

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES March 27, 2002

Present: Gary Barber, Eric Follo, Randy Gu, Ranald Hansen, John McEneaney, Mildred Merz, Kathleen Moore, Mohinder Parkash
Absent: Frances Jackson, Robert Jarski, Michelle Piskulich (on leave)
Staff: Claire Rammel

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

2. Approval of 3/13/02 Minutes: A motion was made by John McEneaney, seconded by Eric Follo, to approve the 3/13/02 minutes as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Linguistics Program Review (Randy Gu, Mohinder Parkash) Randy Gu and Mohinder Parkash presented the linguistics program review. This review team, like the Music and English program review teams, cannot complete their evaluation until Graduate Council requests the Linguistics department respond to missing or incomplete data. Both Randy and Mohinder expressed great concern regarding the difficulty working with the new combined undergraduate/graduate format. Program goals, the mission statement, learning objectives and assessment data were just a few areas mentioned by the team as being hard to interpret. The team also noted that no reference was made in the current document regarding changes, issues or problems addressed in the 1985 graduate program review. The team asked Graduate Council to define their next step in the process. Randy Hansen suggested Grad Council postpone addressing this issue until we hear from the English and Music program review teams later in the meeting. Members of the Council all agreed.

4. English Program Review (Eric Follo, John McEneaney) John McEneaney and Eric Follo presented an updated program review report based on the additional data requested from the English department. Even with the requested information provided by English, both Eric and John agreed that writing a review report based on the existing document was a problem. While it is clear that English has put much effort into the self-study, the document in its current state does not have enough substance for the review team to write a final report. The combined format, in part, has made data clarity a complicated process for the review team. Mohinder Parkash asked Randy Hansen to define the purpose of the report. Randy Hansen indicated that the Graduate Council subcommittee would define the purpose as part of their charge. John McEneaney stated that the current process has provided valuable insight to improvements needed when redesigning the future process. John indicated whatever the process, there should be a focus on being productive. Randy Hansen suggested using the blending approach to self-study which has created 1) more focus on the departments than on the programs, 2) a complex problem involving interwoven graduate data and 3) a less serious effort.

5. Music Program Review (Gary Barber, Frances Jackson) Randy Hansen asked Gary Barber to summarize his and Frances Jackson's experience with the Music program review. Gary felt the music department took the self-study very seriously. The music department complied promptly with Graduate Council's request for additional data. He had no complaints and believes he and Frances can write a final report based on the information provided.

6. Completion of Current Program Reviews Randy Hansen asked how Graduate Council wanted to complete the three (3) program reviews currently under evaluation by Council. Discussion centered around three possibilities: 1) write the final reports from the existing self-studies, 2) request the departments submit new self-studies or 3) handle each of the current self-studies individually. Graduate Council made several suggestions that included: rewriting self-study but imposing a shorter timeline, inviting department representatives to Graduate Council to clarify current self-study, communicate better standards, review existing guidelines and improve internal process. After much discussion, Kathleen Moore suggested we ask the basic question, "Was a concise overview provided by each department?" She went on to state if Graduate Council can't be comfortable writing a final report from existing documents, then we must offer an alternative. Randy Hansen felt Graduate Council could not hold these departments accountable for the reports since our guidelines and expectations were not communicated.

The recommendation supported by Graduate Council was to delay writing reports until the subcommittee assigned to review the Graduate Program Review Guidelines has examined the process and made recommendations to Council. Claire Rammel requested Graduate Council communicate this information to the current program review departments and the Deans.

7. Update on Graduate Program Review Guidelines Subcommittee Randy Hansen is very close to completing appointments to this subcommittee and will be meeting with the chair, Kathleen Moore, to discuss. Randy has suggested hosting a retreat for Graduate Council where members could present issues affiliated with current program reviews and offer suggestions for improvement. Randy indicated schedules may require the retreat to be held in Spring or on a weekend. Graduate Council supported the opportunity.

8. Graduate Council Appointments for Next Year Randy Hansen initiated a brief discussion regarding Graduate Council appointments. At the time of appointment, it will be with the understanding that the member will serve a 3-year term with annual appointment renewals. Mohinder Parkash thought 3 years was an ideal length of service. Claire Rammel agreed that the length of appointment was a great improvement, but would suggest we phase-in the appointments so senior members could provide some mentoring for newer appointments. All members of Graduate Council present were very supportive of the length of appointment.

9. Other Business Randy Hansen has circulated a document to the Deans defining nomenclature at the Graduate level. Once the Deans have had an opportunity to discuss and modify, he will be bringing the document to Graduate Council for discussion and approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2002 at 2:00 PM in Room 100 of Kresge Library.