

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL APPROVED: 11 Dec 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2002 100 KRESGE LIBRARY

Present: Lisa Hawley, Randy Gu, Millie Merz, Kathleen Moore (acting Chair), Dale Nesbary, Sherri Oden, Mohinder Parkash, Claire Rammel, Kris Thompson, Ishwar Sethi

Absent: Ranald Hansen, Darlene Schott-Baer

Call to Order

This meeting was convened at 3:15 p.m. by Kathleen Moore, Acting Chair

### I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from October 30, 2002 were approved with one change. Web-TV should be replaced with WebCT under the paragraph, "Nursing Graduate Certificate Proposal."

II. OLD BUSINESS A. Graduate Council Retreat Reminder that the Graduate Council retreat is scheduled for December 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Topics of discussion will include program review, status of current projects, distance learning and recognition of graduate education at Oakland. Barbara Kooiman will send an email reminder and reconfirm room location.

#### B. New Program Approval Process

At the last meeting there was some question as to whether the Nursing Certificate, which had just been approved by the Graduate Council, would go on to the Senate for subsequent approval. Claire Rammel reported to the Council that the Provost had decided to bring the Graduate Certificate to the Senate as an informational item only. Many Council members expressed their concerns that long approval processes, particularly for Graduate Certificate Programs, will negate our ability to be responsive to market demands. Randy Hansen would like Graduate Council to begin thinking about ways to address this issue.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Continuation Fee

Claire Rammel introduced for discussion the current situation at Oakland University where doctoral students, who have completed all credit requirements for their degree, must register for additional credits to receive the benefit of university services (library, computer, recreational center). Claire Rammel has begun researching how this situation is handled at other schools. She found most institutions allow their doctoral students to enroll at a reduced cost while they are completing their dissertation. This special fee is most often referred to as a "continuation" fee.

This fee is normally assessed in conjunction with the university's doctoral residency policy. Kathleen Moore pointed out that frequently doctoral students complete their required 90 credits, but their research is not completed. While the current policy at Oakland University states students must be enrolled for the term in which they defend, it is very difficult to differentiate which students are active and which are not.

International students have other issues. While the International Office may grant some limited exceptions for students in this situation, regulations require international students must maintain full time enrollment during Fall and Winter. Other issues involve tracking and communicating with doctoral students. Without enforcement of residency and/or providing a special enrollment fee, doctoral students stop out of their program and then reappear years later to complete dissertation requirements. Enrollment would represent a commitment from the student and provide departments a mechanism to communicate, support, forecast and plan. Professor Sethi suggested it might be a good idea to charge students a fee to enable us to get a better picture of how many students are out there; while at the same time it might provide incentive to complete dissertation requirements for their degree. Claire Rammel agreed, but indicated we would need to enforce "residency" requirements simultaneously.

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Graduate Program Review Subcommittee Report

Kathleen Moore reported that the subcommittee has separated tasks affiliated with their final report into three areas: narrative, outside accreditation and data. Kathleen Moore is working on the narrative piece with Ishwar Sethi. They are working toward creating a document that provides a more dynamic picture while at the same time avoiding redundancy. The subcommittee has identified the Graduate Program Review guidelines at Indiana University, where much of the process has been centered on a massive database, as a working model.

The subcommittee had some concern deciding what to do with graduate programs that have outside accreditation. Chris Stiller and Kristine Condic reviewed and compared programs that were mandated by outside agencies with the current Graduate Program Review Guidelines. The subcommittee was pleased with the results, which will be presented at the Graduate Council Retreat on December 6.

The data group, which includes Jim Ciplewski, Mukesh Bhargava and Claire Rammel, are identifying data requirements for program reviews and documenting existing data sources. The subcommittee would like to see statistics provided to programs on an annual basis that establishes a year-to-year comparison of data critical to the evaluation of graduate education.

##### B. Report on Site Visit to Cooley Law School

Dale Nesbary and Ishwar Sethi reported that a group of selected faculty visited Cooley Law School in Lansing on November 15th. The group included Vincent Khapoya, Dale Nesbary, Ishwar Sethi, Don Mayer, Mohinder Parkash, Randy Hansen, Pat Beaver and Claire Rammel. Professors Nesbary and Sethi reported to Graduate Council that Cooley is extremely eager to

continue to move forward with their current program being offered at Oakland--the first semester of their JD program. At the same time, Cooley is developing two masters programs, one in the area of Intellectual Property and the other in Taxation. These programs would be offered exclusively at Oakland University on weekends. According to Ishwar Sethi, the two proposed masters' programs would not be joint degrees, although there appears to be other opportunities for several departments to institute joint programs.

Vincent Khapoya will report on the visit to Cooley Law School at the Senate meeting scheduled for November 21st. On Monday, November 25, the OU professors along with Randy Hansen will be meeting with President Russi and Virinder Moudgil.

## V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.