1. **Welcome/Announcements [Mark]**
   - Introductions - We are broadcasting to several sites around the state today bringing in our representatives at USU satellite sites.
   - We have received $220 million in research awards over the past year.
   - We recently received a one-time funds award for $1.5 million.
   - RCR 6900 – August 21st 2:30-4:30 ESLC 130, 22nd 2:30-4:30 ESLC 046. It is advantageous to students to attend the course. Going forward it is required of all Doctoral students as well as all MS students who are funded by NSF funds.
   - Non-Resident Tuition Waiver for Excellence (NRTWE) – lists were due June 1.

2. **Graduate Student Orientation [Anna]**
   - 8/21 1:00 PM ESLC 130
   - The content will be more of an overall view this year.
   - There are 3 new programs we have to help students.
     - Immediately following orientation there will be campus groups set up outside the ESLC. There are at least 8 groups currently planning on attending including Athletics, AggieCare, and TEDx.
     - We will also have a new student section on the website including links to Student Services.
     - Scholars Live More Passport – Will help get students familiar with different services available for them. Part of the passport will be to email their GPC with the answer to a question. The plan is to have them email you why they chose USU. If you have any suggestions for another question, please contact us. Also, please check your contact information on our website directory so that they can email you.

3. **TA Course Registrations [Ryan]**
   - Domestic Student Course is open – send A# and name to ryan.olsen@usu.edu – it will take a couple of days for the student to be able to access the course on Canvas.
   - International pre-semester workshop starts August 11th – show up at the workshop.

4. **Public Abstracts, letters of completion [Joan]**
   - Public Abstracts are often missing. Please make sure they are submitted with all thesis and dissertations.
   - Summer Letters of Completion need to be submitted to Joan as soon as possible.
5. **MS Thesis Proposal Form [Richard]**
   - There hasn’t been documentation to verify that Masters Students have obtained required regulatory approvals or training.
   - We have a new form online now, the Thesis Proposal Form. It can be found under the forms section of our web page, under the Masters Plan type. The form is submitted to the GPC who submits it to gradforms@usu.edu where it will be sent out for signatures with Docusign.
   - The form replaces the signed title page which some departments have been sending after a proposal defense.

6. **Readmission After Extended Absence [Richard]**
   - If a student has been gone without a leave of absence or continuous registration for 2 to 5 years, they will submit a readmit form that will be signed by the student, the advisor and the department head.
   - If a student has been gone for over 5 years then they would reapply.
   - This will allow departments to determine if they want the student back in the program.

7. **Research Waiver For International Students [Richard]**
   - International Students need to have their application for a social security card dated by the first day of school. It will still take a few days for the EPAF to process however, it can be dated to the first day of school. Please contact Craig Kelley (craig.kelley@usu.edu) to let him know about any EPAFs that will be coming in after the first day of classes.

8. **Questions and Other Notes**
   - The Application for Candidacy for a Doctoral Degree (ACDD) includes the signatures of the committee members and has a place for the title of the dissertation. The signed title page does not need to be sent to Joan any more.
   - The Office of Global Engagement is adding minivans to the trip on the 15th. They won’t run a shuttle on the 25th. The state department is having trouble getting visas processed. If an International Student is on a research waiver, you may have to have them come in the spring.