

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 31, 2001

Present: Gary Barber, Eric Follo, Randy Gu, Ranald Hansen, John McEneaney, Mildred Merz, Kathleen Moore, Mohinder Parkash, Kristine Thompson (for Robert Jarski)

Absent: Frances Jackson, Michelle Piskulich

Guests: Brian Connery, Mary Otto

Staff: Claire Rammel

1. Call to Order: 2:05 PM by Ranald Hansen, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Study.

2. Collaboration for Secondary Teacher Preparation - 2nd Reading: Gary Barber asked again why no budget was provided to the Graduate Council. Dean Otto explained this program was termed incentive, thus a budget is prepared much later in the process and approved by President Russi. She assured Graduate Council that no new resources would be needed. Brian Connery, Chair of the English Department, stated he saw a conflict of interest between the new MAT program and the current STEP program. He is concerned that the MAT program will pull students from the STEP program. Mary Otto stated she believed that the University should provide more than one path to students for initial teacher certification. Brian agreed that the STEP program does provide less flexibility and does not necessarily well serve post bachelor students aspiring to change careers. However, the program is successful and growing and deserves continued support by the University.

Brian expressed some concerns with the lack of curricular content in the student major. He noted no graduate courses in the students' content area are required. Mary Otto indicated all students who apply to the MAT must first receive a passing score on the Michigan Basic Skills Test and the MTTC major and minor area test. She stressed one of the goals of the program is to be collaborative with the school district and providing the student strong hands-on experience. Brian believed classroom method is discipline specific and this program does not provide that opportunity. Eric Follo indicated CIL 528 would offer discipline specific sections. Brian Connery identified concern that the proposal for the MAT was submitted to the Michigan Department of Education under the auspices of Michigan' Alternative Route to Teacher Certification. However, the School of Education is suggesting this is a MAT program NOT an alternative MAT. Dean Otto responded that the program was designed to address "potential" shortages identified by the local school district. Claire Rammel pointed out on Page 5 of the proposal, it states that 4-8 additional credits at 300-level and above are required. She asked Eric Follo if the assumption was these credits would count toward the graduate degree. Dean Otto stated these credits would NOT count toward the degree requirements. Brian Connery was concerned that recommendation for approval of the MAT by Graduate Council would preclude future approval of a MAT designed specifically for future English teachers. Randy Hansen did not see this as prohibiting. Claire Rammel asked if applicants could be denied admission based on a bachelor's degree with a major NOT in a "high needs content area" as defined on Page 3 of the proposal. Dean Otto stated admissions could be denied based on critical shortages as determined by the school district. Claire was concerned about potential legal issues arising from lack of clarification regarding this admission criterion. She suggested that the proposal be

modified to incorporate this information. Dean Otto said language would be written to clarify this issue.

Gary Barber stated again his concern with the lack of budget. He believed minimally, the proposal should reflect resources needs that could impact faculty. Millie Merz also requested that library resources are included in budget. Dean Otto agreed to provide a budget to Graduate Council.

Randy asked if council members were prepared to vote. Graduate Council requested to delay the vote until revisions and budget were made available.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be November 7, 2001 at 2:00 PM in Room 100 of Kresge Library.