

# Oakland University

## GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 – Meeting #3

Location: 100 KL

Meeting Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Approved: 10/23/2013

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**Present:** Dan Aloj, Tamara Hew-Butler, Dae-Kyoo Kim, Frank Lepkowski (*Ex Officio*), Karl Majeske, Robert Noiva, Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Cheryl Riley-Doucet, Brad Roth, Darlene Schott-Baer (Chair), Carol Swift

**Absent:** Linda Pavonetti (excused), Meir Shillor (excused)

**Staff:** Julie Delaney, Tina Muncy (Secretary)

The meeting was convened by Darlene Schott-Baer, Chair, at 2:00 PM.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***Mr. Aloj made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2013, Graduate Council Meeting as corrected. Mr. Roth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

### II. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Schott-Baer stated that the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, James Lentini, is working on restructuring Graduate Study and Research. He is currently speaking with people around campus to gather information and input. He has been looking at the organizational structure of other schools and titling for positions in Graduate Education and Research. A time frame for completion of this project is approximately six months.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

**Definition of credit hour.** Looking at the UCU Recommended Changes, Graduate Council Members made the following suggestions: 1) delete the term “consists of” from item #1, placing “50 minutes” in parenthesis; 2) insert a comma after the term “instruction” in item #1 for more clarity; 3) delete the term “or longer” from the last paragraph. The members agreed to forward these suggestions to the university subcommittee working on the credit hour definition.

**Definition of online courses.** After some discussion of the Graduate Council’s proposed definitions, members asked to view original documents of HLC requirements that are driving the revision of the online course definitions. Ms. Schott-Baer stated that she will have the HLC documents posted on eSpace and continue discussion at the next Graduate Council meeting.

**Leave of Absence Policy—Graduate.** *Ms. Swift made a motion to accept the Leave of Absence Policy for Graduate Students as presented. Mr. Aloi seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.* The effective date for this policy will be Fall 2014.

**Revised Program Modification Request Form.** *Mr. Noiva made a motion to accept the Program Modification Request Form as revised. Ms. Riley-Doucet seconded the motion.* The newly revised form is effective immediately; those that are already in the process of a modification request using the previous form may continue to do so. Ms. Swift stated that her department had asked the question of why the action and delivery codes used in the revised modification request form were not the same as those used for the schedule forms. Ms. Rammel explained that, dependent upon the university's revisions of definitions, the codes currently used on the schedule forms will likely change. *Ms. Schott-Baer called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.*

**School of Nursing—Graduate Certificate in Forensic Nursing Proposal.** Reviewers: Tamara Hew-Butler and Robert Noiva

**First Reading:** Debatable, amendable, but not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

**Motion:** To recommend approval of the proposed Graduate Certificate in Forensic Nursing Program.

The reviewers of the proposal had the following questions and concerns:

- The Library study stated a 5 year budget of \$13,885, but the proposal only budgeted \$10,000.
- It is obvious that the desire is to house the program at Anton Frankle Center in Macomb, but there is no justification in the proposal as to why. The proposal includes a plan to create a clinical teaching lab similar to that which already exists at the HHB Oakland University. The reviewers feel that the proposal should include more justification for housing the program at AFC in Macomb.
- The proposal includes significant teaching outside of the School of Nursing faculty, such as social work and criminal justice. There are letters of support included, but nothing to show if that support would be available if the program is offered away from Oakland's main campus.
- The proposal emphasizes the importance of research and scholarship, but there is no research and scholarship included in the program curriculum. Although there are no programs of this type in Michigan, Mr. Noiva found and reviewed programs offered in other states. Many of these other programs included a practicum or shadowing experience. He suggested these type of experiences cannot be provided through didactic learning but could be valuable in preparing graduates of this program to go into crime scenes or disaster situations. Even the online programs that he reviewed required a minimum of 300 hours of practicum or shadowing experience.
- The equipment listed does not appear to be specific to forensic nursing.

- There does not appear to be a track toward certification. The proposal needs to flush out the practical and financial significance that both the academic credit and graduate certificate in this program will give students to position them for professional status. What is the financial significance to get them a better placement and the practical significance of the experience that would put them on a better track?
- The course work appears to be comparable to other programs, but the practicum or shadowing experience does not. Nearly all of the other similar programs require a portfolio so the student can demonstrate their practical experience.
- The minimum degree requirement for admission to this graduate certificate program is an earned BSN, therefore, post-bachelor students that earn this graduate certificate will not be eligible for some of the certifications listed in the proposal. The requirements for each certification vary, dependent on the student's academic credentials and experience background.

Ms. Schott-Baer said that she will invite someone from the School of Nursing to the next Graduate Council meeting to address the questions and concerns discussed in today's meeting.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Duplicate Degree.** The long standing practice at Oakland University has been not to permit students, who already hold a graduate degree, to pursue and earn the same graduate degree at OU. To avoid any confusion, it was recently suggested the practice should be converted to policy and published in the Graduate Catalog. In benchmarking against other universities and colleges, duplication of advanced academic degrees—MA, MS, MAT, MEd—is not permitted. A student with a master's degree can earn a PhD in the same field as their master's, but cannot come in with a master's degree and earn another master's degree in the same field. A master's in a different field is allowable. Ms. Schott-Baer asked the members to talk about the duplicate degree policy for discussion at a future meeting.

#### **V. GOOD AND WELFARE**

No report

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned approximately 3:35 PM.