Pam Person and Cara Picket with the **Office of Nationally Competitive Awards** discussed their role as a resource for both undergraduate and graduate outstanding students wishing to compete for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships. Some of the awards require students to make direct application through their office, the Fulbright being one of those. The Fulbright and the Fulbright-mtvU Award is a wonderful opportunity that allows graduate students to study abroad in over 150 different countries. This is open to students in any discipline and can be done at various times throughout their educational career. A second significant scholarship opportunity for the STEM fields is the NSF Graduate Fellowship. This is due early fall of the first year of graduate study. We will provide programs with template letters recommending these fellowships to students at the time you OFFER admission, so there is ample time to prepare and apply for these awards.

Their website [http://www.uc.edu/nca.html](http://www.uc.edu/nca.html) lists many awards. The awards are not separated by undergraduates/graduates, but it’s not that difficult to sift through them. Also, awards are fairly evenly distributed among both undergrads and grads. Dr. Hanson reiterated that graduate programs are greatly under-utilizing the NCA office and the awards, and stressed the need to take advantage of these opportunities for our graduate students.

While perusing the website, if you note missing awards please let Pam know. Also, there is an opportunity to learn more to help your own students apply by sitting on the Fulbright committee.

The National Institute of Health is mandating that students must have Individual Development Plans and that Institutions must have a defined process in place to generate those IDPs. The Graduate School is working on trying to make IDP’s more generically available, and not just for Medicine & Life Sciences.

NSF has renamed **IGERTS to be NSF Training Grants (NRT for short)**. These are large, institutional awards to train students, and are highly competitive. The Grad School wishes to work more closely with those groups applying to NRT to support the grad student training portion.

There is a new opportunity via the **Professional Science Masters** for science majors. It is a new national movement that connects STEM degree programs with Industry partners to simultaneously develop professionalism, entrepreneurship, management, and innovation that industries really need. The Grad School is looking to start a few at UC. If interested please let Dr. Hanson know.

It was brought up that a lot of the money that comes through **UC International** goes towards students that sign up for courses that are 2-3 weeks abroad. These are generally undergraduate students because Graduate students can’t take or need those classes. If Graduate students want to go abroad for research they can’t get the money. This topic needs further discussion. – follow up: Dr. Montrose and Dr. Hanson have a meeting with UC International in November to discuss this.

The Graduate Student Poster Forum will be held March 6th and the name has evolved. The new name will be Graduate Student Exposition and Poster Forum. The Poster Forum name will drop off
in another year or two. The Grad School would like to broaden this event to the larger graduate student body and the UC community. Right now it is heavily based in the sciences, a little social sciences, some CECH, a little architecture and some art over the last few years. We want to make it more interesting to the community. Dr. Hanson spoke with CCM and English and they are considering presentations (perhaps playing music and/or reading poetry, etc). If you have other ideas about how to expand and engage students not typically represented at the poster forum, please let us know. The poster portion will need to be somewhat limited to allow for room for students from other programs. Megan Tischner is the contact person for the Expo & Poster Forum.

**New Student Information System:**
There are a few programs right now that do not have either a P1 or an M1. This is ineffective and means we may not be doing graduation properly with those programs, e.g., guessing at the number of credits that particular program requires for the degree. The old (current) system will be shutting down in the near future. Please get your P1’s and M1’s updated soon because that data will be moved in to the new information system.

**Timeline for Catalyst:**
- The first module will be admissions related and will be coming out in May 2015; everyone in the campus community will have to use it to get to geographic information. This will be used for Fall of 2016 (admissions before Fall 2016 will be done the current way). There will also be a student information system portal that will be available in May 2015.
- The second module, in October 2015, will include student records/enrollment, academic advising, degree audits, student financials, mobile enhancement for course and class search.
- Lastly Financial Aid will be coming out in January 2016.

The Graduate School staff will be very busy during those times. Please be patient with us.

**Graduate Recruitment Weekend** – (March 5-7, 2015) this year will be done the same way it has been done in years past and occur during the expo & poster forum. The Graduate School will be rolling out some strategies to broaden it to include programs that have not historically participated in GRW. The Dean (Chip) offered 8 midlevel-ranked PhD programs some money for reimbursable expenditures on recruitment costs. He has asked the programs to use the money to come up with improved recruitment ideas to attract stronger students. In 2016, GRW will no longer take place in a single weekend. Programs can offer various events when most useful, including together if they wish. Since opportune times for recruitment are different for different programs, this will allow individual programs to recruit when it is best for them.

**Grad Program Review:**
Changes are being made to the Graduate Program Review process. The Grad School is revising forms and an online process has been developed that should ease the process. Four programs are being reviewed this academic year. Two of those programs will be using the new online process. If you would like to see the schedule for your program that goes through 2021 go to: [http://grad.uc.edu/content/dam/grad/docs/Forms_Staff/GPR_Schedule_2015-2021.pdf](http://grad.uc.edu/content/dam/grad/docs/Forms_Staff/GPR_Schedule_2015-2021.pdf).

**Graduate School Staff were introduced:** Amy Robinson, Virginia Dennis, Ming Li, Megan Tischner, Samantha Ball, Carol Gundrum, Emily Kregor, Chris Amann and Jean Shelton were present.