

Present: Brandy Randall (*Chair*), Meghan Harris (*Co-Chair*), Seong Cho, Lisa Hawley, Joanne Lipson-Freed, Daniel Llamocca, Robert Noiva, V. Thandi Sulé, Kris Thompson

Not Present: Kris Condic (*Ex Officio*), Darrin Hanna, Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), Meir Shillor

Staff: Celia Knobelsdorf (Secretary)

The meeting was held remotely

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Senate versus Graduate Council Deadlines

We have more clarity regarding whether May Senate meetings will be held, and what process needs to be followed. The Senate has to hold a vote at the April Senate meeting in order to hold a May meeting. The agenda for the May meeting also needs to be approved at the April Senate meeting. Thus, Graduate Council agenda items would need to be submitted to the Senate by the April meeting

B. Meeting Days Graduate Council 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Discussion of potentially changing the day of Graduate Council meetings for the academic year of 2022-2023. Conflict with other meetings has become problematic for certain members and trying to balance with Senate. It was proposed to move the meetings to Tuesday afternoons. However, several Council members have teaching obligations. It was suggested perhaps Tuesday mornings would be feasible. A Doodle poll will be created to determine the best options for all Council members.

C. Meeting Format

Brandy Randall discussed the option of changing the Council meeting format. It is beneficial to have a virtual option. However, a hybrid option where some meet in person with a virtual option is also possible. Brandy asked that Council members consider what will work best while we wait to see what the coming months bring. Council was asked to contact Brandy with their thoughts regarding the format for the 2022-2023 Academic year.

D. Plagiarism Checking

The Graduate School experienced a couple of issues this year with student plagiarism. Some schools offer an automatic check for plagiarism of final documents and there are a few ways to do that. One would be to have the Graduate School do it, and another would be to have the Committee responsible for the student conduct it. It could be done at the time of the proposal so that the Committee can take a guidance approach. Council discussed the various methods the Departments and/or Schools use to address plagiarism and any disciplinary action. Council will develop a policy in the coming months to address this issue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the Minutes for the April 13, 2022 Graduate Council

Joanne Lipson-Freed moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022 Graduate Council Meeting. Kris Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Graduate Certificate Lean Leadership Program Instructional Delivery Modification → Hi Flex

The Council reviewed and discussed the requested revision to the Graduate Certificate Lean Leadership Program Instructional Delivery modification. The program is offered as hybrid program, and is adding a fully online option using the Hi Flex instructional modality. Council will forward this modification to the Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Masters in Arts in English Modification

Claire Rammel reviewed this modification. Council reviewed and discussed the modification. Dr. Joanne Lipson-Freed was

able to address Council questions.

Robert Noiva made the motion to waive a second reading. Meghan Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Noiva made the motion to approve the Masters in Arts in English Modification. Meghan Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

B. Discussion of Commencement Participation for Ph.D. Students

Several people have brought concerns to the Graduate School regarding the fact that OU does not allow Ph.D. students to participate in Commencement until their final copy of their dissertation has been accepted by the Graduate School. It is required that this take place by the deadline for commencement. We do not hold a summer ceremony. Students who complete their dissertations after the deadline in the spring or in the summer have to wait and participate in the fall commencement ceremony in December. This creates a financial hardship for many students, and for many it is not possible for logistical reasons. Many schools will allow students to walk as long as they have defended their dissertation by a certain point in time and that there is a reasonable expectation that they will submit the final copy of their dissertation by a certain point in time. Commencement is only a ceremony, it is not an official conferral of a degree. Council is in supportive of changing the policy. Brandy Randall will work to modify the policy and present it to Council in the upcoming academic year.

GOOD AND WELFARE

A. Thank you to Dr. Robert Noiva for 11 Years of Service to Graduate Council

it was with sadness that Brandy informed the Council that Dr. Robert Noiva is retiring and will be leaving the Graduate Council. Council was happy for him and his family, but would miss his counsel and contribution to the Graduate Council.

B. Dr. Joanne Lipson-Freed Continued Membership in Graduate Council

Joanne Lipson-Freed has agreed to serve a second term on the Graduate Council for the term of 2022-2025

C. Meghan Harris Leave for fall 2022

Dr. Meghan Harris will be leaving in the fall term for sabbatical. At this time, her successor has not been determined. She will return in winter of 2023.

D. Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Brandy informed the Council that there is now a temporary waiver on federal student loans. The waiver is expiring in October. Council was encouraged to check out the Federal Student Loan Forgiveness site.

E. Spring 2022 Commencement

2022 Spring Graduate Commencement will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:53 p.m.