

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING January 29, 2003
100 KRESGE LIBRARY
APPROVED: 12 Feb 2003

Present: Beth Black, Ranald Hansen, Lisa Hawley, Mildred Merz, Kathleen Moore, Sherri Oden, Mohinder Parkash, Claire Rammel, Darlene Schott-Baer, Ishwar Sethi

Guests: Jacqueline Wiggins Coordinator of Music Education and Graduate Studies, College of Arts and Sciences Robert Wiggins Associate Dean & Associate Professor of Education, Education and Human Services

Absent: Randy Gu, Dale Nesbary

Call to Order

This meeting was convened at 2:10 p.m. by Ranald Hansen, Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Study.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The MOTION was made, Seconded and Passed unanimously to approve the minutes of January 15, 2003.

II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR - Status Of Subcommittee On Student Conduct

Randy Hansen thanked Dale Nesbary, Ishwar Sethi and Kristine Thompson for serving on the Student Conduct Subcommittee of the Graduate Council. The subcommittee has completed their review of a referred student appeal and made the recommendation to sustain the decision denying reinstatement. Dr. Hansen has accepted the subcommittee recommendation and a letter will be forwarded to the student.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Second Reading Policy Proposal – Enrollment in 600-Level Graduate Courses

Randy Hansen opened discussion by requesting an amendment be added to the proposed policy. He would like to incorporate a statement to allow an exception to the policy for “exceptional” undergraduate students. Graduate Council was strongly opposed to such language. Darlene Schott-Baer felt that if 600-level courses were not restricted from enrollment, undergraduate students could accumulate several courses, thus weaken the graduate degree. Provided that situation, those students might seek graduate degrees from other institutions. Ishwar Sethi assumed an “exceptional” student would be taking a 600-level course as an elective. He pointed out that the student would be better served by doing research with a professor or an independent study. Professor Schott-Baer emphasized repeatedly students should work with an academic counselor to establish the best options in satisfying their academic goals. Kathleen Moore felt opening 600-level courses to undergraduate students would be like opening Pandora’s Box. She

did not support allowing exceptions when there are alternative paths available to undergraduates that provide same outcome.

A MOTION was made and SECONDED to approve the policy without amendment.

B. Cross List 300-Level with 600-Level Courses

Cross listing undergraduate and graduate courses have been found to be incongruent. A recent request has been brought to Graduate Council asking to cross list a 300-level course with a 600-level course. Professor Schott-Baer suggested approval for cross-listing 300 courses with 500, but exclude 600 from cross listing. Professor Parkash added that a particular course in undergraduate could be an elective in the Graduate program. MBA electives in the School of Business Administration (SBA) are all 600-level courses, while their required courses are all 500-level. Professor Parkash supports the proposed Cross Listing policy and believes course numbers in the School of Business Administration should be changed. Professor Schott-Baer agreed it is best to bring SBA's policies in line with the rest of the schools. Mohinder Parkash requested language be added to the proposed policy that states 600-level and above not just 600-level. Graduate Council agreed with the insertion.

The Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the policy.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Portability Act

Darlene Schott-Baer had some concerns regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. She explained this Act has to do with privacy issues and questioned the impact it would have at Oakland. Randy Hansen informed Graduate Council he would look into the legislation and report back to Council.

B. New Cognate in Music Education to the PhD in Education Program Professor Jacqueline Wiggins, Coordinator of Music Education and Graduate Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor Robert Wiggins, Associate Dean from the School Education and Human Services introduced the proposal and provided departmental background for the proposal. The School of Education currently offers a PhD in Education with a major in Education Leadership.

This is an interdisciplinary program with the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Education and Human Services. Jackie Wiggins gave an overview of the program. This is not a degree in performance or conducting, but it is a degree in research and music education. Its purpose is to prepare students for leadership in music education as teacher educators, music education administrators, and music education curricular leaders. There has been considerable interest in the proposed program.

Darlene Schott-Baer wondered why it was difficult to get this program through "the system" since they are just adding another cognate. Jackie Wiggins felt it was because Oakland University does not have precedence in this area for this type of program. Professor Schott-Baer

suggested that the cognates appear to be very limited. She recommended to the School of Education and Human Services that the cognate framework not be so narrow.

Robert Wiggins mentioned that there is a shortage of music teachers in public schools, which is directly tied to a shortage of music educators at the university level.

Professor Schott-Baer asked to waive the first reading and move to the second reading. Graduate Council did not support waiving the second reading. She suggested a revision of the framework to offer a menu of cognates that a student can choose from.

When asked about the comprehensive exam, Jackie Wiggins indicated it is a general exam. The only oral exam is the dissertation defense. Robert Wiggins indicated the comprehensive exam for Educational Leadership is a take home examination. He reminded Graduate Council that their students are full time employees.

Claire Rammel pointed out the admission requirements in the Graduate Catalog require students in the Educational Leadership track to have a Education Specialist degree prior to admission to the doctoral program. Robert Wiggins indicated that was incorrect and would be modified in the next catalog.

Discussions followed regarding the budget. There were some changes made that were not reflected in the budget included with the proposal. A major issue was regarding an additional faculty member. Jackie Wiggins pointed out that MTD needs a new faculty member whether the program is approved or not, but it was decided to include request with this proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2003 in 100 Kresge Library.