Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting were approved.

Mental Health Issues for Graduate and Professional Students Presentation by Dr. James Cox, Director of the University Counseling Center
Dr. James Cox reported on the mental health concerns of our graduate and professional students and on the programs that the Counseling Center offers to them. He provided data on the reported reasons for student (including undergraduate) visits over the past three years. The most common reported concerns from graduate students are relationship issues, depression, and anxiety. Approximately 20% to 25% of all student appointments are with graduate students. There are no limits to the number of visits that a student may seek and emergency appointments are available daily. The Counseling Center runs a Graduate Student Support Group and a Dissertation Support Group. Alternatively, graduate students with University provided health insurance may seek mental health services outside the University.

Dr. Cox provided members of Council a publication entitled “Faculty and Staff Guide for Helping Distressed Students.” It is designed to provide a tool that might be useful as a first step when a problem or question arises in working with a student. It provides some initial steps that might be helpful until a referral or consultation can be arranged through the Counseling Center. In particular, the handbook covers depression, substance abuse, anger, grief, and other concerns.

Proposed modification of University Policy 09-02-01 Assessment of English Language Proficiency for Admission
Vice Provost Beeson presented the two revisions to this policy. The first is simply that the reference to the Computer-based TOEFL test is out of date. This test was last administered in September 2006 and test scores are valid for two years. The second revision is to define another basis for assessing that the applicant has the required proficiency.

There was a motion made to accept the two revisions. The motion was seconded. All present voted in favor of the motion.
Example of International Collaboration: GSPIA and Kobe University
Vice Provost Beeson explained that the academic requirements for joint degree programs with international institutions can typically be developed using the credit transfer policy stated in Regulations Governing Graduate Study. For this reason Council typically does not review joint degree programs with international institutions.

The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs has been working on a joint degree program with Kobe University in Japan. Vice Provost Beeson invited Dean Keeler and William Dunn to provide Council an overview of the steps that they took to develop this program.

Dean Keeler explained that GSPIA’s main motivation for the collaboration was to be able to offer their students the opportunity to earn a certificate from Kobe University. Conversely, Kobe was exclusively interested in a joint master’s degree program. The current proposal provides options for students to transfer credits earned from their home institution towards either a certificate or a master’s degree at the host institution. Three factors were essential to the successful development of this proposal. Both programs share common curriculum objectives and characteristics. Institutional agreements with Kobe on funding arrangements were established. Most importantly, long-standing relationships that preceded the discussion of the proposal provided the shared motivation to develop the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting of Council will take place in fall 2009.