I) President Devin Driscoll called the meeting to order at 5:44pm. Approximately 60 people in attendance.

   i) Welcome from President Driscoll—introduction etc.

   ii) Introductions of new Exec members, description of exec roles and welcome for new COGS reps.

   iii) Introduction of Louise Hamer (COGS Administrator) and explanation of her roll.

II) Motion to approve agenda—approved unanimously.

III) Motion to adopt minutes from last GA Meeting (April 20, 2010)—approved unanimously.

IV) Explanation of restructuring of COGS, including new Exec and new committees (GEC).

   i) The Director of Events and Co-Director of Events are new COGS executive position.

   ii) The Graduate Education Council (GEC) is a new graduate education committee that replaces the Policy and Review Councils.

      a) Jared Call and Kimi Johnson were elected in April as the graduate student representatives to the GEC.

      b) There is now a third graduate student seat on the GEC. Devin appointed Pamela Weisenhorn over the summer, and asked for the General Assembly to ratify her appointment.

         (1) Pamela’s appointment was approved by acclimation.

V) Devin introduced the concept of college delegations and described how this will work in future meetings. Discussion and questions from reps.

   i) The COGS representatives from colleges and administrative units will form delegations.

      a) These delegations are expected to meet and discuss intra-college issues.

      b) Each delegation will elect one or two people to act as COGS points-of-contact within the College or administrative unit for both students and administration.

   ii) Devin will attend the October 11th Twin Cities Deans Council meeting to describe the COGS college delegations and introduce the delegation representatives.

VI) The General Assembly broke into delegations and chose representatives:

   o Academic Health Center: Kathy Nelson – Medicinal Chemistry
VII) Discussion of Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) by Devin Committee on Institutional Cooperation.
   i) Roughly the Big Ten plus the University of Chicago, the CIC exists for “sharing expertise, leveraging campus resources, and collaborating on innovative programs”
   ii) There have been discussions about creating a graduate student consortium within the CIC.
   iii) Devin is reaching out to his peers in the other CIC schools.

VIII) Other Appointments
   i) Devin called for anyone interested in appointment to the University’s Bologna Advisory Group and Student Affairs Student Advisory Board to contact him.
   ii) Provost Sullivan appointed Devin and Ben Fink (COGS VP for University Relations) to the Financing Graduate Education Task Force, which will begin meeting October 21, 2010.

IX) Melody gave report committee appointments:
   i) College Committees:
      a) Melody Hoffman (Executive VP of COGS) thanks CLA representatives for answering call to fill in CLA committees over the summer via email. She put out calls for the remaining options to serve:
         (1) One spot for CLA assembly
         (2) One spot for course review committee
         (3) One spot for student conflict resolution center advisory board
         (4) CSE has only mentioned one committee that needs grad reps: two spots for the library advisory board.
      b) University-wide Committees:
Council of Graduate Students  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 29, 2010  
The Whole, Coffman Memorial Union

(1) One Stop Student Services  
(2) Portal 3 Student Advisory Board  
(3) Parking and Transit Student Advisory Group  
(4) Stadium Advisory Committee  
(5) Student Legal Services Board  
(6) Student Tuition Advisory Board (NB: after the meeting COGS was informed this committee no longer exists)  
(7) Graduate Advising Workgroup  
c) Melody asked those interested in joining a committee to contact her ASAP.

X) Louise updated on the COGS office location transition to 303 Johnston Hall, complete with meeting space/conference room

XI) Policy committee updates

i) Mandy Stahre (Past COGS president) reported on the Graduate Policy Review Committee:
   a) Committee is discussing a leave-of-absence policy, which would permit graduate students to take a one-year leave-of-absence and return to their graduate program without having to reapply to the graduate school.
   b) The Committee is also proposing a change to the University policy to include health insurance as a standard benefit for graduate assistant positions. While this is common practice, there is concern that some colleges might not honor this practice in the absence of a policy.

ii) Devin reported on the Graduate Education Council:
   a) Setting a University-wide standard for who can be on examining committees. Current practice varies between programs.

XII) Old business:

i) Mandy reported on Graduate Student Biennial Survey:
   a) Conducted last spring, the survey data is currently being analyzed by a team of COGS volunteers.
   b) General report by the end of October, with detailed reports to follow

ii) Devin discussed the release of the NRC “ranking” data.
a) Noted the institution comparative data was significantly outdated – turnover of nearly 500 faculty members since data collected, and, given faculty productivity was one of the most significant weighting criteria, this would have a profound effect on current standings.

XIII) New business

i) Open forum

XIV) Devin entertained a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:50pm—unanimously approved.