Dr. Hanson’s Presentation:

- **Fees – you can cover any (except ITIE) or none:**
  
  When the Graduate School disburses money for tuition awards, you can use that money to pay any student fees you like except the ITIE fee. You can choose to pay for any of the other fees you want or you can choose to pay none of those. I wanted you to be aware that we do not manage the money we disburse at this level and that you have that choice.

- **Fees – student perspective:**
  
  Even though fees are not decided upon by your program or by our office, I wanted you to know fees have been rising. Students have felt a pinch, because fees have risen while stipends stay about the same. Graduate Student Government Association (GSGA) is putting together a fee-awareness campaign to inform students about the fees and how they break down. In addition, GSGA president will put this information together and talk to Provost Davenport about the rising fees. The goal is to explore whether there is a way that more money can be allocated to graduate students from the budget to offset this cost.

- **Professional Development program:**
  
  Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) – We are expecting it will continue to grow, and because of this we may need to create a new business model for the program. At our first workshop/information session, 50 students attended. This many people cannot be put through the program each year, as we only have one class in the fall and one class in the spring. It may be possible, but very difficult to increase the student load in the fall class, as Dr. McClung takes students on multiple trips to local universities to give perspective on what it is like to be faculty at different types of institutions. Pamela Baker has a teaching effectiveness course in the spring, and they work very closely together, so she could definitely not handle this load. At the very most, she could do maybe 25 – 30 (though that would be very difficult, as well). Additionally, keep in mind that students do not need to be in PFF to take these courses (though it is recommended).

- **Graduate Association for Teaching Enhancement (GATE):**
  
  Graduate students have organized into this group designed to help provide information and instruction on innovative teaching methods, professional development, and the opportunity to network. They hold very popular workshops. One is called “Teach Me to Teach” (helps Graduate Assistants develop skills to teach undergraduates) and another is “Get Up and Go” (offered at the start of the school year for Graduate Assistants) – fill in 24 hours. Because this is student-led, it has been very effective. The Graduate School supports GATE financially, but students organize everything. You may want to recommend the workshops to your students in teaching roles or who aspire to teaching roles.
• **Professional Development Institute (PDI):**
  I’ve been helping teach a class on Career Professionalism and skill development graduate students can use for success in graduate school and in any future careers, including careers outside of academia. This is the first time the course was offered. Students had to apply to join the course, and 8 students are participating in the inaugural course. Our class has a very close working relationship, and we cover topics like conflict management, negotiations, effective oral presentations, project management from start to finish, time management, and **Elissa Yancey** will even be presenting.

We will also offer this course in the spring and cap enrollment at approximately 25 students. Our hope is to eventually offer multiple sections. Officially the course is taught through Professional Practice & Experiential Learning (**ProPEL**). Because I’ve developed all the modules, **ProPEL** can add new instructors for future and additional sections. I would be willing to give workshops and share these modules. This course is very broad, because it’s designed to help students of any discipline. You may consider doing something like this specific to your discipline. A few programs already do this. **Dr. Hairong Guan (Chemistry)** was at a conference that discussed helping students to be developed as more than researchers or academics.

• **Dr. Hairong Guan:** The **American Chemical Society Presidential Commission** committee’s **report** recommended that every graduate program should have a ‘life after graduate school’ course to prepare students for careers after graduate school. In Chemistry we have met this goal. We teach students how to write resumes, we teach interviewing skills, give examples of various career tracks, we outline expectations and we tour companies. It is also recommended every grad student have IDP (**Individual Development Plan**). The IDP helps to assess where a student is, student strengths and what is needed need to complete student goals. It should be noted, that the IDP best geared toward scientific disciplines. Students should use the IDP once a year, since ambitions may change.

• **Award Announcements:**
  We will now announce our competitive awards (Yates, Doctoral Dissertation Award, McNair Scholars award, UGA awards) a lot earlier. We have pushed everything up a month or two. This will allow you to make offers more quickly
Dr. Zierolf’s Presentation:

- **Two Items relating to Interdisciplinary Research:**
  - PhD in Sustainability: There is a 10-person committee working to develop this program with members from colleges ranging from DAAP, COM, A&S, and CEAS. This will be a Graduate School degree because it should have a consistent college year-to-year. We checked how PBB will work and there’s no impediment. The Graduate School won’t get money from PBB for this. Hope to have to RACGS by sometime mid-winter.
  - Research Directory: The sequel to e-professional is much easier to use. UCIT is helping to make one for graduate students. It will collect basic student info from Data Warehouse and will allow students to build and update their research profiles. It will mirror the faculty version. This will help students who need experts outside their area connect with each other with less difficulty. If you have not already done so, you may also want to review your listing on the faculty version, to make sure it is up to date.

- **Notes on University Graduate Assistantships (UGA):**
  - The amounts for UGA will be given to your College in early December. Depending on how your college determines how much is distributed to programs, you will know by the end of this term how much your program is able to distribute in assistantships.
    - Graduate Assistant Scholarships (GAS)/Graduate Incentive Award (GIA) amounts will be sent to your college in early to mid-February. The reason we cannot give this amount sooner is that these scholarship dollars are based on previous year actual dollar numbers, and these numbers will not be able to be assessed until the spring semester actually starts.
  - Student work hours relative to the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Domestic students can work a max of 24 hours/week at UC, and International students can work a max 20 hours/week. However, remember to note the maximum amount a graduate assistant can work in the UGA appointment is 20 hours/week. If graduate assistants hold another position and hold a 20 hour/week appointment with you, this means they can only work 4 hours/week in the other position. Hours are done on weekly average, so if exceeded one week, the GA must work fewer hours another week.
    - Our business office is devising a way to monitor the number of hours worked. The UC business team added a new section to the PCR (personnel change request) for graduate assistants, and you will have to add hours worked (20/week; 40/pay period). This enables us to notify and warn you if a student is in danger of exceeding the allowed averages. Whoever processes PCRs will enter the hours.
  - International Recruiting:
    - Xiamen University will send Ph.D. students to UC (Xiamen will pay the stipend) and master’s students (Xiamen will pay tuition and living expenses). Students will need to be accepted by you, of course. The school is interested in sending students for Engineering, Art, and Music (we are not sure how specifically they are defining program areas).
• The Chongching agreement will eventually yield grad students, but this will be down the road.

• **Additional Recruiting Efforts:**
  o The Graduate School had a McNair Scholars event recently to recruit these high-achieving students and to encourage them to go to graduate school. The event included McNair Scholars from UC and other schools. We do have a McNair scholarship to attract these students, and the application fee is waived for McNair Scholars.
  o We are working with the College of Medicine and CCHMC for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program.

• **Major initiatives to be aware of:**
  o Graduate Student Housing:
    We are finally getting traction on the idea. There have been a couple meetings; looking at Scioto. Also, GSGA officers have prioritized this. The GSGA president is on President Ono’s Cabinet. She is very positive and confident, and she will be working to push this issue. Mary Beth McGrew, the university architect, is very in favor of graduate student housing. UC continues to grow in graduate student numbers, and the primary need to have housing on campus set aside for graduate students and family housing is also growing.
  o **Want to give a substantial increase in graduate stipend amounts:**
    We want not just to distribute more money at the college level, but to give a “raise” in the individual stipend amounts. Over the past 5 years, students have only been given a total raise of 2% despite the fact that student grad student enrollment has ballooned.
  o **There is a new director of the UC foundation, and he is very active and interested in working with us on our initiatives, especially the following:**
    • **To name the Graduate School.** This will help to buffer some budget cuts, subsidize housing and insurance, etc. It also helps to really brand our programs and to make us better known. Some possibilities have been brought up and are being discussed.
    • A way to have a **substantial program for recruiting Underrepresented Minority Students (URM).** The Yates Scholarship doesn’t actually have much money. It is not funded through endowment, but is done through the Graduate School budget.
**QUESTIONS:**

**Q:** Would housing include post-docs and visiting scholars?

**A:** For post-docs, we haven’t visited this point yet, but it has been brought up. It would help to ensure buildings given to us could be filled, which is a point that could help us acquire a building.

In regard to short term housing for visiting scholars? It would be better to work with Bill Ball jointly on this.

**Q:** What sort of current restrictions are there on stipend amounts?

**A:** For stipends from funds that originate from the Graduate School (UGA awards), the current minimum is $14.93 hourly. Sponsored Programs may have their own restrictions and requirements.

**Q:** There has been an increase in paying students from various regions around the world. With the way that PBB works, does any of this money go through the Graduate School so that it could be paid back to the program?

**A:** No, the money generated from these students is not routed to the Graduate School. In fact, PBB is a college-based budgeting practice. The colleges may have different methods determining how to distribute PBB revenue.

**Q:** What about balance of revenue generation/high standards? Some of us are feeling pressure to admit revenue generating students who may not be ready.

**A:** The Graduate School does not encourage deciding admission requirements on a perceived need to take fee-paying students. It is a slippery slope and if you are pressured, you should resist the pressure, and you can refer back to Dr. Zierolf on this matter. Within the Graduate School, program performance is measured based on data we give programs and data collected by Caroline Alikonis. Dr. Zierolf goes through the grad report from college, if he were to see that GRE scores were very low or yield rates were very high (selectivity index), he would deal on individual basis. Program performance is not looked at in larger respects until an external review is conducted.

**Q:** Is it a policy of the grad school that if there is national accreditation for your program, you’re expected to become accredited?

**A:** Not a policy, but a good idea. We do take note, but don’t require.

**Q:** For programs that have substantial international research and education presence, what is the role of faculty to recruit? Could the Graduate School in some way subsidize this?

**A:** We certainly recommend that faculty presenting or researching abroad take an extra day or so to set up a recruiting mechanism, whether it be formal recruiting, a seminar (which does not have to necessarily be heavily academic) or some other measure. This will help with attracting a captive audience and, of course, faculty are best equipped to discuss their own research. The idea of the Graduate School in some way subsidizing the extra day (paying for one extra night/day of costs), is an interesting idea, and something we will look into.
Q: Students want to know what to do now that the health exchanges are open. Should they keep the UC insurance or shop on the exchange?
A: ***Based on this question, Grad Currents will soon have a feature article that highlights the information below. Grad Currents is sent to all graduate students. ***

Essentially, nothing has changed for students. Insurance acquired on exchange would still have to meet all UC requirements to qualify for insurance waiver. The landing page for Student Health Insurance addresses the waiver question. Students should remember that if they are enrolled for 6 or more hours, they are auto enrolled.

Students should keep in mind that while the UC policy may seem expensive when looking at the number for a semester basis ($930/semester), students should compared this amount to the monthly premium rate of anything they see on the exchange (If a student has the UC policy for a full academic year, the cost is $1860/year, which equates to $155/month). Also students with UGAs should remember to take GSHI into account if they qualify for GSHI – this lowers the cost by $525/semester (or $1050/year – which brings the total to $810/year or an equivalent of $67.50/month if comparing a monthly premium).

Students who have been utilizing spouse/dependent coverage, which is quite expensive through UC, may want to see what is available on the exchange (if applicable). There is no waiver requirement to use a non-UC policy for spouse/dependent care.