I. Call to order and taking of attendance
Present: Elaine Sanders, Terrence Hill, Min Wang, Kathryn Henderson, Nancy Membrez, William Land, Zachary Tonzetich, Judy Haschenburger, Andrea Aleman, Corey Sparks, Richard J Harris, Jianwei Niu, Ovidio Giberga, Stephanie Westney, Jeffrey Howard, Victor Villarreal, Jeff Ragsdale, Joshua Thurow, Allison Veach, Brian Davies, Fathali Firoozi, Ginger Hernandez, Michael Cepek, James McDonald, Wei-Ming Lin, Priya Prasad, Richard Gretz, Denver Brown, Nicolas Large, Juan Nino, Glenn Dietrich, Dakai Zhu, Alfonso Apicella, Arkangel Cordero, Hung Da Wan, Natasha Burns
Absent: Heather Trepal, Guadalupe Carmona, Angela Lombardi, Samer Dessouky, Amina Qutub, Byongook Moon, Kenneth Walker, Abraham Gibson, Pablo Requena, Andrea Aleman, Byongook Moon, Patricia Jaramillo, Alicia Swan
Visitor: Lynn Barnes, Rebecca Schroeder

II. Consent Agenda
- November 2022 Minutes approved with no discussion
- Special Membership approved with no discussion

III. Reports
A. Committee on Graduate Programs and Courses
   - MS in Multidisciplinary Studies
     - Jianwei Niu described the program and highlighted the demand for degree programs that fall outside of typical degree programs and allow for increased program flexibility; the new 30 hour program allows students to pair any two graduate certificates as part of the master's degree; the committee provided feedback and recommendations to improve the program proposal, and Dr. Niu indicated that the updated proposal addressed the committee’s comments
     - Graduate Council voted to approve the program
   - MA in Multidisciplinary Studies
     - Jianwei Niu described the program and highlighted the demand for degree programs that fall outside of typical degree programs and allow for increased program flexibility; the new 30 hour program allows students to pair any two graduate certificates as part of the master's degree; the committee provided feedback and recommendations to improve the program proposal, and Dr. Niu indicated that the updated proposal addressed the committee’s comments
     - Graduate Council voted to approve the program

B. Council Chair
   - No report

C. Dean of Graduate School
   - No report

D. Secretary
E. Committee on Graduate Program Evaluation
- Committee members are invited to attend program evaluation meetings in the Spring 2023 semester

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

- Lynn Barnes (Senior Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment) discussed efforts to improve graduate admission decision process
  - Lynne Barnes will share presentation information/slides with Graduate Council
  - Summarized recent graduate application changes (launching UniCas application, admissions processing staff and operations moved to Strategic enrollment, and graduate recruitment staff and marketing moved to Strategic Enrollment) and initiatives
  - Summarized activities/data related to the master’s decision process
    1. Activities based in part on student survey responses (2021 Plexuss graduate student recruitment report). Findings:
       a. Preferred class format is hybrid, followed by online, followed by classroom
       b. Graduate applicants expect immediate engagement, with most expecting inquiry/contact response within one day
       c. Greater than 80% of students will enroll at the first university that admits them
       d. Majority of students expect notification of acceptance within 13 days
    2. At UTSA:
       a. The average of days in college review is 30 (range of 40 to 24 days across colleges)
       b. Goal is to minimize decisions (to enroll in graduate programs at UTSA) away from summer months
       c. ~66% of master’s students admitted are enrolling
       d. Majority of denials (not enrolling) have GPAs >3.0
    3. Moving forward, Strategic enrollment would like to work with programs to determine where Admissions staff can make decisions without sending them to reviewers, suggesting that with a well-defined rubric, we could reduce the time from application to decision to less than one week
  - Comments/questions regarding admissions from Graduate Council:
    1. UTSA can do a better job of integrating information about funding into the application process, including funding opportunities for master’s students
    2. It would be helpful to get survey data from doctoral applications/admissions
    3. Regarding the automated decision-making process, for the programs that have provided criteria, automated decisions processes will be implemented immediately
    4. There are concerns about the flexibility in implementing automated decision making processes and concerns that having an automated decision making process does not allow for a holistic review approach
  - Additional discussion regarding MS and MA in Multidisciplinary Studies
    1. The committee viewed the programs as useful and practical, depending on coursework/certificates that students select
2. Some concern about lack of thesis requirements, but this requirement is highly dependent on degree and field
   • At the next Graduate Council meeting, we will have a discussion about unfunded doctoral students

VI. Adjournment