate student excellence
awards in three different categories, teaching, research, service and outreach. The committee recommended 13 students for the research award, 4 for the service and outreach category and 14 for the teaching award.

**Strategic Planning Committee** This committee has not met.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

The current graduate student rights and responsibilities document was discussed along with a suggested document revised from a version on the Ohio State University website. GSO president Alison Coombs discussed the need for a set of clear guidelines to help graduate students understand what they can expect from their advisors; the document based on the Ohio State version lists responsibilities of the graduate student, the advisor, and the program.

The OIRA does an exit survey for completing graduate students, and in recent years, completing graduate students are more dissatisfied with advising across the university than they are with anything else. They write that it is hard to find an advisor; the faculty is so busy that it is difficult to persuade a faculty member to work with them, and getting timely feedback is not easy.

Concerns were raised regarding the document wording, the level of burden on program directors who should be providing yearly evaluations, and whether students could sue if they believed the program or the advisor had not met the responsibilities defined in the document. It was determined that the document should be sent to chairs and graduate program directors for their comment and response. The item will be reviewed and discussed again at the next meeting in February. A suggestion was also made to look at what other schools have on their websites for additional comparison.

The Psychology request for a change in program title from Cognitive Psychology to Cognitive and Brain Sciences was discussed. There were some questions raised about some of the wording within the document which Ralph Miller will be asked to clarify. Otherwise, the committee unanimously approved the document to go forward.

### V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

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Minutes recorded by Melissa Spencer,
Secretary to the Vice Provost and Dean
of the Graduate School