

Present: Brandy Randall (*Chair*), Song Cho, Kris Condic (*Ex Officio*), Meghan Harris (*Co-Chair*), Lisa Hawley, Joanne Lipson Freed, Daniel Llamocca, Robert Noiva, Claire Rammel (*Ex Officio*), V. Thandi Sule, Kris Thompson

Not Present: Darrin Hanna, Meir Shillor

Staff: Celia Knobelsdorf (Secretary)

The meeting held remotely

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

Oakland University has contracted with Ruffalo Noel Levitz (RNL) to optimize webpages for our degree programs, allowing OU to be brought up on the first page in a Google search. A discovery questionnaire was sent out to the stakeholders of the areas that Graduate School would be targeting. The project's two main goals are to: Reach a larger audience through search engine optimization (SEO) and to provide an engaging online experience for prospective students, with emphasis on Oakland University's unique programs. This

B. Persona Identification:

Several years ago, Carnegie Darlet identified characteristics of OU students to better tailor our marketing. The Graduate School has a proposal to the same thing for graduate students, separately for each School/College, and is seeking funding for this endeavor

C. Graduate Assistant Policy Subcommittee:

Joanne Lipson-Freed graciously offered to chair the ad hoc Graduate Assistant Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee is being developed to address growing concerns with Graduate Assistantships. Dean Randall will create the charge in collaboration with Dr. Lipson-Freed and then reach out to various individuals in the Schools, College and Research Office to get recommendations on who should serve on the subcommittee. The subcommittee will develop a set of recommendations for the Graduate School to consider

D.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kris Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Graduate Council Meeting. Meghan Harris seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Courses completed as undergraduate students - Removal Policy

The current policy was approved in 1979. It permits up to 12 credits of 4000-level advanced undergraduate coursework, completed by an undergraduate at Oakland University, to be applied to a graduate program if the courses were not used to fulfill the baccalaureate degree requirements. Federal regulations require that federal aid funds are used to pay for courses that apply to a student's program of study. When the student later enrolls in an OU graduate program, and requests to transfer 4000-level OU undergraduate courses, it becomes evident that the student received federal financial aid for courses that did not satisfy their bachelor degree requirements. Under the federal regulations, those students would be considered "overpaid." OU is required by federal statute to calculate a return of Title IV funds. Both the university and the student are responsible for returning the funds. After extensive discussion and deliberation, Graduate Council agreed the aged policy is misleading to the students.

Kris Thompson moved to approve eliminating the policy that permits 4000-level Courses Completed as an Undergraduate Student can transfer to a Graduate degree. Robert Noiva seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Undergraduate Students in Graduate Courses-Policy Update

Current policy allows upper-division undergraduates with appropriate credentials, permission of their academic adviser and the department offering the course to enroll in 5000-level graduate courses and use them toward their baccalaureate degrees. Once approved, the graduate courses become part of the undergraduate degree program and is used to satisfy the baccalaureate credit requirements. Such graduate courses may not be used in the future to fulfill the credit requirements of a graduate degree. The line "unless the undergraduate student is admitted to an approved 4+1 program" would be added to the policy. After discussion and deliberation, Graduate Council determined that this clarification was appropriate.

Kris Thompson moved to approve the policy clarification to the Undergraduate Students in Graduate Courses Policy. V. Thandi Sule seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificates

Currently the Graduate School and Oakland University does not have a true definition, guidance, policy or model regarding interdisciplinary programs [degrees or certificates]. In light of the interdisciplinary graduate certificate proposed by the School of Business, Claire Rammel began to research other universities with interdisciplinary graduate certificates or degrees and noting the range of important aspects for consideration such as: type of degree or degree combination, oversight, administrative staffing, financial support, budget, curriculum, accreditation, faculty workload, advising, admissions, mentoring graduate assistants and much more. Graduate Council determined that a subcommittee should be created to address the establishment of interdisciplinary graduate degrees and certificates. Graduate Council recommends that Dean Randall bring this issue forward to the academic Deans.

GOOD AND WELFARE

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:02 p.m.