I. Approval of the April 24, 2014, Minutes

II. Program and Curricular Changes (PCC) Report (Dr. Brian Ackley reporting)
   A. Course Changes: SOC 810, SOC 811

III. Old Business
   A. Update on Classics BA/MA report to CAC (see addendum)
   B. Update on correction to Course Change ABSC 891 (to ABSC 981)

IV. New Business
   A. Many thanks to our 2014 outgoing members: Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Paulyn Cartwright, Abbie Hodgson.
   B. CGS Chair Election

I. Approval of the April 24, 2014, Minutes
Others in attendance: Tara Welch (CLSX), Kristine Latta (COGA), Cindy Lynn (COGA), Jim Mielke (ex-officio)

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stanislavova at 11:06 a.m.

Minutes
A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 10, 2014 minutes of the Committee on Graduate Studies, as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Proposals, Awards, and Scholarships (PAS) Subcommittee
(Dr. Paulyn Cartwright reporting)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Classics Combined BA/MA Track proposal with the following friendly amendments to be incorporated by the department and forwarded to CAC and Executive Council. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Cartwright introduced Dr. Welch, who responded on behalf of CLSX to questions from the CGS regarding the Classics proposed new BA/MA Track.

- Department will change the word "co-requisite" to "pre-requisite" everywhere it appears in the proposal. This is to make it clear that these should be completed before the fifth, graduate year of study.
- Build in a review during the 4th year to ensure the student is on track to complete the 24 graduate hours in the final two semesters.
- Make it clearer that 6 thesis hours are part of the required 24 hours of coursework.

Dr. Cartwright also reported on the Mentor, Thesis Award Competitions. The Thesis Award winners have been notified. The announcement for the Mentor Award winners is pending notification by Prize Patrol.

Policies and Student Petitions (PSP) Subcommittee
(Dr. Byron Caminero-Santangelo reporting)

Highlights from the Dean's Charge Report on Time to Degree and Degree Completion will be presented at the upcoming DGS workshop luncheon.

Report of the Program and Curricular Changes (PCC) Subcommittee
(Dr. Brian Ackley, reporting)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation from the subcommittee for curricular changes to the following new courses. The motion was approved unanimously.

A. Curricular Changes:

1. New courses: HA 720, HA 760, HA995
Old Business
(Ms. Cindy Lynn, reporting)

CGS/CAC recently approved a new course POLS 704. The committee was informed of a minor editorial change required to meet catalog requirements.

New Business
(Dr. Kristine Latta, reporting)

The CGS chair will be elected by the sitting committee at the next meeting. Dr. Stanislavova welcomes nominations for a new chair but is also available to continue as chair if needed.

Continuing CGS members were asked to submit their sub-committee assignment preferences to Dr. Latta prior to the next CGS meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Stanislavova at 11:45 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

The last meeting of the 2013 – 2014 Committee on Graduate Studies is Thursday, May 8, 2014, 11:00 a.m., 210 Strong Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Lynn, COGA

II. Program and Curricular Changes (PCC) Report

A. The PCC Subcommittee recommends the following course changes to the CGS:

1. Course changes: SOC 810, SOC 811

Sociology

(OLD) Current Course Description
SOC 810 Sociological Inquiry (3)
The goals of this course are to understand the characteristics of sociologically interesting and rigorous research and to design a research proposal that shares those characteristics. The focus of students' proposals will be their M.A. thesis project. Students will read books and articles representing a variety of research approaches (ethnographies, surveys, interviews, document analyses, historical studies, comparative research, etc.), and will deconstruct them in order to understand their theoretical and methodological significance. Assignments will include a completed M.A. thesis proposal. LEC
Grading: A-F, W and I

This course is not an elective
This course is not a RSRS course
This course is a degree requirement

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: The course fulfills a requirement for the M.A. degree.

This course will impact students in the following way: The course currently enrolls only students in the Sociology MA program. If the proposed curricular changes are approved, the course will also be open to students in the Sociology graduate program at the PhD level. The number of PhD students enrolling in the course will not be large; we do not expect more than 6 or 7 students to enroll in the course in a given semester. The impact on current students will therefore not be great. In fact, we expect that the presence of more advanced graduate students in the course will improve the quality of the criticisms that the students enrolled in the course will receive of their work and make for more lively discussion in general.

(NEW) Proposed Course Description
SOC 810 Sociological Inquiry (3)
The goals of this course are to understand the characteristics of sociologically interesting and rigorous research and to design a research proposal that shares those characteristics. The focus of students' proposals will be the M.A. thesis project for students at the M.A. level and the dissertation project for students at the Ph.D. level. Students will read books and articles representing a variety of research approaches (ethnographies, surveys, interviews, document analyses, historical studies, comparative research, etc.), and will analyze those approaches in order to understand their theoretical and methodological significance. Assignments will include a completed M.A. thesis proposal for students at the M.A. level and a completed dissertation proposal for students at the Ph.D. level. Course may be repeated for credit toward graduate degree. Prerequisites: The course is open only to students enrolled in the Sociology graduate program. LEC

The change(s) to this course will first take effect Spring 2015 and the course will be offered every Spring semester thereafter

JUSTIFICATION:
There are two reasons faculty in the department wish to make these changes. First and foremost, there is a strong feeling in the department that the course would benefit not only students at the M.A. level but those at the Ph.D. level as well. Since the course was introduced three years ago, time to M.A. degree dropped by an average of .6 semesters. In addition, the consensus in the department is that the quality of students' theses has improved as well, particularly in regard to the methodological approaches students have adopted. Faculty
members feel that we would obtain the same benefits if Ph.D. students were allowed to take the course for credit. As currently listed, however, the course may not be retaken for credit.

(OLD) Current
SOC 811  Sociological Research (3)
The use of the scientific method to study social phenomena including: the formulation and testing of hypotheses; techniques for collecting data; measuring social variables; interpreting research findings; the relationship of theory and facts. Prerequisite: A distribution course in sociology. LEC

Grading: A-F, W and I

This course is not an elective
This course is not a RSRS course
This course is a degree requirement

This course is a degree requirement in the following way: The course fulfills a requirement for the M.A. degree.

This course impacts students in the following way: The course currently enrolls only students in the Sociology MA program. If the proposed curricular changes are approved, the course will also be open to students in the Sociology graduate program at the PhD level. The number of PhD students enrolling in the course will not be large; we do not expect more than 6 or 7 students to enroll in the course in a given semester. The impact on current students will therefore not be great. In fact, we expect that the presence of more advanced graduate students in the course will improve the quality of the criticisms that the students enrolled in the course will receive of their work and make for more lively discussion in general.

(NEW) Proposed
SOC 811  Sociological Research (3)
The goal of the course is to use the scientific method to study social phenomena including: the formulation and testing of hypotheses; techniques for collecting data; measuring social variables; interpreting research findings; the relationship of theory and facts. Students will apply the concepts and methods covered in the course to research they are conducting on their MA theses or dissertations. Course may be repeated for credit toward graduate degree. Prerequisites: The course is open only to students enrolled in the Sociology graduate program. LEC

The change(s) to this course will first take effect in Fall 2015 and the course will be offered every Fall semester thereafter.

JUSTIFICATION:
There are two reasons faculty in the department wish to make these changes. First and foremost, there is a strong feeling in the department that the course would benefit not only students at the M.A. level but those at the Ph.D. level as well. Since the course was introduced three years ago (in conjunction with SOC 810), time to M.A. degree dropped by an average of .6 semesters. In addition, the consensus in the department is that the quality of students' theses has improved as well, particularly in regard to the methodological approaches students have adopted. Faculty members feel that we would obtain the same benefits if Ph.D. students were allowed to take the course for credit. As it was currently listed, however, the course may not be retaken for credit.

V. Old Business

A. Update on Classics BA/MA report to CAC (see addendum)
B. Course number correction to Course Change ABSC 891 (to ABSC 981)

VI. New Business

A. Many thanks to our 2014 outgoing members: Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Paulyn Cartwright, Abbie Hodgson.

B. CGS Chair Election